

IMPROVING LOBBYING TRANSPARENCY

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Lobbying Activity



Exemptions



Expenditure



Reporting



Accessibility



POWER POLITICS

Emerging insights into climate lobbying in Scotland

transparency.org.uk

News

Spirited Away: What do we know about the demise of Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme?

Author

[Juliet Swann](#)

Analysis of Scotland's lobbying register submissions for 2022 and early 2023 show that whilst environmental NGOs in support of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) had 12 meetings with MSPs and Ministers, trade organisations with concerns had 218. One lobby group, the Scotch Whisky Association, alone held 42 meetings. Five of these were with Ministers including the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, as well as a meeting with the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government.

COMMUNICATION TYPES

- What is included
- What isn't included
- What we think should be included

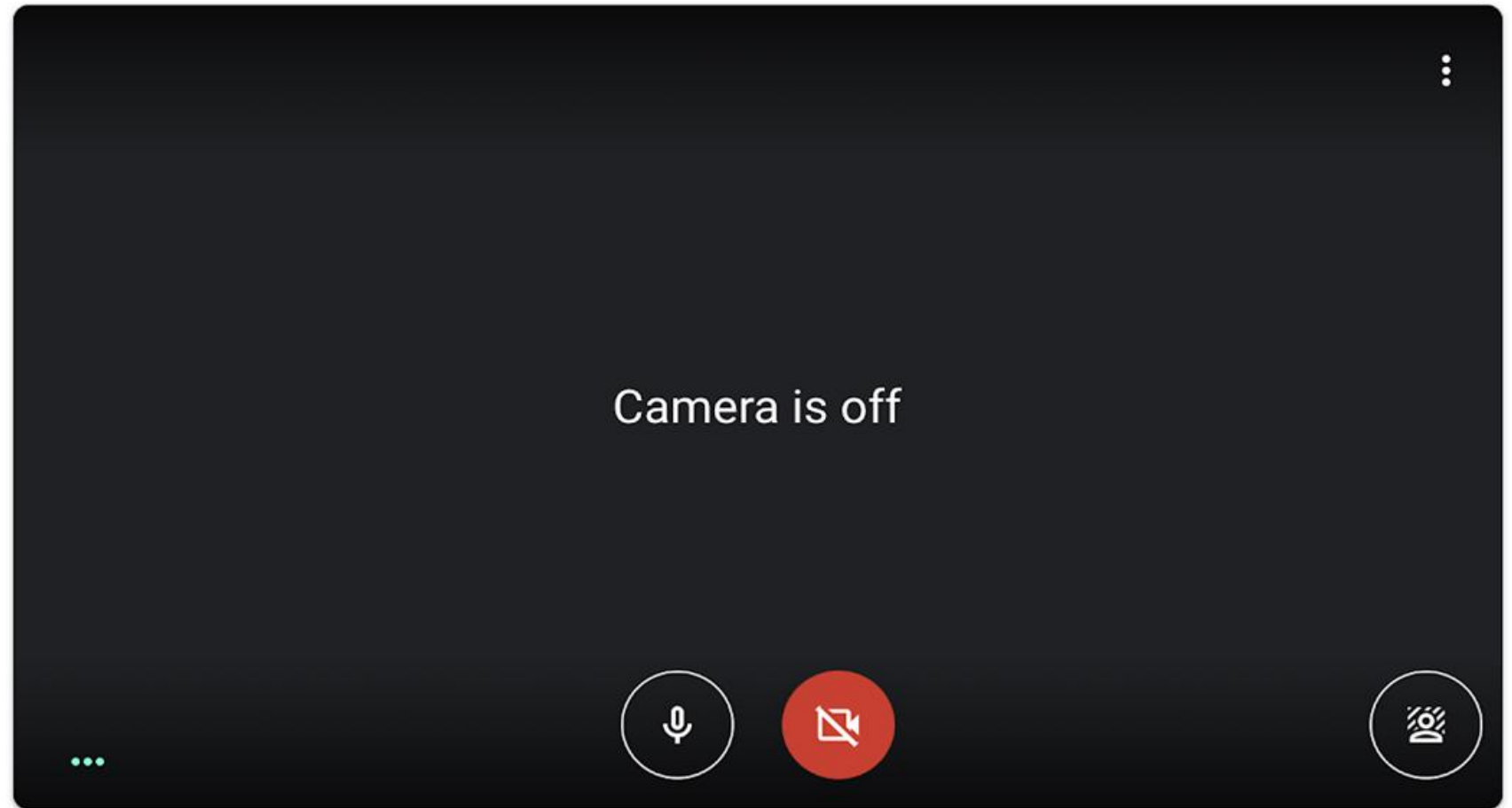
**Recordable
lobbying**



Recordable lobbying



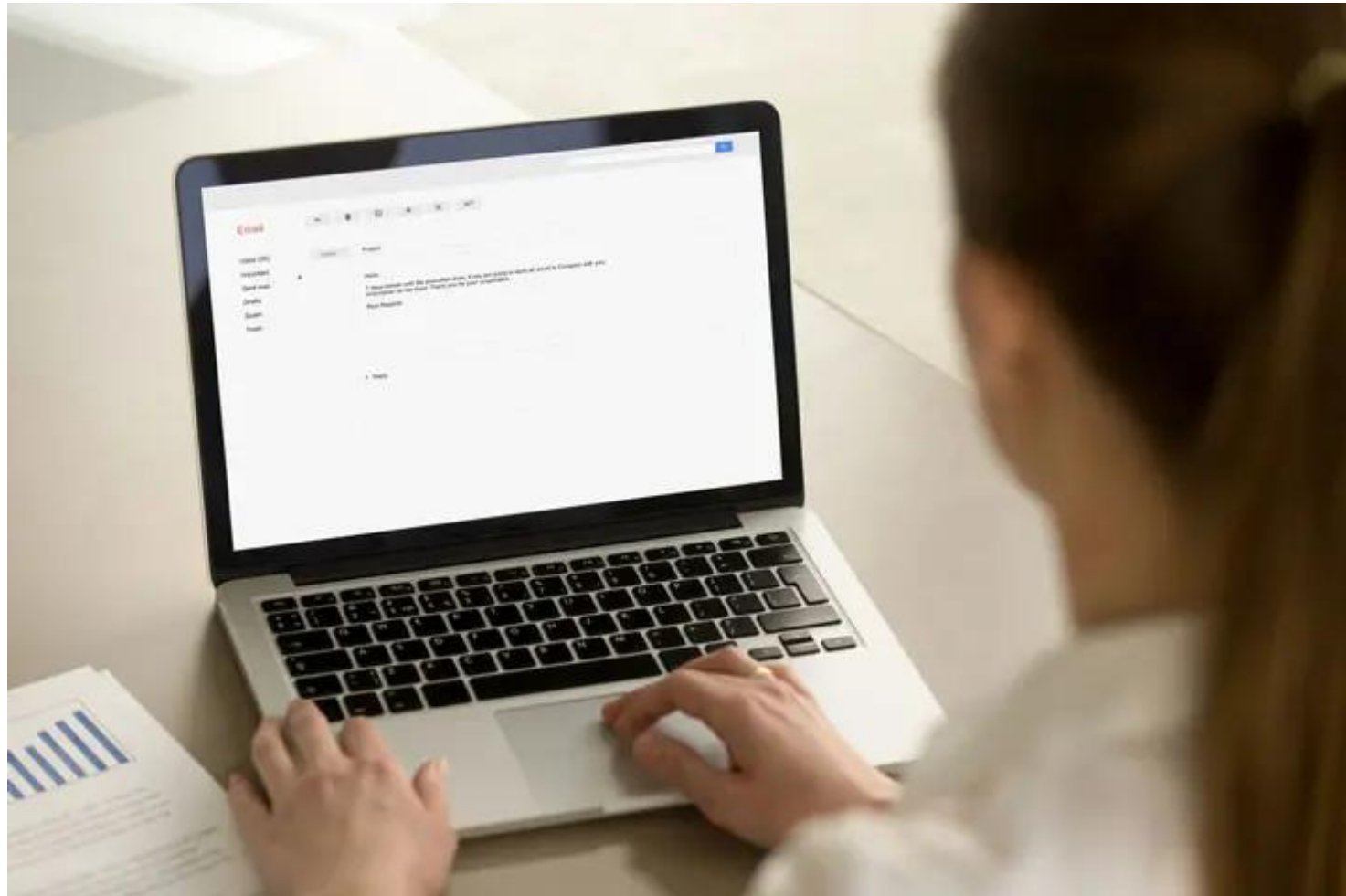
**Not
recordable
lobbying**



**Not
recordable
lobbying**



**Not
recordable
lobbying**



**Not
recordable
lobbying**



EXEMPTIONS

- Constituency or regional MSP
- Invitation
- CPG meetings
- Small organisations
- Unpaid

Hi Juliet,

I hope you're well.

Mr Hepburn would welcome an in person introductory meeting to discuss priorities for the upcoming steering group and ways of working.

I am hoping to arrange this meeting before the rescheduled Open Government Steering Group due to take place on either w/c 3rd June or w/c 10th June.

Please let me know if any of the following dates/times would be suitable for you?

13:30-14:00 or 15:00-15:30, Wednesday 22 May

Anytime from 10:00-15:30, Wednesday 29 May

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

THE COST OF LOBBYING

- International examples
- What has been suggested could be recorded
 - Good faith estimates
 - Thresholds
 - Banding
 - Campaign expenditure
 - Costs of the actual activity



Energy giants, a lobbying group for the holiday lets sector, and a firm which uses AI to track migrants crossing the Channel were among private bodies at a “shadowy” event at Scottish Labour’s conference which journalists were banned from.





21
out of 149,765
meetings

🔍 "garden party"

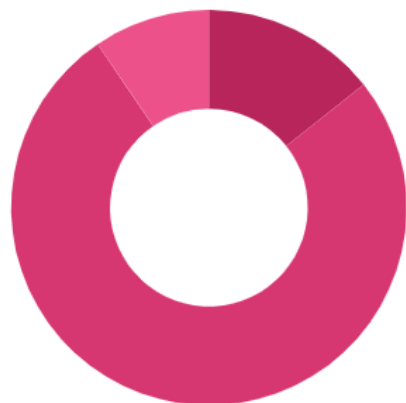
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PUBLIC OFFICE

