



*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The RSE and the Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) are independent, non-party political organisations and in order to ensure this independence is maintained, ask their Fellows and members to abide by these conflict of interest guidelines.

The guidelines apply when a Fellow or YAS member is asked to participate in RSE activities, for example, but not limited to, policy advice work, reviewing grant applications, business development and developing international collaborations.

Possible conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, where a participant:

- Is an elected politician or is otherwise politically active
- Has a relevant financial interest (including employment and company directorships)
- Is a trustee/governor of a relevant charitable trust
- Is a member of a relevant public body

Where there is a clear or potential conflict of interest, the Fellow / YAS member should declare this to the RSE staff member who has approached / invited them to participate in the RSE activity.

Where it is agreed there is a clear conflict, the Fellow / YAS member should not participate in the activity. If a conflict arises during the course of participating in an activity, this should be raised by the Fellow / YAS member with the RSE staff member as soon as possible.

Where there is a lesser conflict, which is not seen as materially affecting the RSE's impartiality, the Fellow / YAS member will be permitted to participate in the activity, but with the conflict noted.

Whether there is a conflict, and at which level, will be agreed by the staff member (in consultation with the Convener or similar, if appropriate). Where there is uncertainty over whether something constitutes a conflict, the final decision will lie with the RSE CEO.

These guidelines apply equally to any external participants the RSE involves in its activities.

These Conflict of Interest guidelines should be read in conjunction with any activity-specific guidelines provided by the RSE/YAS.