
Briefing Note

Register of Interests (RoI)

2 minute read

1.0 Background

Under the terms of the 2011 Localism Act, all elected representatives are obliged to complete a declaration of their personal property, financial and personal matters. Its purpose is to ensure openness, prevent conflicts of interest, and show that public decisions are made fairly. Under the Localism Act 2011, local authorities must publish these records online.

2.0 What has changed?

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 inserted Section 32A into the Localism Act 2011, creating a major change regarding councillor safety and privacy, that **councils are no longer permitted to publish councillors' home addresses on the public register of interests** unless the member specifically requests in writing that it be included. The public register simply notes that an interest exists in the authority's area with the address withheld. Full address details are still declared privately to the Monitoring Officer for conflict-of-interest checks.

The Monitoring Officer referred to here is employed by Cornwall Council

3.0 Summary of other changes

3.1 Automatic Withholding: Previously under Section 32 of the Localism Act 2011, a home address could only be withheld if the individual councillor formally applied for "sensitive interest" status due to a risk of violence or intimidation. Withholding is now the default position; a home address will only be published if the councillor explicitly requests it in writing.

3.2 Public Register Formatting: Public versions of the Register of Interests (published on principal or parish council websites) must confirm that a land/property interest exists within the parish/ward, but the specific address details are shown as "withheld under Section 32A".

3.3 Internal Record & Conflicts: Full property details must still be declared to the relevant Monitoring Officer on the official form. The full details remain held securely on internal council records to ensure conflicts of interest are still effectively monitored and managed. Inspection Lists: Under Section 100G of the Local Government Act 1972, public lists of member contact details must also omit home addresses.

3.4 Key Statutory Principles (Localism Act 2011)

Apart from the non-disclosure amendment, the broader statutory framework governing declarations of interest remains in effect under the Localism Act 2011:

3.5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs): Members must declare DPIs (such as employment, trade, business, sponsorship, contracts, land/licences, or corporate tenancies) belonging to themselves, as well as their spouse or civil partner.

3.6 Registration Window: Declarations must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of taking office or becoming aware of a new interest.

3.7 Other Registerable Interests (ORIs): Councils' local Codes of Conduct continue to require the declaration of non-pecuniary interests, such as membership in outside bodies, charities, or trade unions.

4.0 This council's position

4.1 All councillors currently sitting in St Keyne & Trewidland completed and submitted their Rols in May 2025 after the last election. However, they are now required re-submit a new Rol which indicates if they wish to have their home address withheld.

4.2 Clerk will reissue a blank Register of Interests. Page 3 of the form asks you to return it directly to the Monitoring Officer. However, your own Standing Orders (s15 b vii) states that the Clerk ('Proper Officer') is required to hold a copy of every councillor's register of interests, so please return your completed register to the Clerk's Office in the first instance.

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Date: 27/9/26