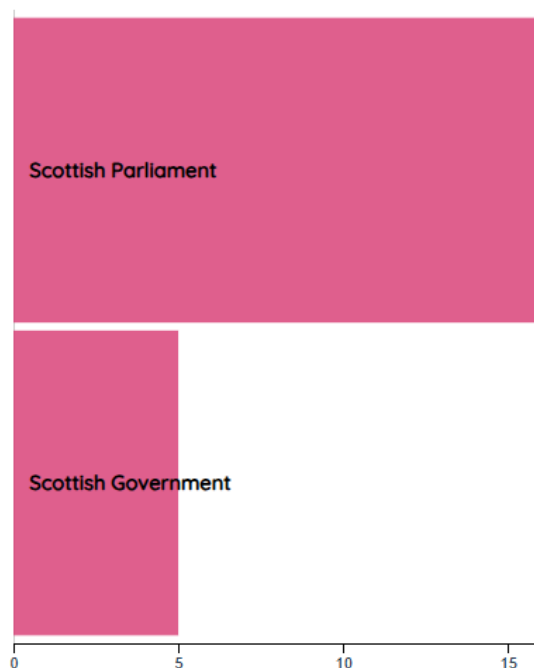
LOBBYIS

ROLE

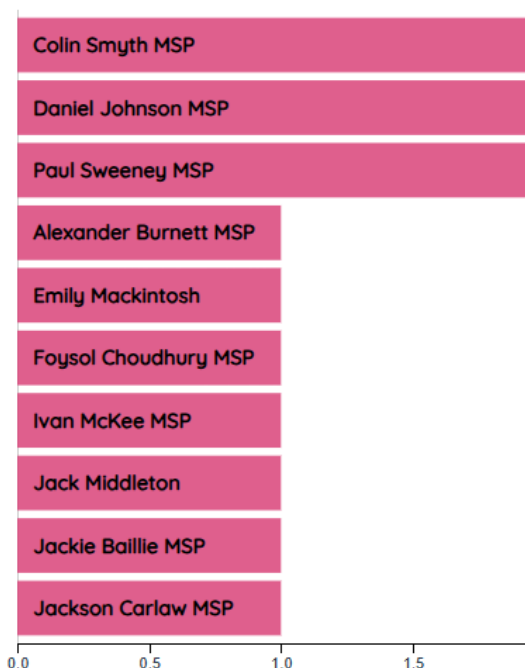


■ Others
■ Minister
■ MSP
■ Special advisor
■ Senior civil servant

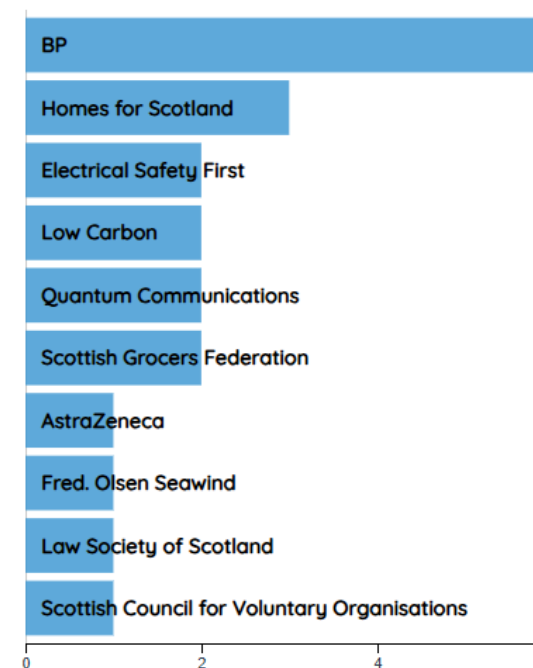
TOP 10 PUBLIC OFFICES



TOP 10 HOSTS



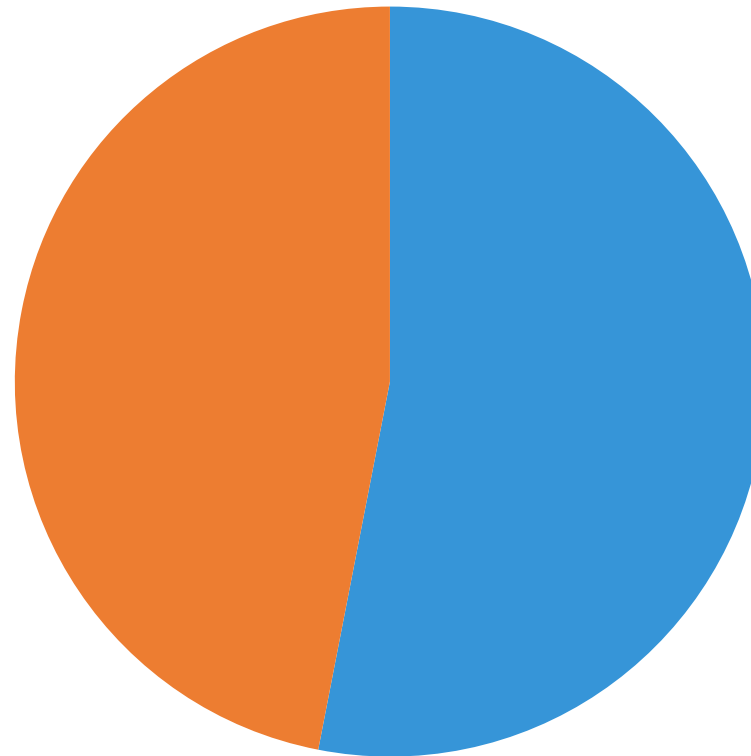
TOP 10 LOBBYISTS



REPORTING TIMESCALES

- Current
- International examples
- What we would like to see
 - Latest data

Time between meeting and publication of meeting



