

# **REGISTER OF LEGAL AID COMMITTEE MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

## **POLICY –AUGUST 2023**

### **REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS POLICY**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to place a duty on Members of the Legal Aid Committee to identify interests which should be registered in order to inform the Legal Aid Committee 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.

#### **Definitions**

1. In this policy the following definitions apply –

“Material item” means a discussion or document to be discussed in a meeting of the Legal Aid Committee (or any sub-Committee or working group thereof) in which a relevant interest of the Member in question could reasonably be regarded as bearing upon the main issue or a main issue;

“Member” means a Member of the Legal Aid Committee;

“Private sources” means any source which is not paid for from public funds;

“Register” means the Register of Members' Interests established pursuant to this policy;

“Relevant interest” has the meaning given to it in Paragraph 6 of this policy; and

“Secretary to the Legal Aid Committee” includes, in their absence, the Head of Legal Aid Administration or the Director of Social Security.

#### **The Register**

2. The Secretary to the Legal Aid Committee shall establish the Register in electronic form.

3. A printed copy of the Register shall be made available to any Member upon request

4. The Register shall contain one section for each Member.

#### **Interests to be registered**

5. The relevant interests of Members shall be entered in the Register as provided in Paragraphs 7 to 11 of this policy.

**LAC Register of Interests Policy**

**Issue Date: August 2023**

**Review Date: August 2024**

6. A relevant interest for the purpose of this policy is any past interest (existing at any time from 12 months before the Member's initial appointment) or present interest which may affect, or reasonably be perceived as affecting, a Member's judgment on the way in which he/she may carry out his/her duties.

#### **When and how a relevant interest must be registered**

7. (a) A relevant interest becomes registrable when it is acquired, or comes into existence.  
  
(b) 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 the Legal Aid Committee, or any sub-Committee or working group thereof if that is sooner.
8. A relevant interest shall be registered by the Member giving to the Secretary a notification in Form A annexed to this policy
9. The Secretary to the Legal Aid Committee shall initial and date such a notification and shall cause it to be entered in the Register as soon as possible.
10. A Member who has registered a relevant interest shall, if it ceases to be a relevant interest, so notify the Registrar by giving him a notification in Form B annexed to this policy.
11. The Member submitting Form A or Form B shall sign and date it and the Secretary to the Legal Aid Committee shall initial and date such a notification and shall cause it to be entered in the Register as soon as possible.

#### **Commencement**

14. This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Legal Aid Committee on 09<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and shall come into effect on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.



.....

**Ruth Costain**  
**Chairman, Legal Aid Committee**

**09th August 2023**



## Form B

Name of Member

**Registrable Interest**

**Date Registered**

**Date Ceased to be Relevant**

Signature of Member

Date Submitted

Initials of Secretary to the Legal Aid Committee

Date Received