

Rulings Panel Member Code of Conduct

This Code provides guidance to Panel members in the performance of their functions and duties in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the Panel, to assist them in identifying and resolving potential conflicts, and to ensure high standards of professional and ethical behaviour.

The Code is to be applied in conjunction with the Public Service Code of Conduct for Crown Entity Board Members [Code of Conduct For Crown Entity Board Members - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission](#)

Guiding Principles for Panel Members:

- Panel members should observe and foster high ethical standards.
- Panel members' behaviour and performance should be in keeping with the values of integrity, fairness, transparency, accountability, and efficiency.
- Panel members must be independent in their judgement and decisions and use due care, diligence and skill.
- Panel members should not engage in conduct likely to bring discredit upon the Panel or the Minister.

Conflicts of Interest, Disclosures of Interest and Transparency

- Panel members must be aware of and conduct themselves in accordance with regulations 101 to 104 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Industry Regulations 2010.
- The Panel maintains an Interests Register. Members must disclose all interests and ensure that the Register is kept up to date. If a member has a conflict, they must recuse themselves from any matter that relates to the conflict.
- A Panel member who has a continuing conflict of interest of a material nature that cannot be satisfactorily resolved after consultation with the Chair should consider resignation, particularly where the material conflict prejudices their ability to contribute to the business of the Panel.
- Monitoring conflicts is a joint responsibility. If a Panel member considers that another member may have a conflict, then they must raise it.
- Panel Members are to maintain a Transparency Register. Members should disclose interactions and engagements with the Electricity Authority and Industry Participants and any other interactions they think might be perceived by members of the public as relating to the Panel's functions.

Confidentiality

- Panel members must comply with regulation 116 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010.
- Panel members must keep confidential and not disclose any other non-public information disclosed to them as Panel members unless required to do so by law.

Social Media

- Panel members need to bear in mind the necessity for respect of the privacy inherent in Panel discussions and decision-making, especially if they have social media accounts.
- It is unwise for Panel members with social media accounts to rely on privacy settings, as these may change – the only safe course is to assume any content posted on social media may become public, contrary to the Panel member's wishes. Material can be disseminated widely in seconds and may be impossible to remove once disseminated. The "practical permanence" of social media content means Panel members should give consideration to the content of the material they share on social media, as casual remarks or embarrassing comments are at risk of exposure long after they have been forgotten about. This is an especially important consideration, given the Panel's functions.