**DECLARATION OF INTEREST POLICY STATEMENT – 2024**

# Introduction

The British Cardiovascular Society (BCS) represents professionals committed to the delivery of high quality cardiovascular care and enjoys an excellent reputation stemming from the confidence in its integrity held by its members and the public. The Board of Trustees of the BCS has sought to define relationships between Trustees, Council, Committee Members, Affiliated Society Council Members, Abstract Graders and Speakers/Chairmen at the Annual Conference, their spouses/partners, siblings and/or dependents, and commercial organisations that might constitute a conflict of interest when shaping Society policy and fulfilling its objectives.

Conflict of interest is an important part of the fiduciary duty of all trustees of the Society under charity law. This means that no Trustee should hold a position of conflict of interest. Where such a conflict exists, a Trustee should attempt to divest themselves of the conflict. Failing this, they should take no part in the conversations regarding the area covered by the conflict of interest.

Conflict of interest disclosures are also required for the professional activities which are not subject to company law but are important for the proper functioning of the wide range of professional activities undertaken and recommendations produced by the Society. These would include, but are not limited to, committee, working party, and working group membership, representing the Society in committees of other organisations (for example the Royal College of Physicians and NHS England), contributing to the educational activities of the Society including the BCS Annual Conference, and contributing to BCS guidelines.

# Definitions

In order that the Society may enjoy the benefit of expertise from the widest number of its members without the sacrifice of important personal interests on their part, the BCS Board of Trustees requires that all relationships should be disclosed and held on record at the BCS.

Examples of conflict of interest which must be disclosed are set out below. Any areas which are not specified below in which there is (or might be) a conflict of interest should also be disclosed (academic grants are specifically excluded from this policy e.g., BHF, NIHR, Wellcome Trust, MRC, HRUK, etc.):

1. Consultant, scientific advisory committee member, lecturer for a commercial organisation operating within the healthcare sector (including, but not limited to, pharmaceutical companies, medical device companies, companies providing education, companies providing news, lobbying companies).
2. Officer, Board Member, Trustee, owner or employee, manager or partners of a commercial organisation operating in the healthcare sector.
3. Stock or bond holding in a relevant commercial company or self-directed pension.
4. Commercial company support for research.

5 Travel, subsistence, registration support.

6 Trusteeship of another charity or any other paid or unpaid public appointment.

# Annual Statement

BCS Officers, Trustees, Chairmen and Members of Committees, Council Members, Editors and Editorial Boards, and Staff members must file annual signed statements with the Finance Manager of the BCS *(to be kept on file for the duration of the appointment).* Any individual or cumulative sum over £100 in a single year should trigger a conflict of interest declaration.

New potential conflicts arising between an annual declaration of more than £1000 should be declared as and

when they arise.

# Managing Conflict of Interest

The BCS considers that conflict of interest should be dealt with in a professional way recognising that Society members will act in line with the core values of the Society. Notwithstanding this, the Society reserves the right to take specific measures where it perceives there is a conflict of interest (declared or undeclared).

In order to ensure transparency around conflict of interest, the Finance department of the BCS will review all declarations. Moderate and major conflict of interest declarations will be reviewed by the Conflict of Interest Panel. The Panel will consist of the Vice President (VP) for Society and Professional Ethics (chair), the Honorary Secretary (vice chair), the VP for Corporate and Finance, the VP for Clinical Standards, and the Chief Financial Officer. The panel will meet as required to review declarations and to assure the Society of full compliance. The panel may meet in person, electronically or via email as deemed necessary.

Conflict of interest will be managed using the following thresholds for individual items of financial value or the annual total value:

*Up to £100 or non sterling equivalent*

* No requirement to declare

*£100 to £1,000 or non sterling equivalent*

* Minor conflict of interest disclosures will be made available to the committee chair *£1,000 to £10,000 or non sterling equivalent*
* Moderate conflict of interest disclosures will be evaluated by the conflict of interest panel o No automatic sanctions
  + Recommendations and disclosure provided to the committee chair if required  *Greater than £10,000 or non sterling equivalent*
* Major conflict of interest will be evaluated by the conflict of interest panel o Generally this will result in a bar on voting on the relevant committee on matters relating to the individual
  + Specific conflict of interests may be discussed directly with the individual
  + Recommendations will be shared with the committee chair
  + The conflict of interest panel will have the right to recommend disbarring an individual from participating in the relevant committee of the society where the conflict is considered non- compatible with ongoing membership of the relevant committee / working group.

Actions which the Conflict of Interest Panel may impose:

1. Require an individual to choose between the competing activities.
2. Prohibit an individual from playing a decision-making role in the BCS relevant to the conflict.
3. Prohibit an individual from presenting at BCS events.
4. Exclude an individual from publishing in BCS publications.
5. Exclude an individual from participating in BCS committees.

# DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Name:

## Please delete as appropriate

**Statement 1:** I have read the BCS Declaration of Interest policy and support its intent. To the best of my knowledge, neither my spouse/partner, sibling, any dependent child nor I have a relationship as set out in the British Cardiovascular Society Declaration of Interest Policy Statement

**Statement 2:** Relationships with commercial organisations, as set out in the British Cardiovascular Society

*Declaration of Interest* Policy Statement, do exist with myself, my spouse/partner, sibling or dependant, as set out below:

Signed:

Date:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Commercial Organisation** | **Consultant**  **Advisor**  **Lecturer** | **Officer**  **Board member**  **Trustee**  **Owner** | **Stock holder or**  **Stock Options** | **Research support** | **Travel**  **Subsistence**  **Registration** |
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Please insert S, R, and/or D into any relevant box

**Key:**

**S** = Self

**R** = Spouse/partner/sibling or dependant

**D** = Department