



**GENERAL NOTICE OF  
REGISTERABLE INTERESTS  
2023/24**

I,

William Morgan Topps.

being a Member/Co-opted Member of North Devon District Council, give notice below of those interests which I am required to declare under The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and North Devon District Council's Code of Conduct:

Please note in relation to Part A (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) you are required to provide details about **both your interests and those of your partner**. 'Your partner' for these purposes means your spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband and wife or as if you are civil partners. Part B (Other Registrable Interests) just relates to your interests and not those of your partner.

**Member's Details**

Full name:

\*Full address:

\*Telephone no:

Email address:

(\*The above information will not be published or made available to the public, however, all information declared on the subsequent pages will be published).

**PART A - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:**

**Question A: Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation**

Do you or your partner<sup>6</sup> undertake any employment, trade, profession or vocation for profit or gain?

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Description of employment, job, vocation, trade or self-employment activity (including landlord):

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. TEACHER OF ENGLISH | SPOUSE          |
| 2. EXAMINER           | PSYCHOTHERAPIST |
| 3. RUGBY PLAYER       |                 |

(b) Name of employer, body firm or company by which you are employed or in which you are a partner or a director (remunerated) in which you have a beneficial interest:

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. VENTRUS MULTI ACADEMY | NHS |
| 2. AQA. FRUST            |     |
| 3. BARNSTAPLE RUGBY LTD. |     |

**Question B: Sponsorship**

Have you received any payment or been provided with any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) in the last 12 months<sup>7</sup> in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses? This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

If yes, please provide details (e.g. name of sponsoring person/body).  
If no, go to next question.

No.

**Question C: Securities<sup>8</sup>**

Do you or your partner have any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:

(a) that body to your knowledge has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; 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 you or your partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class?

If yes, please provide details (e.g. name of company or body).

If no, go to next question.

.....  
..... No, .....  
.....  
.....

**Question D: Contracts<sup>9</sup>**

Have you or your partner (or a body in which either of you have a beneficial interest) ever entered into any contract with the Council:

(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and

(b) which has not been fully discharged?

If yes, please give details (e.g. date of contract(s), description of goods, services or works, value of contract(s)).

If no, go to next question.

..... No .....  
.....  
.....

.....  
.....  
**Question E: Land, licences and corporate tenancies**

**1. Do you or your partner have land<sup>10</sup> or property in the District of North Devon? This includes land where you or your partner (either alone or jointly with others):**  
**(a) have any beneficial interest (e.g. freehold or leasehold ownership, including your home if applicable, or under a tenancy or which you are a mortgagee); or**  
**(b) have any licence to occupy land in the area of the Council for a month or longer?**

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Address/Description of land/property (if the extent of the land is unclear by an address/description alone, please also provide a plan):

.....  
17 DRACAENA AVENUE  
.....  
STICKLEPATH  
.....  
EX31 2EW  
.....

(b) Nature of Interest in land/property:

.....  
JOINT HOME OWNERS (MORTGAGED)  
.....  
.....

**2. Do you or your partner have any tenancy where to your knowledge:**

- (a) the landlord is the Council; and**
- (b) the tenant is a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest<sup>11</sup>?**

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

**(a) Address/Description of land/property (if the extent of the land is unclear by an address/description alone, please also provide a plan):**

.....  
No  
.....  
.....

**(b) Nature of Interest in land/property:**

.....  
No  
.....  
.....

**PART B – OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS**

**Question F: Membership etc of organisations**

**1. Do you have any unpaid directorships?**  
If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Name of body:

No

.....  
.....

(b) Position:

N/A

.....  
.....

**2. Are you the Council's appointee or nominee on an outside body?**

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Name of body:

N/A

.....  
.....

(b) Position:

N/A

.....  
.....

**3. Are you a member, or are you in a position of general control or management, of any body (other than the Council) exercising functions of a public nature?**

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Name of public body/organisation:

..... N/A .....

(b) Position:

..... N/A .....

**4. Are you a member, or are you in a position of general control or management, of any body directed to charitable purposes?**

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Name of charitable body:

..... N/A .....

(b) Position:

..... N/A .....

5. Are you a member, or are you in a position of general control or management, of a body (including any political party) whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy?

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Name of body:

NEU LIBERAL DEMOCRATS.  
NASUWT

(b) Position:

MEMBER OF ALL ABOVE.

6. Are you a member, or are you in a position of general control or management, of a trade union or a professional association?

If yes, please provide details in (a) and (b) below.  
If no, go to next question.

