

Code of Conduct for Non-elected¹ Members of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority



1. Introduction

As a member of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA), I have a responsibility to work constructively with staff, partner organisations and the wider community to manage the marine environment and inshore fisheries of the Eastern IFCA district in a sustainable and balanced way, taking full account of all the economic, social and environmental needs of the district.

When acting as a Member of the Eastern IFCA, I am committed to behaving in a manner that is consistent with the Nolan Committee's Principles of Public Life in order to maintain public confidence in the Eastern IFCA and to ensure the best use of its resources in the public interest.

2. 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.

3. My conduct as a Member

As a Member of the Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, I will ensure that my conduct is in line with the Principles of Public Life by:

Supporting the Authority's vision to lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry, and helping the Authority to achieve this vision.

Dealing with representations or enquiries from our communities fairly, appropriately and impartially, and reporting these interactions to the Chief Executive so that appropriate management action can be taken.

¹ Members appointed by the Marine Management Organisation ('general members' S5(2)(b) EIFCA Order 2010), the Environment Agency and Natural England ('additional members' S5(2)(c) EIFCA Order 2010)

Not allowing other pressures, including the financial interests of myself or others connected to me, to deter me from pursuing the interests of the Eastern IFCA or the good governance of the Authority in a proper manner.

Exercising independent judgement and not compromising my position by placing myself under obligations to outside individuals or organisations who might seek to influence the way I perform my duties as a member of this Authority.

Listening to the interests of all parties, including relevant advice from statutory and other professional officers, taking all relevant information into consideration, remaining objective and making decisions on merit.

Being accountable for my decisions and co-operating when scrutinised internally and externally, including by our communities.

Contributing to making the Authority's decision-making processes as open and transparent as possible to enable our communities both to understand the reasoning behind decisions and to be well-informed when holding me and other members to account, but restricting access to information when the wider public interest or the law requires it.

Behaving in accordance with all our legal obligations, alongside any requirements contained within this Authority's policies, protocols and procedures, including on the use of the Authority's resources.

Valuing my colleagues and the Authority's staff and engaging with them in an appropriate manner and one that underpins the mutual respect between us that is essential to good local government.

Respecting the managerial and operational responsibilities of the Authority's staff and only interacting with them in relation to the management of the Authority through the Chief Executive or senior managers.

Always treating people with respect, including the organisations and public I engage with and those I work alongside.

Providing leadership through behaving in accordance with these principles when championing the interests of the community with other organisations as well as within this Authority.

Not acting in a way that could be perceived as counter to the stated aims or decisions of the Authority.

4. Registering interests

I agree to disclose the following interests to be included in the Eastern IFCA Register of Members' Interests:

- Any employment or trade related to local fishing and/or marine environmental interests for which I receive payment and/or profits.
- Any contracts for goods or services, works to be executed, or land/property between the Eastern IFCA and:

me personally,

any organisation with which I am involved.

I do not need to disclose this interest if the contract has been fully discharged.

- Any contracts that I am aware of, for goods or services, works to be executed, or land/property between the Eastern IFCA and:

my spouse, civil partner, or a person I live with as husband or wife or civil partner,

any organisation with which one of the people listed above is involved.

I do not need to disclose this interest if the contract has been fully discharged.

I am aware that the Register of Members' Interests will be available for public inspection at the Eastern IFCA's office.

5. Sensitive interests

If I reasonably believe that disclosing an interest (as defined in Section 4) could put me, or a person connected with me at risk of intimidation or violence, I will ask the Clerk to decide whether this is a sensitive interest and will provide him/her with all relevant evidence.

If I disagree with the Clerk's decision, I have the right to appeal to an appeals and complaints board made up of two council members (normally the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority), one general and one additional member of the Eastern IFCA. I agree to abide by the appeals and complaints board's decision.

A record of sensitive interests will be kept by the Clerk but only the existence of a sensitive interest will be included in the Register of Members' Interests.

6. Timescale for registering interests

I will notify the Clerk in writing of my interests as described in Section 4 within 28 days of the adoption of this Code of Conduct by the Eastern IFCA or of my appointment/re-appointment to the Authority (whichever is later).

If my registered interests change, or I become aware of a new interest within one of the categories in Section 4, I will notify the Clerk in writing within 28 days of the date on which I become aware of the change or the new interest.

7. Declaring interests at meetings

I agree to declare my registered interests at any meeting I attend where a relevant matter is being considered. If it has been agreed that the interest is sensitive, I will only have to declare that a sensitive interest exists.

I may have other interests in a matter being considered at a meeting I attend, that I do not have to include in the Register. These could be other pecuniary, or non-financial, interests which arise because the matter affects me, or someone connected with me, more than it affects the general population. I agree to declare these interests as they arise.

In deciding whether I should declare an interest of this type, I will consider whether a reasonable person who knew about the interest would perceive me as acting inappropriately if I did not declare it.

8. Voting at meetings

I will not take part in the vote at a meeting on a matter that directly or indirectly affects:

- any income received, or expenditure, by me personally or by one of the people described in Section 4;
- any income received, or expenditure, by an organisation described in Section 4.

I agree to accept the advice of the Chair on whether I can vote at a meeting on a matter in which I have declared an interest.

9. Participating in discussion at meetings

In taking part in the discussion of a matter in which I have an interest, I will ensure that my contributions relate only to the specialist knowledge or experience for which I was appointed to the Eastern IFCA, and do not improperly seek to favour my own interests or those of anyone connected with me.

10. Delegated authority to make decisions alone

If I have delegated authority to make decisions or carry out actions on behalf of the Authority, I will ensure that I do not do anything in connection with a matter in which I have an interest, apart from notifying the Chief Executive Officer at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the matter can be dealt with effectively in another way.

11. Gifts and hospitality

If I receive any gift or hospitality over the value of £25 related to my role as a member of the Authority, I will notify the Clerk in writing giving details of the gift or hospitality and the date I received it, for inclusion in the Eastern IFCA's Register of Gifts and Hospitality.

SIGNED:

DATE: