

THE LOBBYING (SCOTLAND) ACT

WHAT YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS TO KNOW

Overview

The Lobbying (Scotland) Act comes into force on 12 March 2018. The Act aims to make the lobbying of certain political stakeholders in Scotland more transparent by creating a Lobbying Register, which will allow the public to access and view information that must be submitted by organisations and individuals who carry out 'regulated lobbying'.

What is regulated lobbying?

Regulated lobbying is lobbying that takes place face-to-face with any of the following:

- a Member of the Scottish Parliament
- a member of the Scottish Government
- a Scottish Government Special Adviser
- the Scottish Government Permanent Secretary.

The communication must be about Scottish Government or Scottish Parliamentary functions but the Act does not limit where or when regulated lobbying may take place.

The Act does not apply to any other types of communication (such as emails, letters, tweets, phone calls, etc.) nor does it apply to UK Government Ministers, MPs or UK Government Special Advisers.

The Lobbying Register

If you are engaged in regulated lobbying, a nominated individual from your organisation must activate an online account at www.lobbying.scot. You will then be able to submit information returns detailing who has been lobbied, when and where it happened and what the purpose of the lobbying was.

Information returns can be submitted online to the Lobbying Register at any time but must be submitted no later than 6 months and 2 weeks after the instance of regulated lobbying took place. If you did not engage in any regulated lobbying during a 6-month period, you must still record this.

Further information

Further information, including guidance on the types of conversation that will need to be registered, details of exemptions and frequently asked questions is available at: www.lobbying.scot.

You can also get updates on Twitter by following [@SP_LobbyingScot](https://twitter.com/SP_LobbyingScot) and [@CBI_Scotland](https://twitter.com/CBI_Scotland).

CBI contacts

Chris Kelly

Governance Manager

Tel: 020 7395 8248

Email: chris.kelly@cbi.org.uk

Gregor Scotland

Senior Policy Executive – Scotland

Tel: 0141 223 6765

Email: gregor.scotland@cbi.org.uk