

## **BREXIT AND THE REGISTER OF CONSULTANT LOBBYISTS**

From time to time, something happens which is so disruptive as to cause most organisations to fundamentally review their future strategy in the light of it. So it seems has been the case with Brexit. A cursory scan of registrant websites (and of those on the periphery of registration) shows that many are proposing to provide specialist services for clients, potentially different to those services which they previously provided. Many of those services advertised include public affairs and advocacy.

The impact of this is that all organisations which may be considering making direct communications with Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and their equivalents in the light of Brexit, on behalf of their clients, need to make sure that they are registered ahead of those communications taking place, and ensure that their clients are properly declared in due course. Those organisations that may not have needed to register previously may now start making relevant communications, and hence need to register for the first time, and those already registered which to date have made predominantly nil returns, may now start registering clients on a more regular basis.

The Registrar wishes to highlight the importance of robust compliance procedures which can cope with the changing circumstances caused by Brexit. Compliance Officers need to satisfy themselves that any relevant communications will be highlighted, and for those organisations not yet registered, that the need for registration will be identified IN ADVANCE of those communications taking place.

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