



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Lobbying Register** | **Clàr-coiteachaidh**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS CENTRE FOR SCOTLAND**

## **WEBINAR AND Q+A SESSION**

**2 JULY 2025**



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### Key Facts and Figures – 12 June 2025 (Provisional)



#### Registrations

- 1,385 active registrants in total.
- 17 voluntary registrants in total.
- 239 registrants made inactive (by request) in total.
- 108 new active organisations added this year.

#### Information Returns

- 46,110 information returns published in total
- 36,316 substantive
- 9,794 nil returns

If you lobby MSPs, members of the Scottish Government, Special Advisers or Permanent Secretary you must register by law on Scotland's new Lobbying Register.



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# Information Returns – the FRAME acronym

- **Focused**

write about what your representatives said, not the generalities of the engagement. Instantly, the amount you think you need to write will be reduced.

- **Relevant**

what influencing and informing were you doing? Erring on the side of caution and submitting every single conversation should not be a consideration now.

- **Accurate**

Have you listed the correct people? Provided location of conversation. Date? Content mirrors the conversation your organisation had.

- **Meaningful**

This is about transparency. Don't leave the readership guessing or assuming they know your organisation's position on a matter, or why you were discussing a particular Bill.

- **Explicit**

If you've made an ask, include it. If no ask then there is a reason why you've gone to the effort of setting up a meeting – with the intention to influence?



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# WHAT IS REGULATED LOBBYING? – A REMINDER

**01**

**I have communicated orally  
and face-to-face with:**

a Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP)  
a member of the Scottish Government  
the Scottish Government's Permanent  
Secretary  
a Scottish Government Special Adviser



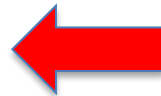
**02**

**I have communicated about  
Scottish Government or  
Scottish Parliamentary functions.**



**03**

**I used the opportunity to inform  
or influence decisions on behalf  
of my organisation  
(or those I represent).**



**04**

**I am paid, representing the views of  
my organisation (or those I represent).**



**05**

**The other exemptions under the  
Act do not apply to my lobbying.**

An exemption would apply to my face-to-face lobbying with an MSP, members of the Scottish Government, Special Advisers or Permanent Secretary because it was:

☒ about an issue I am raising on my own behalf

☒ with an MSP who represents the constituency or region where I live or where my company/organisation is based or ordinarily operates within

☒ I am aware that if this MSP is a member of the Scottish Government, or I am communicating on behalf of a third party, then this exemption does not apply.

☒ unpaid - directly or indirectly

☒ undertaken when my company/organisation had fewer than 10 full-time employees

☒ I am aware that if I am communicating on behalf of a third party, or in a representative capacity, this exemption does not apply

☒ during formal parliamentary proceedings of the Scottish Parliament (e.g. a meeting of a parliamentary committee) or as communication required by statute or another rule of law

☒ in response to a request from those above (see Key Step 1) for factual information or views on a topic

☒ during a quorate meeting of a Cross-Party Group of the Scottish Parliament

☒ for the purposes of journalism

☒ discussing negotiations on terms and conditions of employment

☒ made by a political party

☒ already exempt because my public role or the public role/functions of my organisation are listed in the Act as exempt

# Compliance

## INFORMATION RETURNS

- You have up to 6 months (and two additional weeks) from the date you applied to register an account, to submit Information Returns on your regulated lobbying activity. The additional two weeks allow time for Information Returns to be submitted after the 6-month period ends. **However, you can submit Information Returns at any time during your 6-month period.**
- You will receive an email to remind you about your 6-month deadline in advance and likewise with all subsequent 6-month deadlines that will follow.
- Please note, if after 6 months you have not engaged in any regulated lobbying, you are still legally required to submit a **'nil' Information Return** on the Lobbying Register to indicate this.
- It's important to note that if you carried out regulated lobbying before registering an account, you should register and then submit an Information Return **within 30 days** about that first occurrence or you will be in breach of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016.



# 2023-2024 Reporting Year Breach Data

Organisation	Breach period(s)
A & J Stephen (Builders) Ltd	10
AbbVie Ltd	11
Abellio Transport Holdings	11 and 12
Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations	11
ABGI-UK	7 and 8
ABO Wind UK Ltd	11
ABPI (Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry)	11
Abraitis and Company	11
ACE UK	8 and 9
ActionAid UK	11
Adoption UK Scotland	8
ADS Group Ltd	11
Advertising Association	11
Advertising Standards Authority	11
AES Engineering Limited	7
AFKA Scotland	8
Aggregate Industries UK Limited	11
Air Products PLC	4
Airlines UK	11 and 12

+28  
pages



# Future developments



- Budget approved for new improved system.



- Legislative Review?