

Annex 7: Register of Members' Interests Rules²²¹

Purpose

1. The purpose of these Rules is to place a duty on Members of Tynwald to identify interests which should be registered in order to inform Tynwald Court, the Branches and the public of any circumstances arising from them which could reasonably be regarded as bearing upon the way in which any Member may carry out his/her duties.

Duty to register interests

2. (a) A Member having a registrable relevant interest must register it, unless there is good reason to the contrary, either within one month of the date on which it becomes registrable, or before any material debate in Tynwald or the branch to which the Member belongs if that is sooner.
(b) A relevant interest becomes registrable when it is acquired, or comes into existence.
(c) A material debate is a debate in Tynwald Court, or in the Branch to which the Member belongs, in which a relevant interest of the Member in question could reasonably be regarded as having a bearing.

Relevant interest

3. A relevant interest is any past interest (existing at any time from 12 months before the Member's election) or present interest which may affect, or reasonably be perceived as affecting, a Member's judgement on the way in which he/she may carry out his/her duties, and includes in particular:²²²
 - (i) a legal or equitable interest in any of the following –
 - (a) land or buildings, except the Member's principal private residence;

²²¹ Annex 7 inserted 21st January 2021

²²² The definition of "relevant interest" in section 3 of the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020, which applies to candidates for election the Keys and local authorities, was based at the time of enactment on the definition in the Rules applicable to Tynwald Members at the time. The Act provides a power for the Council of Ministers to amend the definition in the Act, subject to Tynwald approval.

- (b) shares or stock held in any company whose shares or stock are publicly quoted on a stock exchange in the United Kingdom or Ireland;
 - (c) shares or stock held in any company other than one within (b) above; where any asset to which such a company may be entitled is or represents a right, interest or circumstance which is itself a relevant interest, details of that asset and of its value shall be declared;
 - (d) a legal right, including a deposit or loan of money or money's worth, of more than £50,000 in value save where the reason for which the right in question has come into existence is of an immediate family or personal nature (including inheritance), it has not been created with a view to profit and any interest earned is at normal commercial rates.
- (ii) a directorship, consultancy, proprietorial or managerial role whether paid or not in, or in relation to, any business or professional undertaking (other than one wholly supported by public funds);
 - (iii) sponsorship in money or money's worth from a trade union, professional society, political grouping or party, registered charity, person or persons other than the Member's immediate family, or from a cultural or religious source, or a consultancy with any of the foregoing whether paid or not;
 - (iv) gifts and benefits in kind of any amount which might be taken to affect the way in which a Member may vote or otherwise carry out their public duties with the name and address of the donor, and the capacity in which the gift or benefit has been given, but excluding:
 - (a) all inheritances;
 - (b) gifts or benefits received from the Member's immediate family; and
 - (c) attendance at functions in the course of governmental or official parliamentary sponsored duties;
 - (v) the authorship of a book, pamphlet or the like, or of an article or column in a newspaper or journal or on the Internet, which does not appear under the Member's name;

(vi) membership of any trade union, professional society, political grouping or party, or of the Freemasons or any body outside Tynwald.

(2) [...] ²²³

Operation of the Register

4. (a) A relevant interest shall be registered by the Member submitting to the Registrar a notification in writing. On receiving a notification, the Registrar shall cause it to be entered in the Register as soon as reasonably practicable.

(b) A Member who has registered a relevant interest shall, if it ceases to be a relevant interest, so notify the Registrar by giving a notification in writing. On receiving such a notification, the Registrar of Members' Interests shall cause the Register to be updated as soon as reasonably practicable.

²²³ 6(2) inserted 16th November 2005, deleted 20th June 2017