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Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Minister for the Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

9 November 2015

Dear Minister,

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO CSPL REPORT "STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AROUND LOBBYING"**

Thank you for John Penrose's letter of 21 October 2015, sent on your behalf, responding to the Committee's Report "Strengthening Transparency around Lobbying". We are grateful for this further letter setting out more fully the Government's response to the recommendations we made where responsibility lies with Government.

The Committee welcomes the Government's assurance that transparency around lobbying is a key priority and your acceptance of a number of recommendations we believe are important. In particular, we welcome your commitment to improving the timeliness and accessibility of the published information about Ministers' and Permanent Secretaries' official meetings with outside interest groups and hospitality received by ministers and members of departmental boards.

The Committee recognises that lobbying is a thorny issue. Open and free access to decision makers is healthy and necessary in a functioning democracy but lobbying must be carried out transparently and ethically. We will continue to monitor developments in this area in order to promote the highest standards of propriety in public life.

Thank you again for this further response to our report. We were pleased to have confirmation that the Government supports the application of principles highlighted in the report and your assurance that the Government continues to view transparency in lobbying as a key priority.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Bew  
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

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