

Political Lobbying Project

December 2023 Update

Welcome to our fifth newsletter about the Ministry of Justice's political lobbying project.

Progress update on a voluntary code for political lobbyists

During July and August 2023, we held meetings with government relations consultants on the concept of a voluntary code of conduct for "third-party" lobbyists.

Attendees at the meetings agreed that the Ministry would prepare a first draft of an ethics-based code setting out expectations for all lobbyists. Summaries of these meetings can be found on the Ministry's [Political lobbying webpage](#).

The Ministry has now completed a first draft of the code, and government relations consultants registered with the project are currently considering it before providing feedback. We will then circulate the refined draft code to our wider stakeholder groups for further review, inviting feedback.

Summary of responses to our survey

Thank you to everyone who answered our survey on the approach to a political lobbying code of conduct. A summary of responses so far shows:



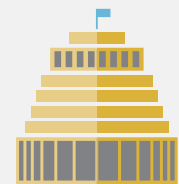
80%

of respondents think there should be a lobbying code of conduct



56%

think a code should be voluntary



34%

think it should be mandated by Government



Respondents held mixed views about who a code should apply to and the activities a code should cover



29%

think a code should be administered by a government agency



27%

think it should be administered by a new industry group

WE ARE STILL INTERESTED IN HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A LOBBYING CODE OF CONDUCT

As part of the longer-term policy work, we would like to hear from more people about what you think about a code for political lobbyists. Please complete this short survey with five simple questions that should take around 10 minutes to answer. [Click here](#) to take the online survey.

The survey will be open until 19 January 2024 and a summary of the responses will be posted online after it closes.

Coming up...

Thank you to everyone who made time to meet with us between August and September 2023, your input has been valuable and will inform our wider policy work.

In the New Year, the Ministry will report back to the Minister of Justice with policy options for addressing issues with lobbying activities in New Zealand and proposals for public consultation. This process will help to determine our next steps.

About these updates

We send these updates regularly to keep you informed on progress and about opportunities to engage.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive these updates please pass this on to them. Anyone can [register](#) their interest on the political lobbying project webpage. These updates will also be posted on this page.

If you do not wish to receive these updates, unsubscribe.

Mā te wā
The Project Team