

Date: Thursday 11th May

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Committee Room 2

Title: REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS - UPDATE REPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the Register.

Action

2. None; for information only.

Update

3. February this year saw the publication of the third quarterly report of the Register of Members' Interests. A number of new entries have been generated by hospitality received during the Rugby World Cup and also by Members declaring sponsorship for their election expenses.
4. Since the publication, there have been few press enquiries. However public interest in the Register has increased, and members of the public have, by appointment, inspected the Register.

Financial Sponsorship

5. It was agreed at the last meeting that financial support provided by a political party was not sponsorship and, as such, did not need to be registered as election expenses or on-going support. It is however apparent that Members are still registering their election expenses as sponsorship, where these expenses were met by their political party.
6. Supplementary guidance on Financial Sponsorship, Declaration of Interests and Voting was issued to all Members on 11 April 2000.

Publication of the Register

7. We have now published the first three quarterly reports of the Register of Members' Interests, and are therefore due to publish the first Annual Report. Members will be

issued with the draft Annual Report for comment, prior to publication.

Table Office

May 1999