

PRESS NOTICE

LOBBYING, DISCLOSURE AND ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT REVIEW

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION PUBLISHES TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OPENS PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The independent Ethics and Integrity Commission has today set out its approach to the review of lobbying, disclosure and access to government [requested by the Prime Minister](#).

[Terms of Reference](#)

[Public consultation](#)

EIC Chair, Doug Chalmers said:

“We welcome this opportunity to look at rules, process and transparency in central government that support high standards. We have published our terms of reference and a consultation paper today, seeking views and evidence from anyone with an interest in helping us to consider these issues.

“Given the scope and urgency of this review we will focus our attention on the areas where we can have the greatest impact.

“We expect a significant proportion of our report to cover lobbying. Lobbying is an important and legitimate aspect of public life, but when it is associated with undue influence and secrecy it undermines the integrity of our democracy. We intend to make recommendations that, when implemented, will make it easier to see which groups and individuals are lobbying the government and the matters on which they are seeking to exert influence.

“On the Business Appointment Rules that apply to those leaving government, we intend to produce principles to guide the government’s review of the Rules. We will also consider the principles that should guide the bodies and departments advising on applications under the Rules.

“We will examine the current system for the declaration and publication of financial interests for Ministers and senior government officials, and research the arrangements in place in comparable governments. The output will be a better understanding of other systems and their benefits and point to further work that the government could undertake.”

EIC Member, Rt Hon Michael Tomlinson KC said: “Working in the public sector - whether elected or appointed - is a privilege. I believe the majority of those who do so want to serve the public and try to live up to the Nolan Principles. But the structures, processes and culture must be in place to support high ethical standards, with sufficient transparency to enable proper scrutiny and accountability.”

EIC Member, Rt Hon Ian Blackford said “We are beginning an intensive programme of evidence gathering and intend to produce our final report before the Summer parliamentary recess.”

Notes to Editors

1. Interview requests and media enquiries should go to Maggie O’Boyle on 07880 740627.
2. [Find out more about the Ethics and Integrity Commission](#)
3. The EIC was established in October 2025, building on the independent Committee on Standards in Public Life. The Commission [promotes the highest standards in public life, reports to the Prime Minister on matters concerning ethical standards, and advises public authorities on the development of clear codes of conduct with effective oversight arrangements.](#) The Commission is not a regulator and has no remit to investigate individual cases.
4. As well as this review of lobbying, disclosure and access to government, the EIC is carrying out a [review of public sector Ombudsman services](#) announced on 3 March 2026.
5. The current members of the EIC are Doug Chalmers CB DSO OBE (Chair), The Rt Hon Lady Mary Arden of Heswall DBE, The Rt Hon Ian Blackford (Scottish National Party), Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Liberal Democrat) Ewen Fergusson, Professor Gillian Peele and Rt Hon Michael Tomlinson KC (Conservative). There is a public appointments process underway for the recruitment of 3 additional independent members to the EIC.
6. Follow the EIC on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Bluesky](#)