

STANDARDS, PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO LOBBYING

SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE FROM SCVO

In discussions at the lobbying evidence session on the 30th January, a request was made by the Convenor to clarify the processes SCVO undertook with its policy committee and members prior to submitting our response to the consultation.

I can confirm that the following actions were undertaken prior to submitting our response to the consultation on Neil Findlay's members Bill:

September 2012 – Highlighted the consultation to our members, Policy Committee and Policy Officers Network asking what approach would assist organisations in responding

8th October 2012 – Following support for a joint response, SCVO circulated a draft copy to our members and the Policy Officer Network for organisations to sign up

8th October 2012 – Sent a summary of our response to our Policy Committee

26th October 2012 – Submitted final SCVO response

To respond to the Standards Procedures and Public Appointments Committee enquiry:

19th September 2013 – Hosted Policy Officers Network roundtable discussion on lobbying

25th September 2013 – Lobbying paper discussed at Policy Committee meeting

16th December 2013 – Submitted draft copy of SCVO response to our Policy Committee

10th January 2014 – Submitted final SCVO response

We have also published a number of blogs and articles on the topic to raise awareness and stimulate debate.

I have also attached a copy of our annual report and accounts as requested by the Convenor. [Clerks note – not reproduced here but available at:

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/ACCS-2012-13-Statutory-Accounts.pdf>]

I have also included, an outline of the processes SCVO undertakes for its policy work which may be of interest to the committee.

If you require any additional information please let me know.

**FELIX SPITTAL
POLICY OFFICER
SCVO
5 FEBRUARY 2014**

SCVO Policy Processes

SCVO has 1500 members that cover the whole third sector. They are represented by our 32 strong policy committee, elected by all our members, who help shape SCVO's policy direction and responses to consultations such as this.

The Policy Committee advises us on policies which reflect the best interests of the third sector in Scotland. It is the job of SCVO to take these policies and represent the shared collective interests of the third sector to government, local authorities, the private sector and the public at large.

SCVO has a policy procedure which it follows in all consultations to ensure that the voice of the sector is represented. We also have reference groups on key areas of policy such as health, welfare, economy, public services reform and community planning partnerships etc. which includes members of our Policy Committee and others members with an interest or expertise in the particular policy area. We will also on key policy issues hold a roundtable or a wider a consultation event, while at the same time asking the Policy Committee for comment.

We also consult widely through members surveys, our intermediaries organisations network (whose membership stretches to the majority of the sector), and other networks such as our Third Sector Policy Officers network –which has 190 members.

The draft response of any consultation or policy paper would then sent to the Policy Committee for final approval.

All of these discussions help shape and inform our policy response to Scottish Government consultations, Scottish Parliament and political party policy, which is why we can say with confidence that our responses represent the collective view of the sector and not SCVO alone.

We do not ask every member for their views on every policy issue. There are simply too many. We have a reach out/opt in process, which is similar to the policy processes of political parties, who also can't ask all their members their views on every issue.