



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

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Register of Special Advisers' Interests

Under the terms of their Code of Conduct, special advisers must ensure that no conflict arises, or could be perceived to arise, between their public duties and their private interests, financial or otherwise, and must comply with rules concerning conflicts of interest; must not use information gained in the course of their service for personal gain; nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to promote their private interests.

Under section 9 of the Functioning of Government (Misc. Prov.) Act (NI) 2021, the Department of Finance has set out a scheme defining the categories of financial and other interests that are registrable, including gifts and hospitality. The Department of Finance is responsible under the legislation for establishing, maintaining and publishing a register of interests in respect of special advisers recording all such interests as are prescribed in that scheme. On appointment, all special advisers must inform the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance of their registrable interests, including those of their spouse, partner or close family members; and within 28 days of any change to those registrable interests, inform the Permanent Secretary of that change.

The Register published today contains relevant interests, declared in line with the requirements of the current scheme. Updates to the List will be published regularly, with dates included for when any changes to interests were notified and this information will also be published.

The information in this register was correct at 1 November 2025.

Neil Gibson
Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance
November 2025

LIST OF SPECIAL ADVISERS' RELEVANT INTERESTS

Ronan McGinley, the Executive Office

School Governor, St Patrick's Primary School, Ardboe

Non-playing member of Ardboe GAC

Close family member employed in a Public Sector organisation

John Loughran, the Executive Office

School Governor, Edmund Rice College

Close family member employed in the Health Service

Member of Ashton Community Trust

Member of the Bobby Sands Trust

Clíodhna Nic Bhranair, the Executive Office

Director of Moore Street Preservation Trust

Close family members employed in public sector and public affairs

Alastair Ross, the Executive Office

No relevant interests

Dr Ashleigh Perry, the Executive Office

No relevant interests

Matthew Morrison, the Executive Office

Prior to appointment employed by a public affairs consultancy

Dr Jonathan Bell, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Part-time teaching on the Planning course within the School of the Natural and Built Environment at Queen's University Belfast delivered in private capacity

Member of Royal Town Planning Institute

Immediately prior to appointment, employed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Peter Johnston, Department for Communities

Owns rental property in Carrickfergus

Elected member of Mid & East Antrim Council

Eoin Rooney, Department for the Economy

Close family member is a civil servant in the Department for the Economy

Richard Bullick, Department of Education

No relevant interests

Dr Dara O'Hagan, Department of Finance

No relevant interests

Mark Ovens, Department of Health

Immediately prior to appointment as Special Adviser was employed by Cancer Research UK

Elected member of Fermanagh & Omagh Council

Spouse employed as a food quality and control consultant

Bronagh O'Kane, Department for Infrastructure

Member of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

Partner works as a Quantity Surveyor for building contracts

Family business subcontracts government contracts

Partner related to member of Ulster GAA

Claire Johnson, Department of Justice

Member of the Committee on the Administration of Justice

Board member of Informing Choices NI

Governor at Glendhu Nursery School, Belfast

Close family member works for the Commissioner Designate for Victims of Crime and is a DoJ employee

Close family member works for Victim Support NI

Craig Harrison, Department of Justice (covering post from 27 May 2025 to date)

No relevant interests