

Councillor declaration of interest register

The guiding principle for Councillor declarations in the interest register is set out in the Otago Regional Council's Code of Conduct⁹, which states:

"Ethical behaviour – Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour".

In addition, the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 is concerned with members' financial and non-financial interests. The Office of the Auditor General notes a conflict of interest can arise when "a member's or official's duties or responsibilities to a public entity could be affected by some other interest of duty that the member or official may have".¹⁰

Keeping Councillors' declaration of interest register, both financial and non-financial, allows the member and Council to identify and manage a conflict of interest when it arises. The register should also include any such interest(s) held by a Councillor's partner or spouse.

The register must be reviewed annually.¹¹ If a Councillor is in doubt as to whether or not a particular course of action, including a decision to take no action, raises a conflict of interest, then the member should seek guidance from the Chief Executive immediately.

Where a Councillor's circumstances change, the Councillor must ensure the Register of Interests is updated as soon as possible.

The information in the completed declarations will be publicly available on the Council's website.

Type of Interest	Details
Employment, trade or profession carried on by the Councillor or the Councillor's spouse or partner for profit or gain	Husband works for Ernstlaw2 forestry Own 3 rental properties in Dun Part own a forestry block at Evansdale.
Any company, trust, partnership etc for which the member or their spouse/partner is a director, business partner or trustee.	Evansdale Triangle Partnership (forest)
Address of any land in which the member has a beneficial interest the Otago region.	15 Wales St. Maori Hill 38 A & B Evans St. Dunedin 14 Kinsman St. Dunedin Evansdale Triangle, Waitati-Waikouaiti Highway, SH1

⁹ Adopted by the Otago Regional Council on 22 February 2017

¹⁰ Office of the Auditor General Good Practice Guide – Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for Public Entities

¹¹ Refer to clause 9, Otago Regional Council Code of Conduct

<p>Address of any land owned by the local authority in which the member or their spouse/partner is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tenant; or • The land is tenanted by a firm in which the member or spouse/partner is a business partner; a company of which the member or spouse/partner is a director; or a trust of which the member or spouse/partner is a trustee. 	x
<p>Details of any ORC consents, permits or rights held by the Councillor, spouse / partner, family or trust/company.</p>	x
<p>Any other matters which the public might reasonably regard as likely to influence the Councillor's actions during the course of their duties as a member. This can include:</p> <p>Interest in organisations and/or trusts that obtain or are seeking funding or other assistance from the ORC.</p> <p>Details of any ORC resource consents, permits or rights held by the Councillor, partner, family or trust/company.</p>	<p><i>Board Member of Dunedin Gymnastics Academy (3 Gyms at Otaku St, Vogel St. & (aledonian)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">x</p> <p style="text-align: center;">x</p>

The information contained in this statement is to the best of my knowledge complete and accurate as at the below date. I confirm I have included in this statement details of any interests held by me or my spouse/partner through trusts or companies.

Signed *Gretchen Robertson* Date *23/10/19*

Printed name *Gretchen Robertson*

Note: Gifts register

When a gift valued at \$50 or more is accepted by a Councillor in their capacity as a Councillor, the Councillor must immediately disclose this to the Chief Executive in writing for inclusion in the publicly available gifts register.¹²

¹² Refer to Clause 10, Otago Regional Council Code of Conduct