

DIRECTORS' REPORT AUTUMN TERM 2015	ITEM NO 11	FOR ACTION	ATTENTION OF: All governors
TITLE	Register of Interests		
SUMMARY	As of 1 September 2015, maintained school governing bodies will be required to publish the register of interests form on their websites.		
KEY ACTION POINTS	Please action as appropriate		
AUTHOR / TITLE	<i>Therese McNulty, Workforce And Governance Development Adviser</i>		
TELEPHONE NO.	020 8825 5444	EMAIL ADDRESS	governors@ealing.gov.uk

Register of Interests

As of 1 September 2015, maintained school governing bodies will be required to publish the register of interests form on their websites (statutory guidance, [The constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools](#), (March 2015).

Governors and trustees have a legal duty to act in the best interests of their schools. Where there are personal or financial interests which, may conflict with this duty, they must identify, prevent and record the conflict. Generally, governors and trustees must not be involved in discussions or vote on matters to which their conflict relates

The National Governors Association (NGA) say the term is used to include both conflicts of interest (usually financial) and conflicts of loyalty. Either could (or appear to) affect decision making.

All school staff and governors are currently required to declare financial interests and for this to be reviewed and updated annually. The new duty extends this requirement to include other interests or conflicts.

The National Governors Association (NGA) has published two useful templates to support schools with this new statutory requirement. These can be found in appendix one or on Ealing Grid for Learning <https://www.egfl.org.uk/school-effectiveness/school-governance/clerks-governing-body>. These can be used or adapted as required.

- Declaration of interests form - this can completed by individual governors and reviewed annually, although, if their circumstances change, they should inform the clerk
- Register of interests form - the clerk can use the information in the above form to compile an overview as a central record for the purposes of financial reporting. This can be published on the school's website

In most cases it is sufficient if a financial interest, for the governor to declare the interest and not take part in the discussions or decisions. If a conflict of loyalty the other governors can decide if the governor should/should not take part in the discussion/decision. However, it should be declared so that the governing body can take this decision. If a conflict of interest, financial or otherwise arises at a meeting this should be recorded with any decisions/action in the minutes. If in doubt try the 'tabloid' test. What would the public think about handling of this if it was reported in the press tomorrow?

Please note this is already a requirement for academies. Also be mindful of data protection when selecting the information that is published.