

Political Lobbying Project

March 2024 Update

Welcome to our sixth newsletter about the Ministry of Justice's political lobbying project.

Progress update on a voluntary code for political lobbyists

We are making good progress in exploring what a voluntary code of conduct for lobbyists might look like.

In December 2023, the Ministry shared an initial draft code with government relations consultants to invite their review and feedback. We also hosted a meeting on 25 January with government relations consultants to discuss their feedback on the draft code.

A summary of this meeting, and a summary of the feedback received on the draft code can be found on the Ministry's Political Lobbying [webpage](#).

As foreshadowed in our previous newsletter, we have now refined the draft code, which outlines good practice expectations for lobbyists.

Recapping our work so far on developing the voluntary code...

In April 2023, the Ministry was asked to support "third-party" lobbyists to develop a voluntary code of conduct as part of the Government's work to support greater transparency around lobbying at Parliament.

Since then, we held a series of meetings with government relations consultants to explore the concept of a voluntary code. Most attendees agreed that a lobbying code should apply to anyone influencing government decisions, and suggested the Ministry draft an ethics-based code as a first step. Summaries of these meetings can be found on the Ministry's Political Lobbying [webpage](#).

As well, the Ministry ran an online survey on the approach to a code of conduct, and we shared interim results with you in December 2023.

...and now we would like to hear from you again

We invite your feedback on the revised draft voluntary code.

Please visit the Ministry's [Code of Conduct webpage](#) to read the draft code and for information on how to give feedback.

Feedback on the code is due on Monday 8 April 2024.

A summary of the survey responses is now available

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey on the approach to a code of conduct which closed in January 2024. Your responses will support our wider regulatory analysis and may inform longer-term policy work.

A summary of the survey responses is on the Ministry's Political Lobbying [webpage](#).

Next steps

We will share an update on the feedback to the revised draft voluntary code of conduct. A summary will also be shared on the Ministry's Political Lobbying webpage.

This process will support the Ministry's report to the Minister of Justice on the Lobbying Project.

Find out more

More information on this project can be found on the Ministry of Justice Political Lobbying [webpage](#).

About these updates

We send these updates regularly to keep you informed on progress and about opportunities to engage.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive these updates, please pass this on to them. Anyone can [register](#) their interest on the political lobbying project webpage. These updates will also be posted on this page.

If you do not wish to receive these updates, unsubscribe.

Mā te wā

The Project Team