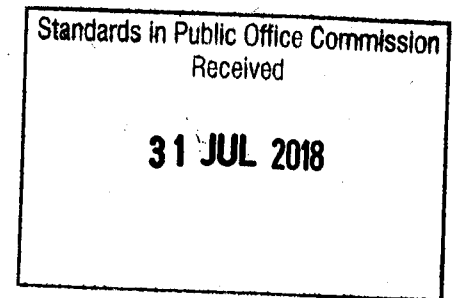




Ref: Rep Min18-165

26 July 2018

Sherry Perreault
Head of Ethics and Lobbying Regulation
Standards in Public Office Commission
18 Lower Leeson Street
Dublin 2



Dear Mr Perreault

I am directed by the Minister to refer to your correspondence in relation to the development of a Code of Conduct for persons carrying on lobbying activities. While the Department is not providing a submission, I have included some observations below.

The Department welcomes the move to introduce a Code of Conduct for persons carrying on Lobbying activities, noting that the legislation is new, having only been introduced in 2015 and as such is bedding in.

In particular, the Department supports the key tenets of the draft code in relation to, for example, demonstrating respect for Public Bodies, acting with honesty and integrity, ensuring accuracy of information, preserving confidentiality, disclosure of interests etc.

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As a newly formed Department our work involves extensive engagement with Third Sector groups in the Community and Voluntary sector. Those small entities deliver services at the front-line with small budgets and tight resources. Hence, the availability of training and information in relation to implementing the Code of Conduct will be important to assist groups such as these.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMC', written over a horizontal line.

Anthony McCarthy
Private Secretary to Michael Ring T.D.
Minister for Rural and Community Development

