**PRCA Public Affairs Code Consultation**

To ensure that the PRCA Public Affairs Code remains the benchmark for ethical and transparent lobbying we are seeking the views of members about how it currently operates.  Recent questions about the employment of Peers and other legislators, as well as former parliamentarians, have raised issues about the current restrictions on these groups and about the definition of ‘public affairs’, so we are seeking members’ views on these and other issues.

The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists recently published his response to the Code of Conduct consultation (to which the PRCA [submitted a response](https://www.prca.org.uk/sites/default/files/PRCA%20Response%20to%20ORCL%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20Consultation%2012.08.19.pdf)), in which he concluded that several of the non-PRCA Codes declared on the Register of Consultant Lobbyists might not be considered ‘relevant’; and suggested a tougher line on those declaring their own, self-policed Codes.  Two things were striking about this: first, that the Registrar accepted the majority of the PRCA’s recommendations; second, that the PRCA Code is now the industry standard -seven times more agencies adhere to our Code than adhere to the next most referenced Association Code.

This position has come about as a result of the merger with the APPC, and the creation last year of a unified Code around which the majority of the industry has coalesced.

However, despite the success of the unified Code, the Public Affairs Committee believes it is important always to challenge whether it could work better.  That is why we are now seeking views on how the new Code is functioning, and if there are any changes that should be made.

This consultation is open to all members, but we will accept only one consultation response from each member.

Please send the completed consultation response to [Neha.Khatwani@prca.org.uk](mailto:Neha.Khatwani@prca.org.uk) by Friday, 24th January 2020.

1. Are you entirely satisfied with the [PRCA Public Affairs Code](https://www.prca.org.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Affairs%20Code%20PDF.pdf) in its existing form?
   * Yes
   * No
2. If you answered ‘No’ to question 1, how should the PRCA Public Affairs Code be amended? We would welcome views on issues *including but not limited to*:
   * The Definition of Public Affairs. The current definition can be found [here](https://www.prca.org.uk/sites/default/files/Definition%20of%20Public%20Affairs%20PDF.pdf).
   * The restrictions relating to the employment of MPs, MEPs, Members of the House of Lords, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of the National Assembly for Wales, Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly, Members of the London Assembly, and Councillors. The current restrictions can be found [here](https://www.prca.org.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Affairs%20Code%20PDF.pdf).
   * For former Ministers and former MPs who are not Members of the House of Lords, and hold no other publicly elected position, the PRCA currently imposes no restrictions other than on the holding of Parliamentary passes.  We would welcome members’ views here too.  Do you agree with the current restrictions, if so explain why?  Do you think these restrictions should be more robust and if so how would you suggest this could be achieved?
   * The PRCA Public Affairs Code applies only to PRCA members, rather than to holding groups which own member companies, or to member companies which own subsidiaries. Should there be any change here?