

New Queensland Registered Lobbyists Code of Conduct: Key changes

The Integrity Commissioner has approved a new code of conduct for registered lobbyists in Queensland (Code), supported by 4 new Integrity Commissioner directives. The new code and directives will come into effect on **1 July 2026**.

This is the first major update of the Code since 2013. The changes, informed by public consultation, the Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner's (OQIC's) regulatory work and international good practice, aim to enhance transparency and integrity in lobbying activities.

What's new?

1. A simplified, principles-based Code

- **Streamlined structure:** The Code now focuses on principles, while technical and procedural requirements are addressed in directives made by the Integrity Commissioner.
- **Strengthened standards of conduct:** New and revised standards of conduct clarify expectations for lobbyists, especially regarding improper influence, address identified non-compliance and integrity risks, and further align the Code with international good practice.
- **Conflicts of interests policy:** A new policy, mandatory under the *Integrity Act 2009*, requires lobbyists to identify, disclose, record and manage conflicts of interest.
- **Easier to understand:** Simpler and more concise language, with explanatory notes and links to related content, makes it easier for lobbyists to understand and comply with their obligations.

2. New directives

Four new Integrity Commissioner directives complement the new Code. These directives require lobbyists to:

- **Only use official business channels for lobbying activities** (Directive 03/26). This means not contacting representatives via personal or social media channels when conducting a lobbying activity.
- **Disclose certain information in their first communication with a representative** (Directive 04/26). This directive continues lobbyists' obligations under the existing Code, with some minor changes to clarify and strengthen the requirements.

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- **Record new clients in the Queensland Lobbying Register before starting lobbying activity for them** (Directive 05/26).
- **Record specific information about lobbying activities in the Queensland Lobbying Register** (Directive 06/26). This directive simplifies lobbyists' obligations under the existing Code, and introduces some new requirements:
 - **Recording timeframes:** Lobbyists must record lobbying activities in the Queensland Lobbying Register (QLR) within 10 business days of the activity (previously by the 15th day of the next month).
 - **Meeting requests:** All requests to meet with a representative must now be recorded in the QLR, regardless of whether the request results in a meeting. Follow-up communications about the same request and communications about logistical arrangements **do not** need to be recorded.
 - **Commercial-in-confidence activities:** Lobbyists must provide additional information about the purpose of activities marked as 'commercial-in-confidence'. This information will not be made public but will assist the OQIC with its auditing and compliance monitoring responsibilities.
 - **Identifying representatives:** The full name **and** title/position of each representative involved in a lobbying activity must be recorded in the QLR.

More information

Visit integrity.qld.gov.au to read:

- A detailed explanation of the changes to the Code and the requirements in the new Integrity Commissioner directives
- The new Code
- The new directives.