

## Definition of Public Affairs

- (1) A person who provides public affairs services must be registered.
- (2) In subsection (1) “public affairs” means activities which are carried out in the course of a business for the purpose of—
- (a) influencing government, or
  - (b) advising others how to influence government.
- (3) Activities are to be taken as having the purpose specified in subsection (2) if a reasonable person would assume, having regard to all the circumstances, that the activities were intended to have the effect described in subsection (2)(a) or (b).
- (4) In this section “government” includes, within the United Kingdom—
- (a) central government, devolved government, local government,
  - (b) members and staff of either House of Parliament or of a devolved legislature,
  - (c) Ministers and officials, and
  - (d) public authorities (within the meaning of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- (5) Subsection (1) does not apply to—
- (a) anything done in response to or compliance with a court order,
  - (b) anything done for the purpose of complying with a requirement under an enactment,
  - (c) a public response to an invitation to submit information or evidence,
  - (d) a public response to a government consultation exercise,
  - (e) a formal response to a public invitation to tender,
  - (f) anything done by a person acting in an official capacity on behalf of a government organisation, or
  - (g) an individual who makes representations solely on his or her own behalf.
- (6) In subsection (2) “influencing” includes informing; but making information or opinions public (for example, by way of advertisements or attributed articles in a newspaper) is not the provision of public affairs services.
- (7) In this section—
- (a) “business” includes any undertaking, including charitable and not-for-profit undertakings; and
  - (b) services provided by or on behalf of an undertaking are provided “in the course of a business”, even if the persons providing the services are acting on a pro bono, volunteer or not-for-profit basis.
- (8) Subsection (1) applies whether a person is acting—
- (a) on behalf of a client,
  - (b) on behalf of an employer,
  - (c) as a volunteer on behalf of a charitable or other organisation, or
  - (d) on the person’s own behalf (subject to subsection (5)(g)).