

Conflict of Interest

The policy below comes from the Diocese of Perth and seeks to provide a clear mechanism for dealing with a conflict of interest. There may be some merit in having a clearer policy in this Diocese.

Recommendation:

That the conflict of interest policy be adopted by the Diocesan Council.

Conflict of Interest Policy

From time to time a member ('Councillor') of Diocesan Council, a Church Council or Nomination Board ('a Council') may have some potentially competing interest in a matter being considered by the relevant Council. This could arise in a variety of ways.

The significance of the competing interest will vary considerably depending on the nature of the matter, the interest of the person and the degree of involvement of the person in the other interest.

Primarily, each Councillor should determine whether the competing interest is sufficiently significant to require special action on their part as in (b) below.

The following is intended to assist anybody with any competing interest to deal with the situation and to ensure that a Council is aware of that interest when reaching a decision.

- a. On every occasion a matter is considered by a Council any competing interest should be declared by those present prior to discussion of the matter.
- b. When declaring an interest a Councillor should briefly identify its nature and indicate whether they propose to participate normally, abstain either from debate or voting or both, or leave the meeting when a vote is taken or while the matter is considered.
- c. At any time while the matter is being considered, any other Councillor may raise for consideration the course of action proposed under (b). By resolution of the meeting the Councillor may be invited to take another course of action.
- d. Any Councillor may raise for consideration the question of whether a Councillor has an undeclared interest in a matter being considered and, by resolution of the meeting, the Councillor may be invited to take a course of action under (b).
- e. A Councillor who does not feel free to indicate the nature of a competing interest should leave the meeting while the matter is considered.