

# Lobbying minister sets out statutory register timetable at PRCA Summer Party

Submitted by: Public Relations Consultants Association

Friday, 6 July 2012

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London, 6th July - Mark Harper MP, the minister for political and constitutional reform, announced at the PRCA /APPC/ Comres Summer Party that a white paper on a statutory register of lobbyists will be produced in this parliamentary session, before the next Queen's Speech.

Speaking to a packed room full of public affairs professionals at the St Stephens' Club, the minister also announced that the Cabinet Office will publish a summary of consultation responses before the summer recess.

Harper maintained that a register of lobbyists would come into statute before the next general election, but it is still not clear whether the Government intends to ditch its original proposals that would omit in-house lobbyists, who comprise around 80% of the industry.

Emily Wallace, PRCA Public Affairs Chairman said: "It was great to see the whole industry out in force to hear Mark Harper confirm that he has heard us loud and clear, a register of lobbyists should cover all those who lobby regardless of who they work for."

"We look forward to the publication of the summary of the consultation responses later this month and are keen to continue to discuss the proposed scope and scale of a register as the Department starts work on a White Paper and Draft Bill".

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Notes to editors

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About the PRCA

Who we are: Founded in 1969, the PRCA is the professional body that represents UK PR consultancies, in-house communications teams, PR freelancers and individuals. The PRCA promotes all aspects of public relations and internal communications work, helping teams and individuals maximise the value they deliver to clients and organisations.

What we do: The Association exists to raise standards in PR and communications, providing members with industry data, facilitating the sharing of communications best practice and creating networking opportunities.

How we do it and make a difference: All PRCA members are bound by a professional charter and codes of conduct, and benefit from exceptional training. The Association also works for the greater benefit of the industry, sharing best practice and lobbying on the industry's behalf e.g. fighting the NLA's digital licence.

Who we represent: The PRCA represents many of the major consultancies in the UK, and currently has more than 250 agency members from around the world, including the majority of the top 100 UK consultancies. We also represent over 70 in-house communications teams from multinationals, UK charities and leading UK public sector organisations.