

Sample questions for Members to consider in identifying a conflict

The sample questions shown in this section are just some of the common questions that may help a Member to identify a conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest can be complicated and specific details of individual circumstances will vary and as a result this question list should not be seen as exhaustive.

Identifying conflicts of interest: Questions for Members (general)

1. Do I or my family have a stake (e.g. stocks/shares, employment or membership) in the user of the work or in another party with competing interests to those of the user?
2. Are there two or more users of my work in the same industry? (e.g. one consideration may be whether there is potential for merger between two users).
3. Are my rewards, or the manner in which I am rewarded, likely to give rise to a perception of conflict e.g. bonus or commission?
4. Is there a conflict between the commercial interests of the person who has commissioned the work, and others whose interests may ultimately depend on my advice?

Further questions for Pensions actuaries

1. What conflicts are inherent to the trustee board?
2. Are relations between the trustees and the employer likely to be adversarial?
3. Do certain functions reserved to the Scheme Actuary (e.g. under the trust deed and rules or legislation) give rise to potential conflicts?
4. In what areas requiring actuarial advice are the interests of trustees and the company not aligned?
5. Does my firm advise the sponsoring companies in any material capacity?
6. In my view, could the trustee board be at risk of being unduly influenced by company management in some circumstances?
7. What conflicts within the trustee board have the potential to impact on my ability (or perceived ability) to give unconstrained advice to the trustee?

Further questions for Insurance actuaries (General Insurance and Life)

1. Does any of my work in areas such as pricing, reserving and capital give rise to any inherent conflicts across those different types of work?
2. Am I in a position as pricing actuary or underwriter where competitive pressures will compromise my ability to comply fully with TASs and/or the Code?

3. Do I or my firm provide an audit service as well as separate advice to the client?
4. Do I or my firm provide advice to both a life office and to its With-Profits (WP) Committee (or other independent adviser on WP business)?
5. Do I act in the role of WP Actuary as well as providing other, commercial advice to my employer or client?