

Corporate Department

# Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

## Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 (the “Act”)

### Are you “lobbying” and do you need to register?

If you answer “YES” to all three questions below then you are most likely lobbying and you will be required to register on the Register of Lobbying.

#### 1. Are you one of the following?

- An employer with more than 10 employees where the communications are made on your behalf
- A representative body with at least one employee communicating on behalf of its members and the communication is made by a paid employee or office holder of the body
- An advocacy body with at least one employee that exists primarily to take up particular issues and a paid employee or office holder of the body is communicating on such issues
- A professional lobbyist being paid to communicate on behalf of a client who fits into one of the preceding three categories
- Any person communicating about the development or zoning of land.

You can read more details on these questions on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie) or contact us for further information.

#### 2. Are you communicating about a relevant matter?

A relevant matter is one which relates to:

- The initiation, development or modification of any public policy or of any public programme
- The preparation or amendment of any law
- The award of any grant, loan, contract, or of any licence or other authorisation involving public funds other than the implementation of any such policy, programme, enactment or award or any matter of a technical nature only.

There are “excepted” and “exempted communications” which will not require you to be registered and which you can read about at [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie) or contact us for further information.

#### 3. Are you communicating either directly or indirectly with a Designated Public Official?

Designated public officials are:

- Ministers of the Government and Ministers of State
- Other members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann
- Members of the European Parliament for the three constituencies in Ireland
- Members of local authorities
- Special advisers
- Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General of Government departments, Chief Executive Officers and Directors of Services in local authorities
- Other public servants will be prescribed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform over time

Public bodies are obliged to publish the names of their employees who are designated public officials and a brief description of their roles and responsibilities for the purposes of the lobbying legislation.

The obligations under the Act commenced on 1 September 2015. The first return period under the Act is from 1 September until 31 December 2015, and the Act does not have retrospective effect. The object of the Act is to capture the existence of 'relevant communications' with certain "Designated Public Officials" in relation to "relevant matters" (all as defined in the Act).

Only "lobbying" activity that occurs from 1 September 2015 onwards needs to be recorded, and returns for the initial period, 1 September until 31 December 2015, must be submitted by 21 January 2016.

For further information on this topic please see <http://www.lobbying.ie> or contact Joy Compton, Senior Associate, Corporate, [jcompton@efc.ie](mailto:jcompton@efc.ie)