

Steven Fadian

From: Ali Ryan [REDACTED] on behalf of Alison Ryan
Sent: 06 May 2019 17:18
To: Lobbying
Subject: Second Review of Lobbying Legislation

Attention Mr Steven Fadian

Dear Mr Fadian,

Re: Second Review of Lobbying Legislation

I welcome any measures taken to ensure increased openness and transparency in public engagement in public bodies and with public officials. I have concerns about what I would regard as gaps in the remit of the Lobbying Act with regards two areas in particular:

1. The fact that Principal Officers/Chief Advisors in relevant government departments are not regarded as designated public officials (DPOs) is an omission particularly when you consider the significant influence and power some of these officials have (eg. in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government) over national policy and their role as advisors to the relevant Ministers. It does not make sense that *Special Advisors* are regarded as DPOs and the departmental advisors are not. Both groups are open to lobbying.
2. Prescribed Bodies, that have a role in making submissions under the Planning and Development Act, should come under the Lobbying Act given the weight that can be given to these submissions. I believe that any Prescribed Body, in particular An Taisce, should be required to declare whether they were lobbied for support and by whom, when commenting on planning. This would help to increase transparency and public confidence in the planning process and lesson opportunities for conflicts of interest.

Yours Sincerely

Alison Ryan
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