

Protocol - Restrictions Applying to Independent Members of the Standards Committee

1. This Protocol applies to you as an independent member of the Standards Committee.
2. You are expected to demonstrate a high degree of personal integrity and to have an appreciation of the ethical standards required of people holding public office. You should not engage in any behaviour which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as compromising your position.
3. Whilst membership of a political party (including a branch of such a party) is not prohibited (but see paragraph 4 below), you may not:
 - (a) be an officer of the party or participate in the general management thereof;
 - (b) be a member of any committee or sub-committee of the party;
 - (c) stand for election to public office, either on behalf of a political party or as an independent;
 - (d) nominate, second or assent to the nomination of any candidate for election to public office;
 - (e) canvass on behalf of a political party or on behalf of a person who is, or who proposes to be, a candidate for election to public office; or
 - (f) be a member or an officer of the Council or of any other relevant authority (see paragraph 6 below).

For the avoidance of doubt, you will need to cease such activities or involvement when appointed to the Standards Committee.

4. In accordance with its Comprehensive Equality Policy, the Council has a duty as a public authority under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination;
 - promote equality of opportunity; and
 - promote good relations between persons of different groups,

and this precludes you from being a member of any political party whose constitution, aims, objectives or pronouncements are inconsistent with this duty.

5. Membership on the Council's Standards Committee does not preclude you from being an independent member of another relevant authority's standards committee.
6. A 'relevant authority' is defined in section 49(6) of the Local Government Act 2000. It includes all local authorities and other public bodies e.g. fire authorities and police authorities.

7. Breach of this Protocol could result in a complaint to the Standards Committee or to the Standards for England, where any allegation, if proven, warrants the Adjudication Panel for England's penalties.

IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE from:

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