

Other 1

From: martin.brighton [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2013 18:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Publicity Code
Attachments: Response_form_-_Publicity_Code_Consultation.doc
Dear [REDACTED],

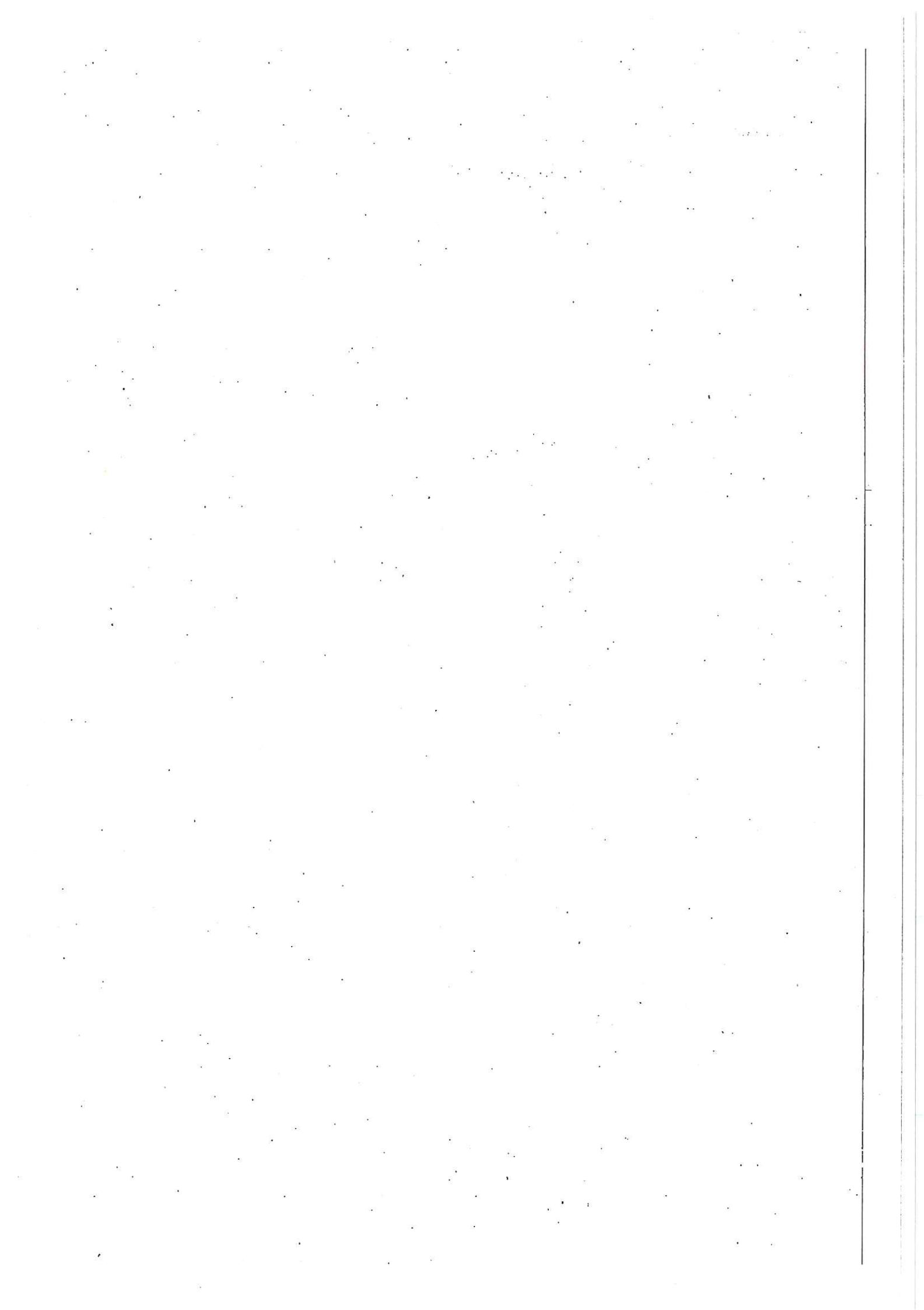
Consultation form returned.

Regards,

martin

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Response form

Publicity Code Consultation 2013

About you

i) Your details

Name:	martin brighton
Position (if applicable)	
Name of Organisation (if applicable)	
Address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
e mail:	[REDACTED]il.com
Telephone Number:	[REDACTED]

ii) Are the views expressed on this consultation an official's response from the organisation you represent or your own personal views?

Organisational response

☐

Personal views

☒

iii) Please tick the box which best describes you or your organisation:

District council	
Metropolitan district council	
London borough council	
Unitary authority/county council/county borough council	
Parish council	
Membership organisation	
Newspaper proprietor	
Newspaper staff	
Business	
Councillor	
Member of the public	
Other	X

(please comment):	community volunteer
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Questions:

1. Views on the proposed legislation are invited, and in particular do consultees see the proposals as fully delivering the commitment to give greater force to the Publicity Code by putting compliance on a statutory basis?

Sheffield City Council has policies:

- it does everything it wants, regardless of legality
- it has a default policy of doing nothing it does not want to do unless forced

Therefore, compulsion is the only language understood.

Whatever a person's political convictions they should not be fleeced to pay for political propaganda of any sort.

Sheffield City Council has a policy of controlling the flow of information, so stifling free public debate (notwithstanding influence over the local private newspaper by virtue of it being the newspaper's biggest customer).

If a political party has a point to make, then they must use their own funds, not the taxpayers'.

To use taxpayers' money for political purposes is an abuse of democracy.

2. If there is alternative to the power of direction, how will this meet the aim of improved enforcement of the code?

Rather than an alternative, there could be an additional sanction.

Should an authority abuse its democratic mandate by issuing political propaganda at the expense of the taxpayer, then the senior political figures should have their democratic mandate withdrawn, i.e. barred from being a councillor.

In Sheffield, not being eligible for lucrative councillor's allowances would be an incentive not to play dirty.

Another factor in Sheffield is that there is a weak Executive, especially the legal department, (If the politicians want something doing, then the law is broken and then legal is expected to cover up afterwards, if they get caught) so enforcement through sanction by external means is the only way.

3. This consultation invites evidence of the circumstances where the code was not met and the implications of this on competition in local media

Sheffield City Council is corrupt. The corruption is absolute, lead from the top down, imposed through all tiers of social and local government control, down to street level. Being rotten to the core and from the core, everything it touches it taints. Having neither the ability nor inclination to correct itself, outside intervention is indicated.

The worst years of this occurred between 1997 and 2005, although it continues to this day.