

Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists

Summary of investigation

July 2018 to November 2018

Organisation or person investigated: Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)

Matter(s) investigated: possible consultant lobbying by Institute of Economic Affairs on behalf of E Foundation and/or its members

Registrar's decision: IEA had not met statutory criteria for consultant lobbying in this case

Summary of rationale for decision: Explicit confirmation from IEA that they had not received payment - directly or indirectly - from the E Foundation or its members, meant that the IEA did not meet one of the key statutory criteria of consultant lobbying (payment by a third party). Accordingly, IEA could not be considered a consultant lobbyist in relation to the activities in question.

Chronology:

29-30 July 2018	Media articles from Guardian and Uearthed including indicative evidence of consultant lobbying by IEA for E Foundation.
Early August 2018	Consideration of initial published evidence by Registrar (Alison White) and decision that case warranted investigation.
20 August 2018	Letters from Registrar to IEA and Uearthed. Explained remit of Registrar, referred to published guidance on consultant lobbying by think tanks, and asked for any further evidence relevant to the case.
3 September 2018	Further evidence provided by Uearthed.
6 September 2018	Substantive response to investigation received from IEA.
22 September 2018	Transfer of case to new Registrar (Harry Rich).
Early October 2018	Consideration of papers and evidence by new Registrar.
29 October 2018	Letter from Registrar to IEA setting out supplemental questions about funding and meetings with Ministers in relation to E Foundation and its members.
14 November 2018	IEA's response to questions in Registrar's letter.
27 November 2018	Having considered all information received, Registrar writes to IEA to confirm they had not met statutory criteria for consultant lobbying in this case.