
STATES OF JERSEY



GUIDANCE ON STANDING ORDER 106: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

**Presented to the States on 11th December 2025
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

REPORT

Standing Order 106, which relates to the declaration of interests by elected States Members, states that “the Bailiff shall issue guidance on the interpretation of this Standing Order.” The Privileges and Procedures Committee has agreed to present a copy of the Guidance to the States.

Bailiff's Guidance under Standing Order 106

1. Standing Order 106 reads as follows:
 - “(1) A member of the States must declare an interest at the earliest opportunity, clearly stating the nature of the interest, if –
 - (a) the member, or another relevant person, has an interest in –
 - (i) a matter which is the subject of a proposition or of a written or oral question, or
 - (ii) any other matter before the States or one of its committees or panels; and
 - (b) the member is aware of that interest.
 - (2) The Greffier of the States must ensure that declarations are recorded in the minutes, including the nature of the interest.
 - (3) In the event that the interest being declared is a financial interest which is personal to that member, or which is shared with a small number of other people, the member shall not vote on any proposition relating to the matter.
 - (4) The Bailiff shall issue guidance on the interpretation of this standing order.”

When does the Standing Order apply?

2. The Standing Order applies in the Assembly (during questions and public business); in respect of written questions; and during the proceedings of committees and panels set up under Standing Orders.
3. This guidance deals principally with proceedings in the Assembly. However, it should be applied, with such amendments as are necessary, to proceedings in committees and panels.

Which interests should be declared?

4. Members should declare interests which could conflict with the matter being discussed or decided by the Assembly (or committee or panel). Members should consider the matter from an external perspective. If a reasonable person watching the Assembly might consider there to be a conflict, the interest should be declared.
5. In considering whether they have an interest, Members should begin by considering the interests they have registered with the Greffe. However, sometimes interests which are not required to be registered should be declared. For example, in a debate on teachers' pay, a Member who is married to a teacher should declare this. In deciding whether or not something is an interest, Members should take advice from

the Bailiff or Greffier and should err on the side of the caution. It is better to declare something which is not an interest than to fail to declare a genuine interest.

6. Examples of matters which are not declarable interests include being in receipt of a State pension or other benefit, widely available to the public, or being a taxpayer, as taxation rules apply to the public as a whole (although if a Member benefits from a narrowly-drawn tax break that could count as an interest). Occasionally Connétables have declared an interest in respect of property owned by their parish: this is unnecessary as the interest applies to the parish, not to the Member in a personal capacity. Members sometimes declare an interest because they have campaigned for or against a matter now being debated in the Assembly: this is not necessary and nor do Members need to declare that they are involved in campaign groups or other political activity (unless, for example, they are remunerated for doing so).
7. If a Member is not aware of an interest then, by definition, they cannot declare it. For example, if a spouse or partner or other close family member has a significant shareholding in a company whose business is relevant to a debate, but the Member does not know this, the Member's contribution to the debate and vote cannot be influenced by that shareholding. However, if the Member subsequently finds out about the shareholding it should be registered and, depending on the circumstances, it may be appropriate for the Member to make a retrospective declaration in the Assembly.
8. In declaring an interest in respect of a "relevant person", Members should avoid specifying which person they are referring to in order to protect their privacy. Standing Orders define a "relevant person" as a member's spouse, civil partner or cohabitee; a dependent child of the member (or their spouse, civil partner or cohabitee) and any other relative who is part of the member's household

When should an interest be declared?

9. In respect of written questions, the interest should be declared to the Greffier when the question is tabled and the Greffier will document the interest so that it can be seen by the Member answering the question and members of the public reading the question and answer on the States Assembly website.
10. In respect of oral questions, the interest should be declared to the Greffier when the question is tabled so that his or her advice can be sought on whether Standing Order 106(3) might apply, in which case the question cannot be tabled. Where the question is tabled, the interest should be declared in the Assembly when the Member is invited by the Presiding Officer to ask the question.
11. In respect of proceedings in the Assembly or in a committee or panel, such as debate on a proposition or a public hearing of a committee or panel, the interest should be declared at the beginning of the business to which it relates. Failing that, the interest should be declared at the beginning of a Member's speech or contribution, or before a vote.

12. The Greffier will record declarations in the minutes, whether of the Assembly or of the Committee or Panel in question. When a number of Members have an interest to declare on a proposition, the Presiding Officer will ensure each Member is called to make their declaration, giving sufficient time for the declarations to be recorded. If members are participating in a States Meeting by Teams, declarations should be indicated in the chat; the member who is online will then be asked to make their declaration.
13. Members are personally responsible for their declarations of interest. The Presiding Officer will not routinely invite Members to declare interests at the commencement of items of public business, nor prompt specific Members to declare interests.
14. If a Member does not declare an interest and subsequently considers that they should have done so, they should declare the interest at the earliest possible opportunity and apologise to the Assembly or committee or panel for the oversight.

How should an interest be declared?

15. In declaring an interest, Members must provide sufficient detail for colleagues and the public to understand the nature of the interest without causing undue delay to the proceedings of the Assembly. “I have an interest in that I own field 6574 which is adjacent to the land under discussion” is a good example of how to declare an interest; “I refer the Assembly my registered interests” is not sufficient and the Presiding Officer will request further detail.

Standing Order 106(3)

16. In most circumstances, declaration of the interest is sufficient. However, occasionally, a Member may be required to refrain from voting on a matter (including abstaining) because of the nature of their interest.
17. Withdrawal from voting is necessary when:
 - The interest is financial
 - The interest only affects the Member or the Member and “a small number of other people”.
18. As a general principle, “a small number of other people” is taken to mean no more than 100 people in Jersey. However, the specific circumstances surrounding a particular proposition may require the Presiding Officer to consider that a different number should be applied and an exception made to that general principle.
19. The Presiding Officer will endeavour to establish how many people hold an interest before ruling on whether Standing Order 106(3) applies. However, it may not always be clear how many people hold an interest or the number concerned may be disputed. The decision of the Presiding Officer will depend on the information provided and the context in each case.