

Overview and Enforcement of the Code

- ⇒ The obligations of the Code of Conduct are complementary to those which apply to all Members by virtue of the procedural and other rules of the House of Assembly and the rulings of the Speaker and to those which apply to Members falling within the scope of the Code of Conduct for Ministers.
- ⇒ Members are to abide with the law including international law and treaty obligations; to uphold the administration of justice and to protect the integrity of public life.

Elections

During the election period:

- ⇒ Government retains responsibility to govern. Ministers remain in charge of departments.
- ⇒ Decisions on policy matters should be postponed until after the elections, provided it is not detrimental to public interest or wasteful of public funds.
- ⇒ Public Officers should not be asked to carry out new research or develop new arguments for use in election debate.

Members Private Interest

Members are :

- ⇒ To ensure no conflict arises or can be reasonably perceived to arise between their public duties and private interests.
- ⇒ Members decisions should not be influenced or seen to be influenced by the hope or expectation of future employment with a particular firm or organisation.
- ⇒ To meet with the Permanent Secretary or Integrity Commission or both to agree on action on handling such interest.
- ⇒ To dispose of the interest giving rise to the conflict or take alternative steps to prevent it.
- ⇒ To consider ceasing to hold a particular office if the avoidance of conflict of interest is not possible.

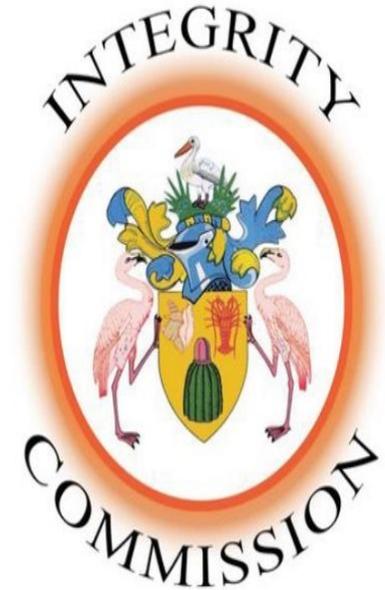
Transparency

- ⇒ Members should be open and transparent as possible about actions and decisions taken as long as it is in the public interest.

Gifts

No Member should accept gifts, hospitality or services from anyone which might, or might reasonably appear to, compromise their judgement or place them under improper obligation.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

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What is the Code of Conduct for House of Assembly Members?

The Code of Conduct applies to a Member's conduct in relation to their membership in the House. The Code does not seek to regulate the conduct of Members in their private and personal lives unless the conduct of such (private personal lives) significantly damages the reputation of the House of Assembly as a whole.

Members are expected to:

- ⇒ Read and be conversant with the Code of Conduct, TCI Constitution, the Integrity Commission Ordinance, the Public Finance Management Ordinance and the Public Service Ordinance and abide by the overarching duty to generally comply with the law.
- ⇒ Be aware that a breach of the Code may constitute an act of corruption or other criminal offence under the Integrity Commission Ordinance.
- ⇒ Observe and uphold the **Seven Principles of Public Life** and be **guided by the Guide to identifying, avoiding and managing Conflict of Interests** respectively set out as **Appendices A and B** to the Code of Conduct.

General and Specific Obligations

- ⇒ Members have a duty to act in the interests of all residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- ⇒ By virtue of oath, or affirmation, of allegiance taken by all Members when they are elected to the House, they have a duty to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, her heirs and successors, according to law.
- ⇒ Members should act on all occasions in accordance with the public trust placed in them. They should always behave with probity and integrity especially in the use of public resources.
- ⇒ Information received in confidence in the course of their duties in the House of Assembly should only be used in connection to those duties.
- ⇒ Members should ensure that their use of public resources is always in support of their duties in the House of Assembly.
- ⇒ Members shall never undertake any action which would cause significant damage to the reputation and integrity of the House of Assembly or its Members generally.
- ⇒ Members should behave with courtesy to each other.
- ⇒ Members must not accept any rewards or benefits which might influence or be seen to influence the performance of their duties in the House of Assembly.
- ⇒ Members must abide by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Integrity Commission Ordinance.

Members and Public Officers

Members:

- ⇒ Must treat all public officers with courtesy and respect.
- ⇒ Must not interfere in issues affecting a public officer's career such as recruitment, promotion, reward, discipline, dismissal or assignment or allocation of responsibilities.
- ⇒ Must uphold political impartiality and objectivity of the Public Service and not seek to influence public officers in any way.
- ⇒ Public Officers who believe Members are seeking to influence them to act against their legal obligation, must report that to the relevant authority.
- ⇒ Such a report is a protected disclosure against any suffering or disadvantage under the Public Service and Integrity Commission Ordinances.