

Dr Tony Wright MP
Chairman
Public Administration Select Committee
House of Commons
First Floor, Committee Office
7 Millbank
London
SW1P 3JA

7 July 2009

Dear Dr Wright

Please find enclosed the Chartered Institute of Public Relation's response to your Select Committee's report on lobbying published in January 2009.

We would particularly like to emphasise the point made on page 4 of our response that the '*CIPR has considerable doubts that a voluntary register could work unless there are adequate incentives to register and sanctions for failure to do so*'. In the absence of such sanctions, the self regulatory system can only work if accompanied by a statutory register.

It is also essential in our view that the Select Committee can provide an agreed definition of lobbyists which includes all professional lobbyists, whether consultant, in-house, charity or NGO, to ensure that any regulation or registration applies universally to all lobbyists to ensure that there is not a two-tier system of those talking to government.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Mealor
Deputy Director General