

## On the right to speak

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John Kay [has an excellent column in the FT](#) this morning. It is headed:

*Do not let petty lobbying laws starve the body politic*

*The quality of debate matters more than the misuse of small amounts of charitable funding*

And concludes:

*The quality of political debate is more important than the misuse of small amounts of state or charitable funding; and the expression of unconsidered opinions, or views that people have been paid to hold, are much greater threats to democracy and free speech. A mature democracy should fund, and will thrive on, a diversity of thoughtful and sincerely argued views.*

I have little to add. I agree.