

REGISTER OF MEMBERS' FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Introduction to the Registers for the 2017 Parliament

The Register of Members' Financial Interests was established following a Resolution of the House of 22 May 1974. As Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards I am responsible, under House of Commons Standing Order No. 150, for maintaining it.

The main purpose of the Register is to provide information about any financial interest which a Member has, or any benefit which he or she receives, which others might reasonably consider to influence his or her actions or words as a Member of Parliament.¹

The House has identified nine specific categories of interests which Members have to register. Most have a financial threshold. Members must also keep in mind the purpose of the Register, as explained above. They must record in the miscellaneous category any interests which meet that purpose but which do not clearly fall within any of the other categories.

My office updates the Register fortnightly online when the House is sitting, and less often at other times. Interests stay on the Register for twelve months after they have ended.

The Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members, as approved by the House on 17 March 2015,² sets out the interests which Members must register. These are:

Category number and name	Financial threshold for registration
1. Employment and earnings	Individual payments over £100 Over £300 for the total of multiple payments of whatever size from the same source in a calendar year
2. Donations and other support (including loans)	Over £1,500, either as individual payment, or for the total of multiple donations of more than £500 from the same source in the course of a calendar year
3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources	Over £300 for the total of benefits of whatever size from the same source in a calendar year
4. Visits outside the UK	Over £300 if not wholly borne by Member or public funds. Threshold also applies to the total of benefits of whatever size from the same source in a calendar year

¹ Select Committee on Members' Interests, First Report, Session 1991–92, "Registration and Declaration of Financial Interests", HC 236, paragraph 27.

² *The Code of Conduct together with The Guide to the Rules relating to the conduct of Members 2015*, HC 1076;

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmcode/1076/107601.htm>

5. Gifts and benefits from sources outside the UK	Over £300 for the total of benefits of whatever size from the same source in a calendar year
6. Land and property]	(i) Total value of property held: over £100,000 (ii) Total income derived from property: over £10,000 in a calendar year
7. Shareholdings	(i) More than 15% of issued share capital (on preceding 5 April), or (ii) If 15% or less of issued share capital (on preceding 5 April), greater in value than £70,000
8. Miscellaneous	No threshold but Members must believe that someone else might reasonably consider the interest to influence his or her actions or words as a Member
9. Family members employed [and remunerated through parliamentary expenses]	Over £700 in a calendar year. (Job titles and descriptions are set out on the webpages of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.)
10. Family members engaged in lobbying [the public sector]	No threshold

Members elected on 8 June 2017 had to register their interests within one month of their election. After that they must register any change to their registrable interests within 28 days.

If there is evidence that a Member has not registered their interests as the rules of the House require, I may investigate. That evidence would need to be sufficient to support an inquiry. If I find that a Member has breached the rules on registration, but the breach is minor or inadvertent, I may resolve it myself by means of the rectification procedure. In more serious cases I would submit a memorandum to the Committee on Standards. Entries are printed in bold italics, with an explanatory note, when they have been made or amended following an inquiry by the Commissioner.

Questions about the Register should be addressed to the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

Kathryn Hudson
Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

7 July 2017