

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Register of Members' Interests

All Council members must complete a declaration of members' interests and take personal responsibility for ensuring that it is kept up to date. The Register of Members' Interests is published online.

Council members must not accept gifts, hospitality, or benefits which might be seen to compromise their role or influence the decisions that they take. Gifts, hospitality or benefits offered as a consequence of HPC business must be registered with the Secretary to the Council within a reasonable period of time, usually within 1 month.

For the avoidance of doubt, interests which should be regarded as relevant and material include:

- directorships, including non-executive directorships held in private companies or PLCs (with the exception of dormant companies);
- ownership, part-ownership or directorship of private companies, business or consultancies;
- majority, controlling or otherwise significant shareholdings in any business;
- a position of authority in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care;
- any connection with a professional body, voluntary or other organisation in the field of health and social care;
- to the extent not covered above, any connections with an entity considering entering into or having entered into a financial or other commercial arrangement with HPC.

Conflicts of Interest

It is central to the proper conduct of business that the Council should act and be perceived to act impartially and that its members should not be improperly influenced in their role by social, professional, business or other relationships.

If members are participating in Council business where they might have, or be seen to have, an interest in the outcome or any interest which could otherwise prejudice their decision, that interest should be declared.

If a member has a serious (prejudicial) conflict of interest in an agenda item, they should advise the meeting of that conflict, so that it can be recorded in the minutes and remove themselves from discussion or even in certain circumstances from the room

Disclosure at meetings

The agenda for every meeting of the Council will include as an item of business the disclosure of members' interests. At the time that item is reached, a member must disclose the existence and nature of any personal or prejudicial interest he or she may have in any business before that meeting.

If the existence of such an interest is not apparent to a member at that time but becomes apparent during the course of the meeting, he or she must disclose it as soon as it becomes apparent.

Personal Interests

A member is to be regarded as having a personal interest in any matter if it relates to any interest disclosed by the member in the Register of Members' Interests or if a decision upon the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting to a greater extent than others, the well-being or financial position of that member, their partner or a relative, any person with whom the member has a business relationship, or:

- any employment or business carried on by such persons;
- any person who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
or
- any corporate body in which such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £5000.

Prejudicial Interest

A member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard the interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgement of the public interest.

A member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must:

- withdraw from the meeting while the matter is being considered at that meeting and play no part in any decision or vote on the matter;
- not exercise any function of the Council in relation to that matter; and
- not seek to influence any decision about the matter.