



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lobbying Register – Sixth Annual Report

By correspondence

Reference: SPCB (2024) Paper 51

Executive summary

1. The SPCB (Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body) has been engaged by parliamentary officials at regular intervals on the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 and Lobbying Register, since 2017. This has included previous annual reports.
2. The sixth annual report has now been produced, inclusive of data for the first 6 years and 3 months of the Register (from 12 March 2018 to 12 June 2024).
3. The report is not a statutory requirement but produced to help provide public information about the progress and operation of the Register, as well as to update the SPCB and the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments (SPPA) Committee, which has lobbying within its remit.
4. The report is attached, and we would like to draw attention to the following sections:
 - a. **Key Facts** on page 6. This page reflects on the past six years since the Register was established and a record year for the number of returns published (up by almost one third on the previous record year, 2023).
 - b. **Parliamentary review** on page 8. This highlights the current position in relation to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee and existing legislation.
 - c. **Outreach workshops** on page 8. The latest set of online workshops engaged representatives from over one quarter of the 1,320 active registered organisations.
 - d. **Compliance** in the Chief Executive's foreword at page 3 and specifically on pages 20-22. This outlines the progress made in issuing statement letters to all our registered organisations. The

report also lists those organisations with a breach of the Act in this reporting year (i.e., not providing any returns, or a nil return instead, by the end of its statutory 6-monthly deadline date).

5. Officials will be happy to answer any questions on the report or any other regulated lobbying related matters, in follow-up.

Publication Scheme

6. This paper will be published in accordance with the SPCB's publication scheme. A copy will also be sent to the Clerk of the SPPA Committee.

Decision

7. The SPCB is invited to note this paper and the annual report.

Lobbying Register Team
Chief Executive's Group
4 September 2024