

Strategic Independent Advisory Group

Code of Conduct

Members of the Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) will be required to abide by the guiding principles contained within this document.

The Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life:

1. **Selflessness**
Members of SIAG should act solely in the public interest. They should not act in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
2. **Integrity**
Members of SIAG should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to third party individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
3. **Objectivity**
In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, members of SIAG should make choices on merit.
4. **Accountability**
Members of SIAG are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to scrutiny that is deemed appropriate to their office.
5. **Openness**
Members of SIAG should be as open as possible about the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
6. **Honesty**
Members of SIAG have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
7. **Leadership**
Members of SIAG should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Confidentiality

1. As a member of the SIAG, you will necessarily learn of and acquire confidential information that has not yet been made public. It will be regarded as a betrayal of trust to breach such confidences. You should never disclose or use confidential information arising from the work of the group for personal advantage for you, of anyone known to you or to the disadvantage or discredit of the Group, Police Service or anyone else.

2. Apart from the breach of trust there may be cause for prosecution under the Data Protection Act for the breach of confidential information.

Equal Opportunities

SIAG members have a duty to ensure equality of opportunity and to prevent discrimination. SIAG members should draw the attention of the Chair to suspected discriminatory acts, or cases of bullying and harassment. SIAG aims to remove any barriers, bias or discrimination that prevents individuals from becoming members and contributing fully to SIAG regardless of gender identity, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation or disability.

Respecting each Other

SIAG members should value and promote equality and diversity. Members must show each other respect and treat each other fairly and with courtesy.

Media

Members should not speak directly to the media about the views of the SIAG without the prior agreement of the Chair of SIAG. The content of SIAG meetings should not be publicly disclosed without the prior consent of the Chair.

Identification

Any identification should be worn and prominently displayed whenever you are attending Police premises. Guest passes will be issued and should be returned.

Gifts and Hospitality

You will need to treat with caution any offer of gift, favour or hospitality that is made to you personally, knowing you to be a member of SIAG. The person or organisation making the offer may be doing so to obtain information or trying to influence a decision. You are personally responsible for all decisions connected with the acceptance or offer of gifts or hospitality and for avoiding the risk of damage to public confidence in SIAG.

Disclosure of Interests

1. If you have an interest in a matter arising at a meeting of SIAG or through its work you should always disclose it. Having declared an interest you may be asked to withdraw from the meeting during discussion. It is open to you to declare an interest in any work of SIAG. Consider whether the public would regard your interest as so closely connected with the matter in question that you could not be expected to put it out of your mind.

2. The opportunity to make a declaration of interest will be given at the start of each meeting. However, members can at any point during a meeting declare an interest when it becomes apparent they have one.
3. You should at all times avoid any occasion for suspicion and any appearance of improper conduct. You should not allow the impression to be created that you are, or may be, using your position to promote a private or personal interest, rather than forwarding the general public interest. You should ask yourself whether members of the public, knowing all facts of the situation, would reasonably think that you might be influenced by it.
4. SIAG Members should declare any interest, membership, or subscription to any political party, organisation or group that may have inappropriate views on religion, race, sexual orientation, gender or disability.
5. Having made a declaration it will be open to SIAG to decide if the work of the Group requires you to continue to take part in a meeting that is discussing a matter in which you have an interest. If opinion is divided and there is equality of votes the decision of the Chair shall be final.
6. If in doubt about the need to disclose an interest, disclose it anyway and take the advice of the Group on whether you should continue to take part in the business under consideration.

All members of SIAG will be required to agree that they will abide by the guiding principles outlined in this document.