

Definitions of Interests

Interests can arise in a number of different contexts. A material interest is one which a reasonable person would take into account when making a decision regarding the use of taxpayers' money because the interest has relevance to that decision. Interests fall into the following categories:

Financial interests

Where an individual may get direct financial benefit* from the consequences of a decision they are involved in making

Description

Where an individual may get direct financial benefits* from the consequences of a decision their organisation makes. This could include:

- A director (including a non-executive director) or senior employee in another organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding
- A shareholder, partner or owner of an organisation which is doing, or is likely to do business with an organisation in receipt of NHS funding
- Someone in outside employment
- Someone in receipt of secondary income.
- Someone in receipt of a grant.
- Someone in receipt of other payments (e.g. honoraria, day allowances, travel or subsistence).
- Someone in receipt of sponsored research.

Non-financial personal interests

Where an individual may benefit* personally in ways which are not directly linked to their professional career and do not give rise to a direct financial benefit, because of decisions they are involved in making in their professional career

Where an individual may obtain a non-financial professional benefit* from the consequences of a decision their organisation makes, such as increasing their professional reputation or status or promoting their professional career. This could include situations where the individual is:

- An advocate for a particular group of patients.
- A clinician with a special interest.
- An active member of a particular specialist body.
- An advisor for the Care Quality Commission or National Institute of Health and Care Excellence.

Non-financial professional interests

Where an individual may obtain a non-financial professional benefit* from the consequences of a decision they are involved in making, such as increasing their professional reputation or promoting their professional career

This is where an individual may benefit* personally from a decision their organisation makes in ways which are not directly linked to their professional career and do not give rise to a direct financial benefit. This could include, for example, where the individual is:

- A member of a voluntary sector board or has a position of authority within a voluntary sector organisation.
- A member of a lobbying or pressure group with an interest in health and care.

Indirect interests

Where an individual has a close association** with another individual who has a financial interest, a non-financial professional interest or a non-financial personal interest who would stand to benefit* from a decision they are involved in making

This is where an individual has a close association with another individual who has a financial interest, a non-financial professional interest or a non-financial personal interest who would stand to benefit* from a decision they are involved in making. This would include**:

- Close family members and relatives.
- Close friends and associates.
- Business partners.

* A benefit may arise from the making of gain or avoiding a loss

** These associations may arise through relationships with close family members and relatives, close friends and associates, and business partners. A common sense approach should be applied to these terms. It would be unrealistic to expect staff to know of all the interests that people in these classes might hold. However, if staff do know of material interests (or could be reasonably expected to know about these) then these should be declared.