

The Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 was introduced to increase public transparency of contacts between organisations seeking to inform and influence MSPs, Scottish Government Ministers, Special Advisers to the Scottish Government, and the Permanent Secretary of the Scottish Government.

It created a [Lobbying Register](#), administered by the Lobbying Register Team in the Scottish Parliament. By 12 March 2026, the Lobbying Register will have been in operation for 8 years.

The [Register](#) contains details on regulated lobbying for over 1,600 organisations and has nearly 50,000 information returns published from those organisations.

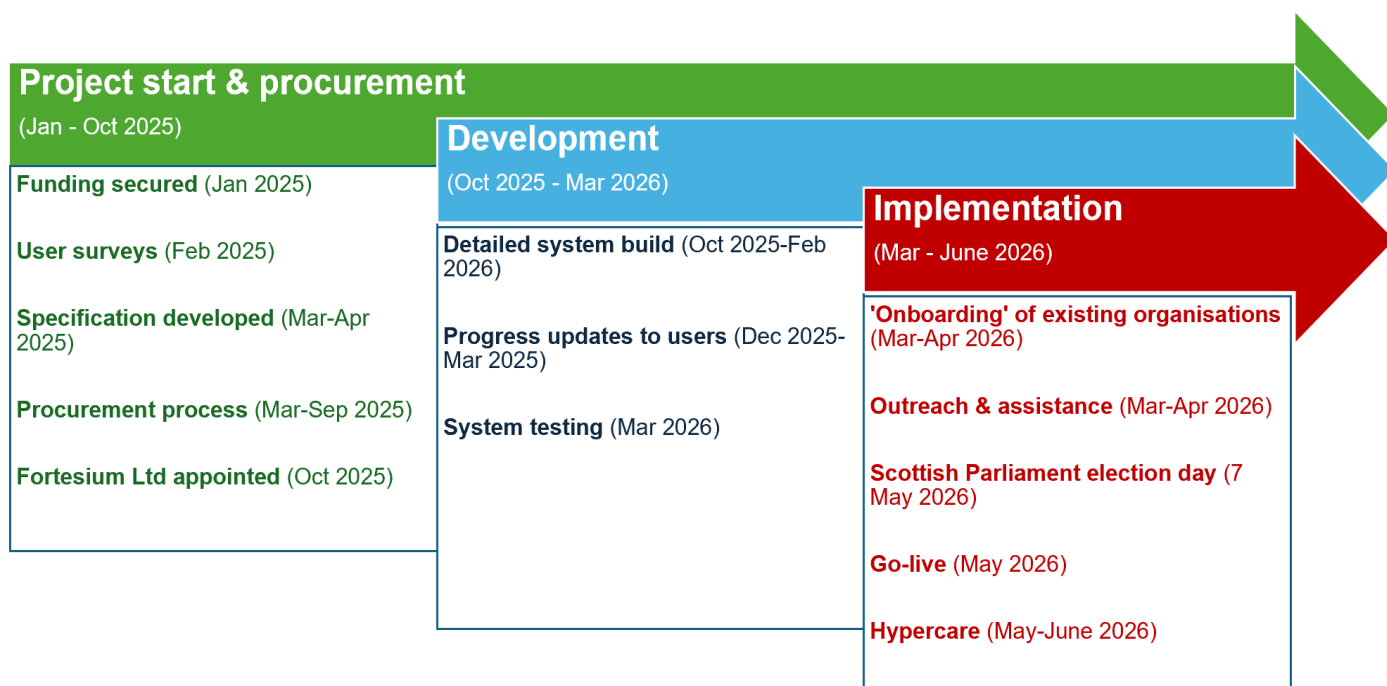
The existing system will be updated in Spring 2026.

This is the first of several progress reports we are providing to registered organisations to keep you informed about:

- the **timetable** for introduction
- the **improvements** that an updated system will bring
- any **actions** you will need to take
- the **support** we will offer to help you.

A full Q&A will be in our next progress report, which we will update as the project progresses. You can also contact us at any time at lobbying@parliament.scot.

Timetable



Improvements

The overall aim of this investment is to provide an updated system which will be more efficient, secure, accessible, modern and proofed for the future. It should improve operational effectiveness, enhance your user experience and support our statutory transparency requirements.

To date we have been working on:

- A more efficient registration process for new users.
- An improved Information Return form for all users.
- How to provide registrants with better information on compliance.
- How to capture an increased amount of searchable data.

Actions

In our next progress report in early 2026 we hope to be able to provide a clearer timeline on user testing of the updated system. This will involve seeking a small sample of registrants taking part in testing exercises. Please be ready to note your interest when we issue this call.

We'll also be communicating more in the new year about how and when users will transition over from the current system and any updates we will need to current registration details.

Support

The Lobbying Register Team, working in conjunction with our contractors Fortesium Ltd., will develop a tailored training plan for users. We aim to provide the following assistance as part of the transition to the updated system:

- User guides and training documents.
- Training workshop sessions delivered via MS Teams.
- Training videos.
- Prompt support from our team where any issues arise for users on the system.