

Process for managing declaration of interests in the SAR process

It's important that the SAR Review Group ensures an appropriate level of Independence in the SAR Process.

There may be occasions when the SAR Panel decides that a review is required and members of the SAR Panel who would ordinarily sit on the review group for the safeguarding adult review may have been involved with the adult either in an operational or advisory role.

At the beginning of the process, a review group will be agreed, and each member of the group will be asked whether they have any 'declaration of interests' which need to be declared.

Declaration of Interests

Declaration of interest will be requested and submitted to Business Manager of the SSAB for the Chairs of the SAR Review Group and Joint Independent Chairs to consider (if needed).

An important point to remember!

A declaration of interest doesn't necessarily mean that the representative will not be allowed to sit on the Review Group or continue to be a representative at the SAR Panel.

The first step would be to explore how the declaration of interest can be managed alongside the SAR review process.

However, there may be some occasions where the declaration of interest might mean that it would be best for the integrity of the review, and for the relevant person who has declared the interest, that they do not sit on the review group for the SAR.

How it will be determined whether the declaration creates a conflict of interest?

The determination as to whether or not a declared interest is a conflict will involve the application of the SAR Policy and discussions with the Chair of the SAR Panel, Independent Chair of the SSAB, Independent Reviewer (if applicable) with the relevant person who has declared the interest.

It will require careful judgement based on the facts of the individual case.

Declared Interest

When evaluating declarations of interest, it is important to decide whether the interest is '**specific**' or '**non-specific**'.

An interest is 'specific' if it refers directly to the matter under discussion.

An interest is 'non-specific' if it does not refer directly to the matter under discussion.

In the event of doubt, it is best determined by considering how the interest will be perceived by external agencies and processes including the Local Government Social Care Ombudsman and Judicial Review Processes.

To ensure open and transparent approach, all decision making will be formally recorded and relevant person who has declared the interest will be advised of the outcome of any decisions made.