



Elin Jones AC, Llywydd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer

National Assembly for Wales

David J Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref:
Our ref: PO428/EJ/GE

12 June 2018

Dear David

Petition P-05-818: Introducing a Register of Lobbyists in Wales

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-05-818.

On 16 March 2018, the Commission submitted its formal response to the recommendations made to it in the Standards of Conduct Committee's report on Lobbying. I understand you had some involvement in this piece of work, as a member of the Committee. The Commission discussed the recommendations and expressed support for the Standards Committee's aspiration to increase transparency and provide a greater insight into the work of elected Members.

I am not in a position to present you with a Commission view on the specific suggestion within the petition, although if the Assembly were to decide that it wished a statutory register to be introduced, and legislated accordingly, the Commission would need to give consideration as to the resource that would be needed/available to enable its operation.

The Standards Committee did not recommend introducing a Statutory Register at this time. I understand the findings of the Committee report are an interim position and it wishes to learn from experience and gather further evidence of best practice. Its intention subsequently, is to review its work in 2020 making clear and informed conclusions, setting out a proposals for the sixth Assembly.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@cynulliad.cymru

www.cynulliad.cymru

0300 200 7403

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA

Llywydd@assembly.wales

www.assembly.wales

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The Commission expressing a view on a particular idea at this point would not be appropriate and would risk circumventing the relevant avenues of discussion and scrutiny.

Yours sincerely

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd