



Cabinet Office

Proactive release of information about management of ministerial conflicts of interest

1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013

3 December 2013

Explanatory note

The table below is a summary of actions taken by Ministers during the period 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 in order to manage actual or potential conflicts of interest. It includes transfers of responsibility to other Ministers and arrangements not to receive official papers. (A transfer of responsibility may also include an arrangement not to receive papers.)

The Office of the Ombudsmen has reviewed this summary and confirmed that it is consistent with the more detailed record held by the Cabinet Office.

The actions listed in the table are standing arrangements, and may cover multiple instances when responsibility was exercised by another Minister or papers were not received. It is also possible that there have been no such instances, because the particular issue has not arisen in practice. The table only includes new arrangements put in place in the period 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013, and is not a full summary of all transfers of responsibility and arrangements not to receive papers that have been made or are currently in place.

The nature of each actual or potential conflict of interest is described using the following categories:

- Pecuniary: relating to a Minister's personal financial interests such as assets, debts and gifts
- Personal: relating to a Minister's non-financial personal interests, such as family, whanau or close associates, former employment and business activities, and (in certain limited circumstances) current and past involvement with specific organisations
- Portfolio: relating to different aspects of a Minister's official responsibilities
- Constituency: relating to a Minister's role as a member of Parliament

The annual proactive release of information about the management of ministerial conflicts of interest (covering transfers of responsibility and arrangements not to receive papers) was agreed by the Prime Minister and the Chief Ombudsman in 2012. The release is intended to provide public assurance that systems are in place to manage conflicts of interest effectively, while protecting the privacy of individuals, the confidentiality of Cabinet discussions, and the confidentiality of correspondence between the Cabinet Office and the Prime Minister and other Ministers about actual or potential conflicts of interest.

Further information on the management of ministerial conflicts of interest is set out at paragraphs 2.56-2.77 of the Cabinet Manual 2008, available at www.cabinetmanual.cabinetoffice.govt.nz.

Minister's name	Matter at issue	Nature of conflict	Action taken
Hon Christopher Finlayson	Treaty negotiations decisions in respect of particular iwi	Personal	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Michael Woodhouse
Hon Paula Bennett	Potential decisions about an organisation receiving Crown funding	Personal	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Tony Ryall
Hon Craig Foss	Potential decisions in respect of particular companies	Pecuniary	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman
Hon Chris Tremain	Responsibility as Minister of Internal Affairs for certain decisions under the Citizenship Act 1977 and the Gambling Act 2003 in respect of Napier constituents	Constituency	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Nathan Guy
Hon Chris Tremain	Responsibility as Minister of Internal Affairs for certain decisions under the Citizenship Act 1977 and the Gambling Act 2003 in respect of Napier constituents and other individuals	Constituency / personal	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Nathan Guy (replacing earlier transfer)
Hon Nikki Kaye	Responsibility as Associate Minister of Immigration for decisions affecting Auckland Central constituents	Constituency	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Michael Woodhouse
Hon Maurice Williamson	Responsibility as Minister for Land Information for LINZ-managed land at Musick Point, in Pakuranga electorate	Constituency	Responsibility transferred to Hon Nathan Guy
Hon Michael Woodhouse	Responsibility as Minister of Immigration for decisions affecting Dunedin residents	Constituency	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Nikki Kaye

Minister's name	Matter at issue	Nature of conflict	Action taken
Hon Michael Woodhouse	Decisions in respect of a particular company	Personal	Will not receive papers
Hon Dr Pita Sharples	Decisions in respect of a particular school	Personal	Responsibility for decisions transferred to Hon Christopher Finlayson