



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

Welsh Language Commissioner

Register of Interests

1 Section 134, Chapter 1 of Part 8 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

- 1.1 Section 134 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 requires the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner (defined in Part 8 of the Measure as “relevant Office holders” to create and maintain a register of interest. A register of interests must include all of a relevant office holder’s registrable interest.
- 1.2 Sections 135 i 137 of the Measure make related provision about the publication of registers of interests; conflict of interest; and the validity of acts of a relevant office holder.
- 1.3 Interest means an interest of any kind (including, but not limited to, financial interests, and all activities and occupations). Welsh Ministers, via regulations, have specified what interests are registrable interests. Such regulations are consistent with the desire for the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner to operate in a transparent, accountable and impartial manner, observing the highest standards of probity in the management of their affairs.
- 1.4 Registrable interests may, among other things, include interests of persons with whom relevant office holders have a connection (whether familial, financial or of any other kind. The intention is to ensure that the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner make public circumstances in which they, or a partner or child of the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner, have interests in relation to which the relevant office holder should not exercise a function.
- 1.5 The Commissioner has regulatory powers to impose duties on persons or categories of person in terms of compliance with Welsh language standards. The Commissioner will also be able to investigate allegations of non-compliance with standards and will have a range of powers available to take enforcement action in light of a failure to comply; these enforcement options include the possibility of imposing action plans or civil penalties. Given these powers, it is considered important that any individual tasked with the role of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner is not perceived to be biased in any way and does not allow private interests to influence the way he or she performs in their professional capacity.
- 1.6 The Commissioner cannot exercise a function if a registrable interest which relates to the exercise of the function. In such circumstances, the function must be delegated to the Deputy Commissioner or another member of the Commissioner’s staff.
- 1.7 The bilingual register is in an electronic format on the Welsh Language Commissioner’s website. A hard copy of the register can be seen at the Commissioner’s office in Cardiff.

2 The Register of Interest

- 2.1 The Register of Interests is to be completed by the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner. These are 'relevant persons' for the purposes of this Register.
- 2.2 In order to ensure proper corporate governance, and the accountability and transparency of the Welsh Language Commissioner, relevant persons are required to declare any private interests that might affect the carrying out of their duties as part of the Commissioner's team. They are also required to take steps to resolve any conflicts that arise in a way that protects the public interest. To fulfil this requirement, any relevant interests must be declared on the Register of Interests.
- 2.3 The defining purpose of the Register is to provide information to the public about the relevant interests of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. These are personal or business interests that might influence their judgement, deliberation or action as members of the Commissioner's team, or which might be perceived by a reasonable member of the public as doing so.
- 2.4 Relevant persons must consider whether they need to disclose personal involvement with persons or organisations which members of the public might reasonably think could influence their judgement.
- 2.5 Any interest should be declared prior to discussion of any relevant agenda item at a Management Team or Audit Committee meeting, or at any other meeting attended. The declaration should take place irrespective of whether the interest has already been recorded in the Register. Once the interest is declared at a meeting, the Team or Committee may resolve to:
 - permit the full participation of the individual when discussing the item;
 - permit the individual to participate in discussions but with no right to vote;
 - ask the individual to leave the meeting for the agenda item.
- 2.6 Where there is uncertainty about whether a particular interest should be declared, advice should be sought from Chair of the Audit Committee. Where there is a complaint about a failure to disclose a relevant interest, the complaint will be referred to the Welsh Language Commissioner. A complaint about the Welsh Language Commissioner's failure to disclose an interest will be referred to the First Minister.
- 2.7 The Register of Interests is a matter of public record. It will be published on the Welsh Language Commissioner's website. Copies will also be available on request from the Welsh Language Commissioner. The Register will form part of the Welsh Language Commissioner's publication scheme in accordance with section 19 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- 2.8 The Register will be updated on a regular basis. It will be updated within 4 weeks of any interest being noted or the person being aware of the interest. The Director of Corporate Services will be responsible for ensuring that the register is updated on an annual basis.

3 Disclosure of Interests (for inclusion in a Register of Interests)

The Welsh Language Commissioner and the Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner are expected to use this form to provide details of all relevant interests.

