



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Lobbying Register | Clàr-coiteachaidh

30 March 2017

The outline timetable for the introduction of Scotland's new online Lobbying Register has been announced today.

The Lobbying Register is being established following the passage of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 which requires certain types of lobbying activity to be registered.

Over the last 6 months, the Lobbying Registrar has been meeting with stakeholders and interested parties to get their views in relation to the practicalities of operating the Register.

Building on this work, a Working Group is to be set up to help provide further information and assistance, as the Act moves towards full implementation. The Working Group will be made up of individuals from a varied range of interests, such as the third sector and small and medium sized businesses.

Following the recent announcement of the IT contractor now engaged to develop, test and provide ongoing support for the online Register, it is expected that the next stages of the implementation will be as follows:

- *IT Testing* - Live testing of the online Register will take place over the Summer with the aim that the system will be ready by Autumn.
- *Familiarisation period* – Following system readiness and in response to requests from a wide range of stakeholders, the online Register and draft parliamentary guidance will be available for users for a trial period until the end of 2017.
- *Go Live* – It is expected the Act will come fully into force in early 2018 (with an exact date to be announced later this year).

Lobbying Registrar, Billy McLaren said:

"It is vital that the online Lobbying Register we develop is as easy to use as possible. This is why I have been meeting with stakeholders across the country to hear what they want from the new system and how to ensure that it is not complex and allows for complete public transparency.

"Over the coming months, I will be developing guidance on what the Act means in practice and I would urge anyone who thinks they may be affected by the Act to contact my office in the first instance for more information."