(a) Name of trade union/professional association:

NEU  
NASUWT

(b) Position:

MEMBER OF BOTH



## Member's declaration

By completing this form:

- 1 I understand that the information sought in the Schedule is required under Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Members' Conduct<sup>2</sup>.
- 2 I declare that the information given in the Schedule is complete and correct.
- 3 I shall give notice of any disclosable pecuniary interest(\*) disclosed at a meeting (that is not already on the register or the subject of a pending notification) before the end of 28 days beginning with the date of the disclosure at the meeting<sup>3</sup>.
- 4 I shall give details of any changes to the information in this Schedule before the end of 28 days beginning with the date when I became aware of the change.
- 5 I acknowledge that a failure to declare relevant information will be a breach of the Council's Code of Members' Conduct and may also be a criminal offence<sup>4</sup>.
- 6 I acknowledge that the information will be available for inspection at all reasonable hours and will be posted on the Council's website<sup>5</sup>.

(\*) A 'disclosable pecuniary interest' is defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, SI 2012/1464, and includes matters set out in Part A above.

Date form completed: ..... 18/5/23 .....

Please note: This form must be kept up to date at all times and should be reviewed at least annually and updated every time one of your above interests changes, as provided in paragraph 5 above, any failure to do so would be a breach of the Code of Conduct and may also be a criminal offence.

Please return this form by hand, or post to the Corporate and Community Services Team (at NDC, Brynsworthy Environment Centre, PO Box 379, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 2GR)

## Notes to the form:

1. The monitoring officer of a 'relevant authority' is required to establish and maintain a register of members' interests: Localism Act 2011 s 29(1).

A member or co-opted member must notify the authority's monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the person becomes a member or co-opted member of the authority: Localism Act 2011 s 30(1). If the interest is not in the authority's register, and is not the subject of a pending notification, the member must notify the authority's monitoring officer of the interest before the end of 28 days beginning with the date when the member first becomes aware that he has a disclosable pecuniary interest: Localism Act 2011 s 31(7).

Local authorities' codes of conduct should require that members complete the details of such a register; this may include interests other than disclosable pecuniary interests. For forms of codes of conduct, see Forms 22 [1153]–25 [1178] above. For further details on the local authority ethical framework, see Paragraph 60 [327] above.

For the meaning of 'relevant authority' see the Localism Act 2011 s 27(6) (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 ss 36, 237, Sch 25 Pt 5 and the Policing and Crime Act 2017 s 9(3)(c), Sch 2 paras 118, 119).

### 2 Paragraph 1—code of conduct

A relevant authority must secure that its code of conduct includes the provisions the authority considers appropriate in respect of the registration and disclosure of pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests: see the Localism Act 2011 s 28(2).

### 3 Paragraph 3—notice of disclosable pecuniary interest

See the Localism Act 2011 s 31(3) and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, SI 2012/1464.

### 4 Paragraph 5—criminal offences

As to criminal offences see the Localism Act 2011 s 34. For details of the ethical framework and the consequences of breach of the local authority code of members' conduct, see Paragraph 60 [327] above.

### 5 Paragraph 6—inspection of register

The monitoring officer of a relevant authority (other than a parish council) must secure that a copy of the authority's register is available for inspection at a place in the authority's area at all reasonable hours and published on the authority's website: see the Localism Act 2011 s 29(5). In the case of a parish council, the parish council's monitoring officer must secure that a copy of the parish council register is available for inspection at a place in the principal authority's area at all reasonable hours and published on the principal authority's website: Localism Act 2011 s 29(6). The parish council must separately secure that its register is published on its website if it has one: see the Localism Act 2011 s 29(7).

For the meaning of 'principal authority' in relation to a parish council see the Localism Act 2011 s 29(9).

**6 Schedule question A—employment etc—partner**

As to the meaning of 'your partner' see SI 2012/1464 reg 1 and the Localism Act 2011 s 30(3)(b).

**7 Schedule question B—sponsorship—12 months**

i.e. the period of 12 months ending with the day on which the member gives a notification for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011 ss 30(1), 31(7).

**8 Schedule question C—securities**

'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, and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society: SI 2012/1464 reg 1(2).

**9 Schedule question D—contracts**

As to the meaning of 'your partner' see SI 2012/1464 reg 1 and the Localism Act 2011 s 30(3)(b).

A '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: SI 2012/1464 reg 1(2). A director includes a member of the committee of management of a registered society within the meaning given by the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 s 1(1), other than a society registered as a credit union: SI 2012/1464 reg 1(2) (as amended by SI 2014/1815).

**10 Schedule question E1—land**

'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land that does not carry with it a right for the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income: SI 2012/1464 reg 1(2).

**11 Schedule question E3—corporate tenancies**

As to a 'body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest' see note <sup>9</sup>.

