

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

29 January 2013

The Hon. Ros Bates MP
Minister for Science, Information Technology,
Innovation and the Arts
Member for Mudgeeraba
Level 5, Executive Building
100 George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

	Paper No.: 5413T2067
	Date: 13/2/13
	Member: Hon Bates
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<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated, by leave	<input type="checkbox"/> Remainder incorporated, by leave
Mark at the Table:	

Dear Minister,

I received today your letter of 22 January 2013 in which you seek my advice about the recording of contacts with lobbyists. You said:

Last year my office recorded all contact with lobbyists, including each e-mail and telephone call involved in setting up a potential meeting, on a register of contact with lobbyists.

For example, last year the register of contact with lobbyists for my office contained 11 entries regarding the scheduling of a single proposed meeting with a lobbyist and their client (that didn't eventuate).

From our meeting today, I understood your advice to be that only substantive lobbying activity was required to have been recorded, and not those activities (such as phone calls and e-mails relating to diary appointments) that lead to substantive lobbying (such as a meeting).

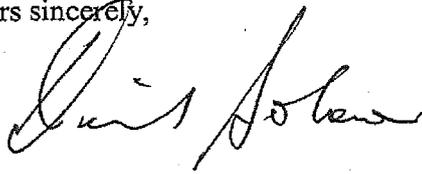
You asked for my advice on contact with lobbyists where no substantive lobbying has occurred.

My understanding is that the registers of contact with lobbyists kept by Ministers, Departments and other agencies, including local government, are intended to record lobbying activity involving the Minister/Department/agency.

"Lobbying activity" is defined in the *Integrity Act 2009* as "contact with a government representative in an effort to influence State or local government decision-making ..." In my view contact to arrange a meeting, change a meeting time or cancel a meeting does not constitute "lobbying activity". It is or may be a preliminary to a lobbying activity but under normal circumstances it is not "contact ... in an effort to influence ... decision-making".

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Solomon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dr David Solomon AM
Queensland Integrity Commissioner