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OK BH 18/2

19 February 2015

Senator Jillian van Turnhout
Leader of the Independent Group
(Taoiseach's Nominees)
Jillian.VanTurnhout@Oireachtas.ie

Dear Jillian

Thank you for your email of 4 February regarding your proposed amendment to the Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014.

I was happy at Committee Stage to put on the record of the House for clarification for all concerned that registering on the lobbying website will have no impact on a person's application for, entitlement to, or consideration of any matter referred to in section 5(9)(c) of the Bill. The Bill is not intended to discourage communications on any of these issues.

In addition, I informed the House that it is my intention to communicate with Ministers and other Designated Public Officials on the detail of this legislation and its practical implications. I am happy to address this issue as part of those communications. The review of the Act will also provide an opportunity to assess the issue further in light of the experience of those applying for grants, etc.

I trust that my assurances and indication of my intentions will assuage your concerns around these issues.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN HOWLIN

Brendan Howlin TD
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform