

CSPR Declaration of Interest Process

It's important that the Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) Panel ensures an appropriate level of Independence in the CSPR Process.

There may be occasions when the CSPR Panel decides that a review is required and members of the CSPR Panel who would ordinarily sit on the panel for the CSPR may have been involved with the child's family either in an operational or advisory role.

At the beginning of the CSPR process, a panel will be established, and each member will be asked whether they have any 'declaration of interests'.

Declaration of Interests

Declaration of interest will be requested and submitted to the SSCP Business Unit. These will be considered by the Independent Reviewer.

An important point to remember!

A declaration of interest does not necessarily mean that you will not be allowed to sit on the panel. In some circumstances, it may be agreed for the person who has declared the interest not to sit on the panel, to preserve the integrity of the review.

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

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

The determination as to whether a declared interest is a conflict will involve discussions with the Independent Reviewer, Panel Chair, other Panel Members and the SSCP Independent Scrutineer (if applicable).

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