

Conflicts of Interests Policy

Full Fact's work covers many areas of controversy in which different people and organisations have interests in different outcomes. We can only work effectively if people on all sides of different debates have confidence that our work is neutral — not just between political parties but between political viewpoints, priorities, goals and methods.

This calls for commitments from:

- Full Fact as an organisation
- Full Fact's team, including staff and leadership
- Full Fact's partners and commercial clients, who want to work with us because of what we stand for

This document lays out what those commitments are. Broadly, we seek to ensure that Full Fact is transparent, independent, and free from the perception of outside interference. It is a requirement of any partnership involving funding or co-production of content that the partner organisation agrees to abide by these principles.

Full Fact is constituted to work for the public benefit, in accordance with the Charities Act. We have therefore incorporated the seven principles of public life into this Code.

Full Fact will:

- Defend our absolute editorial independence
- Put in place rigorous independent standards procedures, including complaints procedures, to ensure our work is balanced and high-quality
- Try to ensure our funding comes from a diverse range of sources and that we are not dependent on any one funder
- Be careful in choosing partners to try to ensure our values fit as much as possible
- Be open about who we work with and who funds us
- Be ready to refuse any donation which might call into question our commitment to the principles set out here, at our Trustees' sole discretion

Full Fact's team will:

- Make corrections when necessary, and clarifications when useful
- Be open about our other interests, to an extent appropriate to our roles
- Our editorial staff will not be candidates for or campaign for any political party
- Make sure those doing commercial research or factchecking are unaware of the client's identity wherever practicable

Full Fact's partners and commercial clients will:

- Not seek to interfere with Full Fact's complete editorial independence
- Accept that being a partner of Full Fact, or a trustee, or a client, or in any other way involved, does not make you exempt from factchecking
- Agree to represent the results of Full Fact's work fairly

Full Fact's Articles of Association state:

"A Director must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which s/he has in a proposed transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity which has not previously been declared. A Director must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the Directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest)."

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

SELFLESSNESS

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

These principles apply to all aspects of public life. The Committee has set them out here for the benefit of all who serve the public in any way.