

Members of Parliament (Oil and Gas Companies) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Require the Leader of the House of Commons to move a Motion prohibiting Members of Parliament from receiving any financial or other benefit from oil and gas companies; to require the Leader of the House to publish proposals for divestment of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund from oil and gas companies; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Requirement to move a Motion in the House of Commons

(1) The Leader of the House of Commons must move a Motion in the House of Commons of the form in subsection (2) as soon as reasonably practicable after this Act comes into force.

(2) The form of the Motion is—

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“That—

(1) the Code of Conduct be amended as follows—

In Section D (Rules of Conduct), after Rule 11 insert the following new rule as Rule 11A:

“Members must not receive any financial or other benefit from oil or gas companies.”;

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(2) the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members be amended as follows—

After Chapter 4 (Outside Interests), insert a new Chapter 5 (Oil and Gas Companies) as follows:

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“(1) Members may not receive any financial or other benefit from oil or gas companies. This includes, but is not limited to:

(a) remuneration from employment,

(b) gifts, benefits and hospitality,

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(c) visits within or outside the UK,

(d) donations,

(e) benefits in kind, and

- (f) benefits received as a member of an All-Party Parliamentary Group.
- (2) For the purposes of this Code, an oil or gas company is any company which derives over 50% of its annual revenue from the extraction, acquisition, transportation, processing, supply or disposal of petroleum or natural gas, or a combination of the two.”; 5
- (3) the Committee on Standards may make any other amendments to the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members it deems necessary in consequence of the amendment to the Code of Conduct made by paragraph (1) of this Order; 10
- (4) the Procedural Protocol in respect of the Code of Conduct ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on 7 February 2023 be amended as follows—
- In paragraph 81, insert the following new sub-paragraph— 15
- “(f) as an additional penalty, where a Member has been found to have breached Rule 11A, a fine that is at least equivalent to the amount they received in breaching Rule 11A.”;
- (5) the Rules on All-Party Parliamentary Groups approved by the House of Commons on 19 July 2023 be amended as follows— 20
- After the section entitled “Declarations of interests”, insert the following new section—
- “Oil and gas companies*
 APPGs may not receive any financial or material benefit, including the provision of a secretariat, from an oil or gas company. 25
“Oil or gas company” has the meaning given by the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members.””
- 2 Requirement to publish proposals relating to Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund 30**
- Within six months of the passing of this Act, the Leader of the House of Commons must publish proposals for the divestment of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund from oil and gas companies.
- 3 Interpretation 35**
- In this Act, “Leader of the House of Commons” has the same meaning as in section 12 of the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act 2019.
- 4 Commencement and short title**
- (1) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.

- (2) This Act may be cited as the Members of Parliament (Oil and Gas Companies) Act 2023.

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Presented by Richard Burgon

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