

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Date: Thursday,
Time: 2:00pm
Venue: Senedd Room 2
Title: Scottish Parliament Members' Interest Bill

1. On 8 June 2006, the Scottish Parliament adopted the '*Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Bill*'. This replaced the transitional Members Interests Order which had been in place since 1999. The Bill can be accessed on the following link:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/44-interestsMembers/b44s2-aspassed.pdf>. A SPICe briefing on the Bill can be found here:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-05/SB05-80_000.pdf

2. The Bill provides for the creation, maintenance and amendment of a public register of Members' Interests, and includes detailed provisions for both the 'registrable interests' themselves and the process by which those interests are registered and maintained. This differs from the Assembly's arrangements, where the details are contained within Standing Orders and guidance.

3. Professor Diana Woodhouse made a detailed comparison of the Scottish and Welsh systems as part of her review. In fact, the Members' Interests Bill does not differ substantially from our own provisions, other than in very detailed matters of procedure. Having considered the provisions of the Bill, the Secretariat does not wish to make any recommendations for amendments to the Assembly's provisions.

4. The Committee is invited to note the provisions contained in the Bill.

Secretariat
Committee on Standards of Conduct