

Appendix 1 to Circular LG 2 / 2015

Main features of Part 15 of Local Government Act 2001

- Members and relevant employees must furnish an annual declaration of interests.
- A public register of such interests is maintained by each local authority.
- Codes of conduct, one for members and another for staff, were issued by the Minister in 2004. A revised code of conduct for staff was issued in 2007.
- A member must disclose any pecuniary or other beneficial interest which he or she or a “connected person” has in any matter which comes before a meeting and a relevant employee must do likewise in the case of any matter with which he or she is concerned in the course of work.
- A member or relevant employee is prohibited from seeking to influence any matter with which the local authority is concerned in which they or a connected person has a beneficial interest.
- An official (‘ethics registrar’) to be assigned by the Chief Executive has responsibility for issue of Annual Declaration Forms and related matters.
- It is the duty of members and employees to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.
- A prohibition on seeking, exacting or accepting any fee or reward for anything done or not done by virtue of position or office.
- Failure to comply with the annual declaration or disclosure requirements is an offence under the Act.
- A Chief Executive (or Cathaoirleach in case of Chief Executive) informed of possible contravention of Part 15 is required to consider what action should be taken.