



Putting People 1st

LOBBYING POLICY STATEMENT

Ref G.17

Reviewed

June 2024

Date next due for review:

June 2027

This policy document can be produced in various formats, for instance, in larger print or audio-format; and it can also be translated into other languages, as appropriate.

Our equality and diversity policy statement describes our key equality commitments that we use to develop all organisational services; this includes employment services and services to tenants and other customers.

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The Scottish Housing Regulator Reg. No: HAC231; Registered Scottish Charity No: SC038237; FCA Reg. No: 2375R(S); Property Factor Reg. No: PF000151

The Management Committee of Pineview Housing Association has determined that no staff or committee member will be permitted to undertake any regulated lobbying without this first being approved by the Management Committee and recorded at a committee meeting or through a decision between meetings.

The information below gives some detail on the Lobbying Act to clarify what is lobbying.

The [Lobbying \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) (2016 Act), which came into force on 12 March 2018. This act affected all staff who come into face-to-face contact with MSPs, Scottish Government Ministers and special advisers, both formally and informally. It also affected committee members who are paid employees of other RSLs.

Regulated lobbying means face-to-face communication (including video calls) discussing Scottish Government or parliamentary functions with MSPs, Scottish Government Ministers, special advisers and the Scottish Government's Permanent Secretary. It does not matter where or when this communication takes place, it could be at a social occasion as well as a professional setting. Any individual or organisation that is engaged in regulated lobbying must create an online account and file information returns on who they have lobbied, where and when it took place and what the purpose of the lobbying was.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (Designation of Persons as Scottish Public Authorities) Order 2019 (2019 Order) came into effect on 11 November 2019. It provided for the extension of coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) to certain information held by registered social landlords and a connected body (as defined in section 165 and section 164(c) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 (2010 Act), respectively) about housing services and the management of housing accommodation as defined in section 165 of the 2010 Act (subject to amendments contained in the 2019 Order) and any information supplied by a registered social landlord or a connected body to the Scottish Housing Regulator in relation to its financial well-being and standards of governance.

This has implications so far as the position of registered social landlords engaging with the 2016 Act are concerned. The 2016 Act exempts communications made by, or on behalf, of a Scottish public authority within the meaning of the FOISA. The effect of this is that registered social landlords, as Scottish public authorities for FOISA purposes, will therefore no longer be engaged in 'regulated lobbying' for the purposes of the 2016 Act. However, this will only be the case where such lobbying relates to the functions and activities of the registered social landlord to which FOISA has been extended by virtue of the 2019 Order.

Approved Policy Statement:

No staff or committee members are permitted to undertake any regulated lobbying without this first being approved by the Management Committee and recorded at a committee meeting or through a decision between meetings. The Director will manage the process of determining the format and recording of any approved lobbying. If anyone is unsure of whether or not an action would be lobbying, they should clarify this with the Director before undertaking the action.