

Economy and Fair Work Committee

22nd Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday 13 September 2023

Declaration of interests

Introduction

1. New committee members will be invited to make an initial declaration of any interests which are relevant to the remit of the Committee.
2. As a general reminder, if a member has an interest which is relevant to an item being discussed at a Committee meeting, the member must also declare that interest before participating in the meeting.

Declarable interests

3. If a member has a registrable interest in any category of the register (apart from the voluntary category), this is also potentially a declarable interest. Declaring relevant interests before participating in Parliamentary proceedings is a statutory requirement under the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006 and failure to do so is a breach of the Code of Conduct and is also a criminal offence.
4. [Section 3 of the Code of Conduct for MSPs](#) explains in detail the rules on declaration of interests. Further [guidance on the Code of Conduct for MSPs](#) is also available.
5. It is the responsibility of each member to be aware of the rules on the declaration of interests and to judge whether a registered interest is relevant to the proceedings and requires a declaration. The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointment Committee (SPPA) Clerks can provide further advice on the rules on declarations of interests.

Declaring interests

6. The declaration can be brief but should be informative enough to enable a listener to understand the nature of the Member's interest. **It is not enough to simply to refer to the register entry but nor is it necessary to repeat all the details of an interest as it appears in the Register. It should also be noted**

that a ceased interest remains on the register for 12 months and remains declarable for that period.

7. If any Member has a question about what might constitute a declarable interest, they should contact the Standards clerks for advice.
8. Members are also required to declare any registrable interests relevant to the business under discussion at each meeting relevant business is being discussed. This type of declaration should be made before participating in proceedings. This will allow people attending or reading the report of any Committee meeting to understand the nature of the member's interest.
9. Although not a registrable interest, the Code also advises Members, as good practice, to declare any business or personal relationships they might have with any witnesses to the Committee.

**Clerk to the Committee
8 September 2023**