

Proposed enforcement of accountable lobbying will fail to deter future abuses of access privileges and power

Accountable lobbying, which will see the end of inappropriate influence in parliament, will not be achieved even if all of the recommendations from the Public Administration Select Committee's (PASC) latest paper are implemented, according to research released today by one of the world's leading accountability think tanks, the One World Trust. The research, which draws on the think tank's expertise and a recent study specifically addressing policy-orientated research organisations, suggests that the proposed register of lobbying activities will still contain loopholes, particularly relating to policy organisations' ability to lobby Parliament without revealing potential sources of bias. Moreover, the proposed enforcement of accountable lobbying will fail to deter future abuses of access privileges and power, highlighted recently in the alleged cash-for-amendments scandal. Following these findings, the One World Trust recommends that, if the new rules under consideration are to be effective, they must ensure:

- **Not-for-profit organisations as well as professional political consultancies** are required to register their donors and their grassroots support;
- **All statistics and supporting evidence** used in lobbying are cited formally and made available to the public;
- **And an independent lobbying ombudsman** is created, whose function is to supplement the powers of the PASC suggested umbrella group by offering formal complaints handling powers regarding lobbyist irregularities.

Brendan Whitty, Research Manager at the One World Trust, says: "Our research supports the main findings of the PASC paper, but suggests a lot more is necessary to ensure accountable lobbying. The current debate around cases of alleged inappropriate influence over legislation amendments in the House of Lords demonstrates the importance in achieving true accountability and it is therefore essential that the register is effective."

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For further information or interviews with key spokespeople please contact Henry Jakins at The SPA Way on 020 7403 6900.

Notes to Editors:

- www.oneworldtrust.org