Parliamentary Bureau - Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee – Timetabling of debate

Lobbying Resolution

1. The attached motion lodged by the Convener of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee invites the Parliament to agree the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (Modifications) Resolution 2026.

2. Section 15 of the Act enables the Parliament to make a resolution to specify requirements about the lobbying register, including about the information to be provided by registrants.

3. The purpose of the amendments made by the resolution are to enable the Clerk to improve communication with registrants, for example, to provide updates, notices and reminders that are important for the registrant.

4. The Scottish Government has been consulted on the terms of the resolution. That is a statutory requirement by virtue of section 48(1) of the 2016 Act.

5. The draft resolution was referred to the Delegated Powers and Legislative Reform (DPLR) Committee in accordance with rule 3C.2.7 of Standing Orders. The DPLR Committee is expected to consider the resolution on 10 March 2026 and report on the resolution on 11 March 2026. Rule 9C.2.9 of Standing Order provides that a lobbying resolution motion will not be taken by the Parliament until 7 days after the DPLR Committee reports to the Parliament.

6. The Bureau is therefore invited to schedule time in the business programme for this motion to be considered.

Parliamentary Business Team
March 2026

Motion S6M-20942: Martin Whitfield, South Scotland, Scottish Labour Party, On Behalf of Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, Date Lodged: 2 March 2026

That the Parliament, in exercise of the power conferred by section 15 of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act") makes The Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (Modifications) Resolution 2026 and—

(a) resolves that with effect from the day after the first dissolution of the Parliament following the day on which this Resolution is made the provisions which are contained in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Resolution shall come into force; and

(b) notes that in accordance with section 48(1) of the 2016 Act the Parliament has consulted the Scottish Ministers.

ANNEXE

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

THE LOBBYING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016 (MODIFICATIONS) RESOLUTION 2026

Made...

Coming into force in accordance with paragraph (a)

That the Parliament—

(a) in exercise of the power conferred by section 15 of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 ("the 2016 Act") resolves that with effect from the day after the first dissolution of the Parliament following the day on which this Resolution is made the provisions which are contained in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Resolution shall come into force; and

(b) notes that in accordance with section 48(1) of the 2016 Act the Parliament has consulted the Scottish Ministers.

Citation

1. This Resolution may be cited as the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (Modifications) Resolution 2026.

Modification of section 5 of the 2016 Act

2.—(1) Section 5 (information about identity) is modified in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) In paragraph (a)—

(a) omit the "and" immediately following sub-paragraph (i),

(b) after sub-paragraph (ii) insert—

“(iii) the individual’s business email address (or, if there is no such email address, the individual's home email address), and

(iv) the individual’s main telephone number (if any),”.

(3) In paragraph (b)—

(a) omit the “and” immediately following sub-paragraph (iv),

(b) after sub-paragraph (v) omit “(each of those expressions having the same meaning as in that Act)”,

(c) after sub-paragraph (v) insert—

“(vi) its registered email address, and

(vii) the telephone number (if any) for its registered office,

(each of the expressions in sub-paragraphs (i) to (vi) having the same meaning as in that Act),”.

(4) In paragraph (c)—

(a) omit the “and” immediately following sub-paragraph (ii),

(b) after sub-paragraph (iii) insert—

“(iv) the email address of the partnership, which must be an email address to which, in the ordinary course of events, emails sent by the Clerk would be expected to come to the attention of a person acting on behalf of the registrant, and

(v) the telephone number (if any) for its main office or place of business, and”.

(5) In paragraph (d)—

(a) omit the “and” immediately following sub-paragraph (i),

(b) after sub-paragraph (ii), insert—

“(iii) the person’s business email address, which must be an email address to which, in the ordinary course of events, emails sent by the Clerk would be expected to come to the attention of a person acting on behalf of the registrant, and

(iv) the telephone number (if any) for its main office or place of business.”.

Modification of section 7 of the 2016 Act

3.—(1) Section 7 (additional information) is modified in accordance with this paragraph.

(2) Omit the “and” immediately following paragraph (a)(iii),

(3) After paragraph (a) insert—

“(aa) any information submitted by the registrant about any individual given responsibility by the registrant for the discharge of the duties imposed on the registrant by or under this Act, and”.

Modification of section 11 of the 2016 Act

4. In section 11 (information returns), in subsection (5)(b), after “(7)(a)” insert “and (aa),”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Resolution)

The Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 (“the Act”) sets out a registration regime for “regulated lobbying”, as defined in the Act. In doing so it makes provision for a lobbying register which is operated by the Clerk of the Scottish Parliament (“the Clerk”). Part 2 sets out the content of the register and the role and functions of the Clerk in operating it. This includes a requirement that the register contains specified information about each registrant’s identity (section 4). Section 5 sets out that information about identity. Section 7 sets out the additional information that the register must contain.

Paragraph 2 modifies Part 2 of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 by adding to section 5 that the information about the person’s identity must also include an email address and, if available, a telephone number. The type of email address varies depending on the type of person (e.g. individual, company, partnership or other person) but**,** for registrants who are not individuals, it must be an email address to which, in the ordinary course of events, emails sent by the Clerk would be expected to come to the attention of a person acting on behalf of the registrant.

Paragraph 3 makes provision for further additional information that may be provided by the registrant for inclusion in the register. That further additional information is such information as may be provided by the registrant about any individual given responsibility by the registrant for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Paragraph 4 makes a consequential amendment.

These amendments aim to enable the Clerk to improve communication with registrants, for example, to provide updates, notices and reminders that are important for the registrant. They are intended to assist the Clerk in the discharge of the duties and functions imposed by or under the Act.