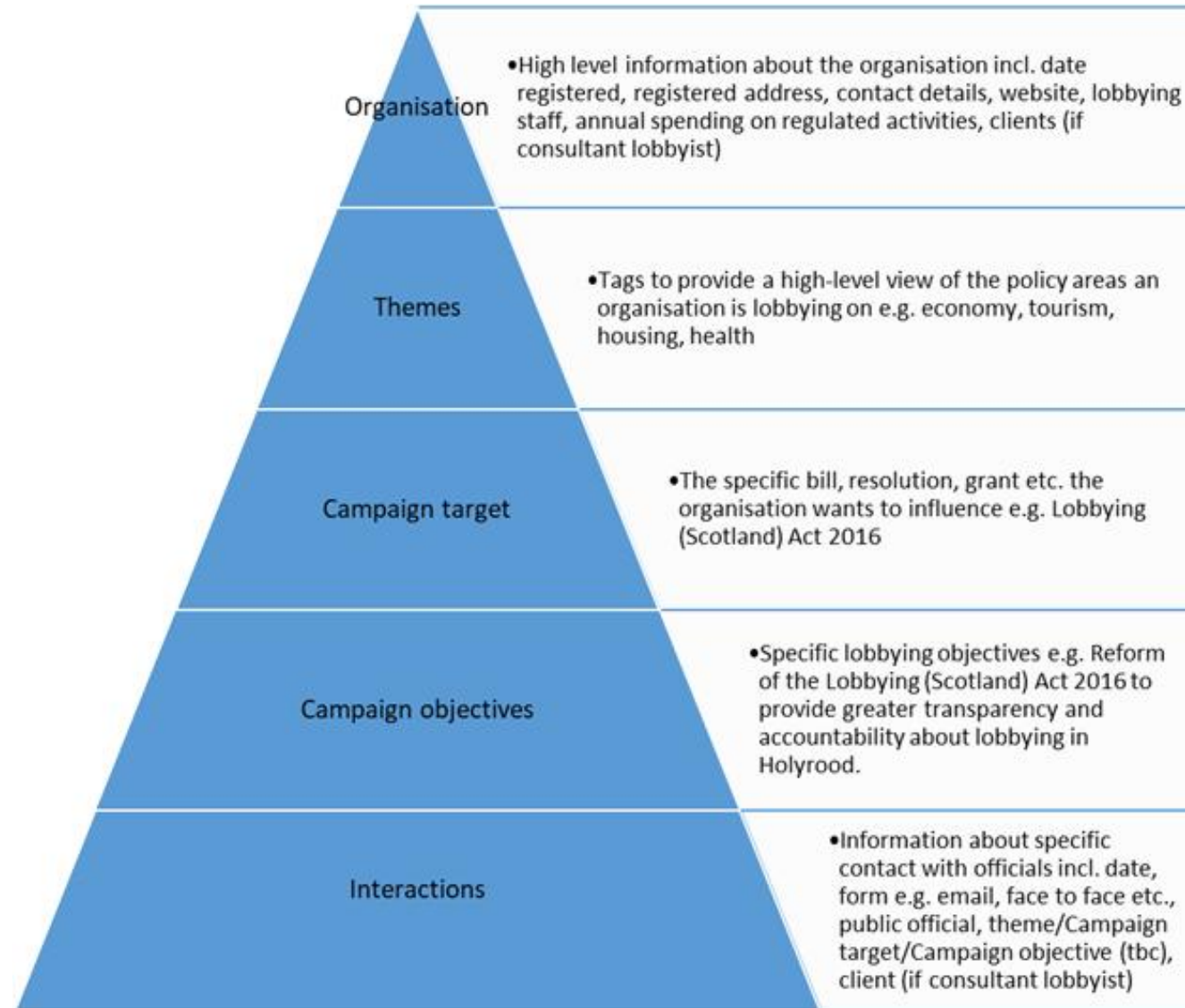
■ 0-90 days ■ Over 90 days

ACCESSIBILITY & UNDERSTANDING

- Current website
- Upgrades since 2021
 - Ghost text
 - Dashboard
 - Workshops and advice
- Plans for reform
- Open Access

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Proactive publication of meetings
- FoISA not applicable to MSPs
- Revolving Door
- Cross-database synchronicity
- Legislative footprints



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