

Cancer Research UK's response to the National Assembly of Wales' Standards of Conduct Committee inquiry into Lobbying

January 2017

Cancer Research UK welcomes the National Assembly of Wales' Standards of Conduct Committee inquiry into Lobbying. We believe that lobbying and campaigning activity is a hugely important tool for charities, whether used to encourage change or maintain a positive status quo, raise awareness, provide expertise to strengthen strategy, or otherwise help to achieve their vision. Cancer Research UK would support the introduction of a lobbying register in Wales. We believe the register would increase transparency of lobbying and help the public understand its role in the public policy process.

1. Cancer Research UK is the largest single funder of cancer research in the UK. Last year we spent over £4m on cancer research in Wales. Our unique position allows us to inform political debate and provide expert advice on the issues that matter to cancer scientists, doctors, nurses and the thousands of people in the UK living with cancer. Our Public Affairs team works in Europe, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to ensure cancer stays at the top of the political agenda.
2. Campaigning or lobbying is a legitimate and important activity for charities to be involved in. Charity campaigning should be celebrated as a vital part of Welsh society which provides an opportunity for many people to participate in government decision making and the democratic process.
3. Cancer Research UK has been at the forefront of supporting a robust fundraising regulatory environment - including around campaigning.
4. We support the principle of the introduction of a lobbying register for Wales. We believe a register would increase the transparency and reputation of the practice of lobbying, and to bring Wales in line with Westminster and Scotland, which have legislated for the introduction of lobbying registers.
5. Cancer Research UK would support the adoption in Wales of a lobbying register similar to the model currently being introduced in Scotland.
6. We believe that any register should be comprehensive and apply to all professional lobbyists, both in-house and external. A universal register would achieve parity between in-house lobbyists in private organisations and those working within charities.
7. Similarly to Scotland, we believe an individual should be included when the primary purpose of their role within their organisation is to campaign or lobby. In Cancer Research UK, for example, this could include campaigning and public affairs officers and managers. Those who occasionally undertake lobbying activity but whose role is to support the broader aims of an organisation should not be included, such as the chief executive officer of the charity.



8. A lobbying register for Wales would need to be compulsory, to prevent those who fail to adhere from simply unregistering to avoid penalties.
9. We see the register as being a way to enable the public to understand the impact lobbyists are having on the public policy process.

Further information

We would be happy to provide any further information or detail as required. Please contact Gregor McNie, Senior Public Affairs Manager (Devolved Nations) using Gregor.McNie@cancer.org.uk or 0131 718 6358.

About us

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research. We support research into all aspects of cancer through the work of over 4000 scientists, doctors and nurses. Cancer Research UK spent over £4 million last year in Wales on some of the UK's leading scientific and clinical research. The charity's pioneering work has been at the heart of the progress that has seen cancer survival in Wales move from 1 in 4 in the 1970s to 2 in 4 today.