

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO LOBBYING

SUBMISSION RECEIVED FROM THE SALVATION ARMY

About Us

1. The Salvation Army is a Christian church and registered charity present in 700 communities in the UK. We provide a range of services tailored to the needs of those who are homeless, unemployed, people with addictions, older people, those seeking to be reunited with a family member, victims of human trafficking, victims of a major emergency, emergency responders and local community members. We also engage in the democratic process to fight for greater social justice for those we seek to serve.

Our Position

2. The Salvation Army warmly welcomes the consultative approach adopted by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee in its inquiry into lobbying.

3. Our priority is to ensure that legislation protects and promotes the engagement of civil society organisations in the democratic process, as stipulated and detailed in the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement's report "Non-Party Campaigning Ahead of Elections".

4. We would particularly welcome efforts to harmonise the guidelines and parameters regulating charitable lobbying in Scotland with guidelines applying to England and Wales, as it would ease the work of charities operating across the UK.

5. We also recommend that legislation makes provisions for charities to be able to work in coalition to lobby on issues of common concern.

Register of lobbyists

6. We support the proposed introduction of a published register of lobbying activity. We especially support the principle that such a register of charitable lobbying should be activity-related, rather than people related, insofar as charitable lobbying is not about the transparency of the person who lobbies on behalf of his/her organisation, but about the transparency of the activity that is carried out.

7. This register could include a formal list of political contacts. It is also crucial that the register clarifies when such a contact is related to a contract between the charitable organisation and the government. As organisations like The Salvation Army have increasingly delivered work on behalf of the government in the past few years, this would help mitigating the danger of inferring that charitable organisations lobby for their own interest, rather than that of their beneficiaries.

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**MAJOR ALAN DIXON
ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND**

**THE SALVATION ARMY
10 JANUARY 2014**