

**The Standards of Conduct Committee (the Committee)  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF**

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By email: [SeneddStandards@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddStandards@senedd.wales)

**inquiry into Lobbying: “Whether the Senedd’s current arrangements relating to lobbying are sufficiently robust and fit-for-purpose for the Sixth Senedd.”**

On behalf of the Institution of Civil Engineers, I am delighted for the opportunity to give my comments into the inquiry into Lobbying. I have set my responses specifically against the seven questions raised.

- ***What do you understand by the term lobbying?***

**Response:** Seeking to influence on an issue or decision.

- ***What concerns, if any, do you have about lobbying of Members of the Senedd?***

**Response:** Members of the Senedd should not be subject to lobbying but should seek independent advice from those best qualified and suited to give such advice.

- ***What is your understanding about the role that Cross-Party Groups play in relation to lobbying in the Senedd, and do you have any comments / concerns?***

**Response:** Representatives from Cross Party Groups should not participate in lobbying, the Cross Party Groups should not include lobbying groups or persons. Care must be taken so that the Members of the Senedd from the Cross Party Groups are aware of the difference between lobbying and independent advice. Members of the Senedd themselves should not lobby themselves.

- ***How do you think we could achieve greater transparency around decision making in Wales?***

**Response:** The names and backgrounds of all the Ministers’ Special Advisors (SPADS) should be published.

- ***Do you consider yourself a lobbyist? How is lobbying regulated within your sector at the moment (e.g. if you are a private business, third sector, professional organisation)?***

**Response:** No, the Institution of Civil Engineers proudly has a Royal Charter (1828) which proudly ensures that 'Independence advice should be given to Government.' The author of this response was a Board member of an organisation that was reformatted some two years ago and became a lobbying organisation – and I resigned from my position as it was incompatible with the ICE Code of Conduct.

- ***Have you encountered any problems with the provisions in the Code and the guidance on lobbying and access to Members of the Senedd (agreed 2013)?***

**Response:** No problems noted but concerns raised.

***Are there any areas relating to lobbying that you consider to be unregulated in this area which pose a risk to the accountability and reputation of governance in Wales?***

**Response:** No areas noted but concerns raised.



Yours sincerely

Eur Ing Keith Jones BSc DMS CEng CEnv FICE FCIHT FCMI  
Director Cyfarwyddwr ICE Wales Cymru

- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) was founded in 1818 to ensure professionalism in civil engineering.
- It represents over 96,000 qualified and student civil engineers in the UK and across the globe and has over 3,700 members in Wales.
- ICE has long worked with the government of the day to help it to achieve its objectives and has worked with industry to ensure that construction and civil engineering remain major contributors to the UK economy and UK exports.
- For further information visit: [www.ice.org.uk](http://www.ice.org.uk) and [www.ice.org.uk/wales](http://www.ice.org.uk/wales)