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Part 2 of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill will be considered in Committee of the Whole House from 16 December.

As I made clear to the House on 5 November during the debate on the motion tabled by Lord Ramsbotham, the Government is using the time between now and then to listen and respond to the views of Peers and many charities, voluntary groups and other campaigning organisations who are concerned about the non-party campaigning provisions of the Bill.

I made clear to the House that the Government will bring forward amendments to the Bill to substantially raise the thresholds at which organisations register with the Electoral Commission from those proposed in the Bill. We welcome the views of all those organisations which may be subject to regulation. I would ask that colleagues and campaigners particularly consider their views on how to ensure that the Government's aim of increasing the transparency of third party campaigning can be aligned with the normal activities of charities and similar groups.

I am offering a meeting with me and other ministerial colleagues responsible for the Bill to discuss any concerns you may have. I am happy for you to be accompanied by representatives of any organisation with whom you have an involvement. As we want to hear from a range of views, it may be necessary to set up joint discussions to make effective use of your time.

Please contact the Bill Team at the following email address: TransparencyBillCorrespondence@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone on: 0207 271 2919 to make the necessary arrangements.

LORD WALLACE OF SALTIRE