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| Name: Aled Rhys Roberts | Job Title: Welsh Language Commissioner |
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1. Please give details of any office or employment held by one of your family member with a relevant person (see the guidance note in section 4).

You should note which member of family e.g. partner, job title and the organisation's name

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| Wife works at Coleg Cambria across the north east as Head of Corporate Communications and Welsh Language Brother in-law lecturer and Dean at University of Wales Aberystwyth |
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2. Please give details of any interest held by you or a family member in relevant property i.e. land or intellectual property held, acquired by money provided by Welsh Ministers.

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| None |
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3. Please give the names of any companies or other bodies in which you have, either alone or with or on behalf of a family member, a beneficial interest in shares.

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| Previously a director with Datrys Cyf (Public affairs organisation abolished in 2018) I have shares in Standard Life Aberdeen |
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4. Please detail any remunerated directorships held by you in any company including directorships which are individually unremunerated but where the remuneration is paid through another company in the same group.

Director and Chair/Trustee the Stiwt Arts Trust Ltd, Rhosllannerchrugog, which receives a grant from Wrexham County Borough Council and the Arts Council of Wales
 Director and Trustee Flintshire Disability Forum
 Trustee Wrexham Warehouse Project (for homeless young people)

5. Please give details of any relevant employment - that is any remunerated employment, office held, professions etc that might affect the carrying out of your duties within the Welsh Language Commissioner.

| Name of organisation | Nature of organisation | Position within organisation |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wrexham County Borough Council | Local Authority | Councillor 1996-2011 |
| Wrexham County Borough Council | Local Authority | Leader of the Council 2005-2011 |

6. Please give details of any voluntary and / or public offices held.

Consultant on Welsh Education Plans for Welsh Government up until 15 February 2019
 Member of Social Care Wales' Board up until 28 March 2019
 Chair of Governors at Ysgol Gymraeg I D Hooson, Rhosllannerchrugog up until 28 March 2019
 Chair of Governors at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd, Wrexham up until 28 March 2019
 Secretary Ebeneser Chapel, Rhosllannerchrugog

7. Please give details of any sponsorship or financial or material support that you receive from any organisation falling within the Welsh Language Commissioner's sphere of statutory responsibility.

Youngest son receiving grants/student loans from Welsh Government / Student Loans Company

8. Please give details of any significant political activity that you are involved in, for example holding office in a political party or standing as a nominated candidate for a political party.

Member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats up until December 2018 and a former Assembly Member (2011-2016) and Advisor to the party.

9. Please give details of any other relevant interests, including significant interest of close family members, i.e. ones which might influence your judgement, deliberation or action within the Welsh Language Commissioner, or which might be perceived by a reasonable member of the public as doing so.

Wife is a member of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's Board and Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam Board.

10. You should note any close friend who has a relevant professional interest in the Commissioner's work and which could appear, to a reasonable person, to be able to influence your judgment. This means a close relationship rather than an acquaintance.

The question to consider is: Would a member of the public, knowing all the facts, think that the decision is, or could be influenced in an inappropriate way because of your interest, or the interest of your friend in the matter?

None

Name and date completed

Name:
Aled Roberts

Date:
15 March 2021

4 Guidance Note

4.1 “**Relevant office holders**” refers to the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner.

4.2 The Schedule – Registrable Interests: Part 1 – ‘Interpretation’ states:

- “**family member**” in relation to a relevant office holder means the relevant office holder’s partner and any child;
- “**relevant property**” means land or intellectual property in respect of which the Commissioner holds an interest acquired by money provided by the Welsh Ministers under paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 to the Measure;
- “**measure**” means the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011;
- “**partner**” means a spouse, civil partner or one of a couple whether of the same sex or the opposite sex who although not married to each other are living together and treat each other as spouses;
- “**relevant person**” means a person who is within (whether individually or as part of a group of persons) Schedule 6 or 8 to the Measure; and
- “**child**” means any person who, at the time the interest is registered is either
 - (a) a child of the relevant office holder;
 - (b) a step-child of the relevant office holder by marriage or civil partnership;
 - (c) a person legally adopted by the relevant office holder;
 - (d) a person placed for adoption with the relevant office holder;
 - (e) or a person under the age of sixteen, or under the age of nineteen and in full-time education, and who, for the previous six calendar months, has been financially supported by the relevant office holder.