



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES

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Tel: 028 9052 0333

Mr Stewart Stevenson MSP
Convenor of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Room TG.01
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

30th January 2014

Dear Mr Stevenson,

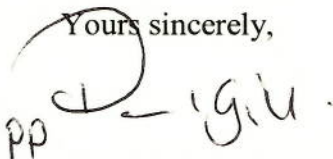
At its meeting yesterday the Committee on Standards and Privileges considered your correspondence of 10 December 2013 on the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee's inquiry on lobbying.

This inquiry coincides with the commencement of our own review of the Assembly's Code of Conduct. We shall issue a consultation paper on it shortly. During the review we shall look at the issue of lobbying of MLAs and whether we should introduce further guidance for Members and their staff for dealing with lobbyists.

We are therefore not yet in a position to respond to your call for evidence. However, we believe that once our review is underway it would be useful for us, and hopefully for your committee too, if we were to meet with you to discuss this and other issues.

If your Committee is agreeable to such a meeting I would ask our respective clerks to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

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Alastair Ross MLA
Chairperson
Committee on Standards and Privileges