



Cabinet Office

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Lord Bew  
Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

21 October 2015

Dear Lord Bew

Thank you for your letter of 1 July to the Minister for the Cabinet Office. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I understand you met with my predecessor at the end of last year – and had an opportunity to discuss in more detail the Committee's report 'Strengthening Transparency around Lobbying'. We committed then to providing the Committee with a further response, reflecting that discussion.

As the Committee acknowledged in its report, Lobbying plays an important role in the policy-making process, ensuring that decision-makers hear a full range of views from those who will be affected by their decisions. It is important that everyone's voice is heard in Parliament and Government, and that no one is discouraged from making their views known.

Clearly many of the recommendations in your report were for public figures or authorities outside of Government. We support the broad application of the important principles highlighted by the Committee, but have restricted our responses to those areas directly for Government.

I do hope this further response is helpful – and provides the Committee with further assurance that the Government continues to view transparency in this area as a key priority.

*Yours ever  
John Penrose*

**JOHN PENROSE**