

News

Lobbying registrar updates its guidance

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The Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists updated his guidance

[<https://registrarofconsultantlobbyists.org.uk/guidance-on-registration-and-qirs-including-specialist-guidance-for-think-tanks-and-support-service-providers-to-appgs/>] in May 2022, and the main updates relate to:

- the incidental exception and
- secretariats to All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

Consultant lobbying is defined by the activity, not by the sector. UK VAT-registered organisations and individuals who communicate personally with ministers or permanent secretaries (and equivalents) on behalf of a third party, and in return for payment, must be registered in advance of such activity.

There is an exception, but the Registrar says this is a narrow one and the updated guidance [<https://registrarofconsultantlobbyists.org.uk/guidance-on-registration-and-qirs-including-specialist-guidance-for-think-tanks-and-support-service-providers-to-appgs/#Lobbying-that-is-incidental-to-non-lobbying-activities>] makes this clearer and includes examples. It states 'As a result, most lawyers, accountants, management consultants and others that communicate with Ministers on behalf of clients are required to register.'