

**Committee on Standards in Public Life
Register of Members' Interests
Guidance on categories for inclusion**

The purpose of the Register

1. All Committee members - the Chair, independent and political members - should register in the Committee's Register of Interests any private interest which might influence their judgement or which could reasonably be thought by others to do so.
2. There are eight categories of registrable interests which are described below. In addition to these specific rules, a more general obligation lies with members to bear in mind the overall purpose of the Register when declaring their interests and to seek advice where required.

Duties of members in respect of registration

3. Committee members should register:
 - a. relevant personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests;
 - b. relevant direct and indirect pecuniary interests of close family members of which Committee members could reasonably be expected to be aware; and
 - c. relevant personal non-pecuniary interests, including those which arise from membership of clubs and other organisations.
4. In this paragraph "relevant" interest, whether pecuniary or non-pecuniary and whether direct or indirect, means any such interest which might influence the judgement of a Committee member or which could reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her judgement in the exercise of his or her public duties; "indirect pecuniary interest" means an interest which arises from connection with bodies which have a direct pecuniary interest or from being a business partner of, or employed by, a person with such an interest.

Publication and public inspection

5. The Code of Practice states that "The Register of Interests should be kept up to date and published on the Committee pages of the gov.uk website within one month of any updates". The Register is informed by a standing agenda item at the monthly Committee meetings.

The Categories of Registrable Interest

Applicable timeframe

6. New members are required to register all their current financial interests and any registrable benefits received in the twelve months before their appointment. Members are advised to register interests and benefits received earlier than this if they consider that these continue to be relevant.
7. Interests remain in the Register for twelve months after they have expired, or longer if the member deems the interest to continue to be relevant.

Remunerated employment, office, profession, occasional work

8. This is the category for registering any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation which is remunerated or in which the member has any pecuniary interest. Fees received as a member of the Committee are excluded.

Remunerated directorships

9. In this section, members are required to register any remunerated directorships in public and private companies including directorships which are individually unremunerated, but where remuneration is paid through another company in the same group.
10. In this Category, and in others, "remuneration" includes not only salaries and fees, but also the receipt of any taxable expenses, allowances, or benefits, such as the provision of a company car.

Land and property

11. The requirement in this section is to register any land or property owned or held by the member, either personally, or with or on behalf of the member's spouse or partner or dependent children:
 - a. has a value of more than £100,000; or forms part of a total property portfolio¹ whose value exceeds £100,000; and/or
 - b. alone or together with other properties owned by the member, provides rental income of more than £10,000 in a calendar year.
12. The nature of the property should be indicated.²

Registrable shareholdings

13. In this section, members are required to register interests in shareholdings held by the member, either personally, or with or on behalf of the member's spouse or partner or dependent children, in any public or private company or other body which are:
 - a. greater than 15 percent of the issued share capital of the company or body; or
 - b. 15 percent or less of the issued share capital, but greater in value than £70k.³
14. The nature of the company's business in each case should be registered. If a member has a holding in a company which is below the due value, but which might be directly or indirectly involved in a matter under scrutiny by the Committee then such a holding should be declared at that time.
15. Holdings in blind trusts are exempt from registration.

¹ Excluding property used wholly for the member's own personal residential purposes, or those of their spouse, partner or dependent children.

² Property in this context refers to land and buildings.

³ This is in line with the House of Commons threshold for registration of shareholdings: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmcode/1083/1083.pdf>

Clients for whom services are provided relevant to the Committee's interests

16. In this section Members are required to disclose the names of clients, other than companies or organisations already identified elsewhere, but including clients of those companies or organisations for whom they provide services.
17. Where a Member feels unable to register a client due to a duty of confidentiality, then the Member should not participate in any Committee proceedings where there may be a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Miscellaneous financial interests

18. This is a discretionary section for use by members wishing to register remunerated interests that do not clearly fall within any of the specific categories above but which they consider to be relevant to the Register's purpose. Members should be mindful that the significance of a particular interest may change depending on the Committee's concerns at any one time.

Miscellaneous non-financial interests

19. Members should use this category to register unpaid interests, which they consider to be relevant to the Register's purpose.

Political activity during the previous ten years

20. The members should list any political activity which they consider relevant over the previous ten years, unless they believe disclosure of earlier relevant activity is advisable on propriety grounds.

CSPL Secretariat
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