

STANDING ORDER 31 - Financial and Other Interests of Members

Registration of Financial and Other Interests

- 31.1 The Presiding Officer must maintain and publish a Register of Interests of Members and copies must be available for inspection by Members and by the public.
- 31.2 The interests set out in the Annex to Standing Order 31 must be registered in the Register of Interests by completion of a form prescribed by the Presiding Officer.
- 31.3 Within eight weeks of a Member taking the oath of allegiance or making the corresponding affirmation, he or she must complete the form prescribed by the Presiding Officer, setting out all the particulars of the interests required to be registered by Standing Order 31; and must sign the form and deliver it to the Table Office.
- 31.4 Within four weeks of any change occurring, a Member must notify the Presiding Officer of the change in his or her registered interests by completing the form prescribed by the Presiding Officer and must sign the form and deliver it to the Table Office.
- 31.5 A Member may deliver the form referred to in Standing Order 31.3 or 31.4 by taking it to the Table Office or arranging for another person to do so or by post but the form is not to be regarded as having been delivered until it is received by the Table Office.

Declaration of Interests Before Taking Part in Any Assembly Proceedings

- 31.6 In the circumstances specified in Standing Order 31, before taking part in any Assembly proceedings, a Member must make an oral declaration of any financial interest which he or she has, or may be expecting to have, or which, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member has, or may be expecting to have in any matter arising in those proceedings.
- 31.7 An oral declaration under Standing Order 31.6 must be made in relation to any interest which is specified in paragraphs 5 (i)-(x) of the Annex to Standing Order 31 if a particular decision in those proceedings might result in a direct financial advantage to the Member, or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, greater than that which might accrue to persons affected by the decision generally.

Lobbying for Reward or Consideration

- 31.8 A Member must not advocate or initiate any cause or matter on behalf on any body or individual in any Assembly proceedings, or urge any other Member to advocate or initiate any cause or matter in any

such proceedings, in return for any payment or benefit in kind, direct or indirect, which the Member, or to the Member's knowledge his or her partner or any dependent child of the Member, has received or expects to receive.

Prohibition of Voting

31.9 Where a Member is required under Standing Order 31.6 to declare an interest in a matter before taking part in any Assembly proceedings, that Member must not vote on any proposal relating to that matter in those proceedings. Standing Order 31.9 does not apply in relation to the exercise of a casting vote under Standing Order 2.19.

Exclusion of Members and Withdrawal of Rights and Privileges

31.10 After consideration of any report put before it by the Committee on Standards of Conduct relating to a Member's compliance with Standing Order 31, the Assembly may, on a motion proposed by the Chair of the Committee, resolve to exclude that Member from any Assembly proceedings for a period specified in the motion.

31.11 During the period of a Member's exclusion he or she is not entitled to receive any salary from the Assembly and is not permitted to attend any Assembly proceedings.

Agreements for the Provision of Services

31.12 Any Member who has, or who proposes to enter into, an agreement involving the provision of services in the Member's capacity as an Assembly Member must ensure that the agreement

- (i) is not in breach of Standing Order 31.8;
- (ii) is in writing;
- (iii) indicates the nature of the services to be provided; and
- (iv) specifies the payment or benefit to be received.

31.13 As soon as may be after entering into such an agreement, and in any event within four weeks of that date, the Member must provide the Presiding Officer with a copy of the agreement, and the copy must be open to inspection by other Members and by the public.