

Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Introduction

This Code applies to me in the office of Police and Crime Commissioner when acting or representing to act in that role. It also applies to my deputy when acting or representing to act in that role.

This code does not apply when I am acting in a purely private capacity.

I have adopted this code and have agreed to abide by its provisions.

The Policing Protocol¹ provides that all parties will abide by the seven principles set out in Standards in Public Life: First Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life known as the Nolan Principles.

I agree to abide by the Nolan Principles which are set out below:

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

SELFLESSNESS

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

INTEGRITY

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

OBJECTIVITY

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

OPENNESS

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

HONESTY

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

LEADERSHIP

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

¹ The Policing Protocol Order 2011 No. 2744
Police and Crime Commissioner Code of Conduct May 2016

2. General Obligations

I agree

To treat others with dignity and respect.

Not to use bullying behaviour or harass any person.

Not to conduct myself in a manner which:

(i) is contrary to the policing protocol

and/or

(ii) could reasonably be regarded as bringing my office into disrepute.

3. Use of resources

I agree

Not to use the resources of the elected local policing body for my personal benefit or for the benefit of myself, my friends, or any other person in relation to any business interest of mine.

Not to use the resources of the elected local policing body improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes).

To claim expenses and allowances only in accordance with the published expenses and allowances scheme of the elected local policing body.

4. Register of Disclosable Interests

(including those arising in relation to gifts and hospitality and those of a pecuniary nature)

I agree

To act solely in the public interest and in exercising the functions of my office not act to gain financial or other benefits for myself, my family, my friends, or any person in relation to any business of mine or use or attempt to use my office to confer or secure for any person, including myself, an advantage or a disadvantage.

Within 28 days of taking office to enter in the register of disclosable interests maintained by the monitoring officer of the elected local policing body every disclosable interest as set out in the Schedule.

Within 28 days of any change in circumstances to enter in the register of interests the changes in so far as are related to disclosable interests.

If the nature of the interest is such that I and the Monitoring Officer consider that disclosure could lead to me or a person connected with me being subject to violence or intimidation, then any entry in the register should not include details of the interest but should indicate that the interest has been disclosed and is withheld by virtue of this section.

5. Conflicts of interests

In any case where the interests of exercising the functions of my office may conflict with any disclosable or other interest, which has become known to me, I shall as soon as possible declare such conflict as is required in accordance with the policy issued under Para 3 of the Elected Local Policing Body (Specified Information) Order 2011 and determine whether the conflict of interest is so substantial that the function should not be exercised personally but should be delegated or dealt with in some other manner to ensure the conflict of interest does not arise.

6. Disclosure of information

I agree not to disclose information given to me in confidence or information acquired by me which is of a confidential nature, unless I have the consent of a person authorised to give it or I am required by law to do so or for the lawful purposes of my office provided that I shall not be prevented from disclosure to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice where the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person;

Any disclosure made by me shall be reasonable, be in the public interest and made in good faith.

I agree not to prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

7. Transparency

My register of interests and gifts and hospitality shall be published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

8. Complaints

Any complaint about the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner shall be referred to the Police and Crime Panel for West Mercia.

SCHEDULE

Disclosable Interests (including those relating to Gifts and Hospitality)

In this Schedule:

“body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest” means a firm in which the relevant person is a partner or a body corporate of which the relevant person is a director, or in the securities of which the relevant person has a beneficial interest;

“director” includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society;

“land” includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income;

“elected local policing body” means the elected Local Policing Body to which the relevant person has been elected.

“relevant period” means the period of 12 months ending with the day on which the relevant person makes an entry amendment or deletion to the register of disclosable interests.

“relevant person” means the person(s) who is/are elected/appointed Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

“securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000(b) and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Subject

Disclosable Interest

Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

Sponsorship

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the elected local policing body) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred in carrying out duties and responsibilities, as of a Police or Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, or towards the election expenses of the PCC or Deputy PCC. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Contracts

Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the elected local policing body
(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
(b) which has not been fully discharged.

Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the elected local policing body.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the elected local policing body.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the knowledge of the relevant person) (a) the landlord is the elected local policing body; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to the relevant person' knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the elected local policing body; and (b) either – (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
Gifts & Hospitality	The interests of any person from whom the relevant person has received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25.

Signed: _____

Dated: 8th July 2006 .

