



## Conflict of Interest Policy: Data for Policy Conference Peer Review

The provided text outlines a policy regarding conflicts of interest (COI) in the context of reviewing submissions for inclusion in the Data for Policy conference.

### Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that actual and potential conflicts of interest do not influence the decision-making process when reviewing submissions to the conference. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of reviewers, committee members, and anyone involved in making decisions. The goal is to prevent undue influence, bias, embarrassment, or risks to the credibility to the Data for Policy conference.

### Scope:

This policy applies to all individuals involved in reviewing submissions for Data for Policy. It covers conflicts of interest that may arise from personal, professional, or financial relationships with authors of submissions.

### Principles:

**Declaration of Conflicts:** All potential conflicts of interest must be declared, regardless of their magnitude. The emphasis is on declaration: if there is any doubt as to whether there is an actual, potential or perceived conflict, it must be declared.  
**Expertise vs. Bias:** The need for decisions to be informed by expert reviewers and committee members is balanced against the risk of bias due to conflicts of interest.  
**Definition of Conflicts:** A conflict of interest is anything that interferes with, or could be perceived as interfering with full and objective peer review. Conflicts of interest can arise in relation to organisations and individuals, and can be financial or non-financial, professional, or personal.

### Key Components:

**Managing conflicts for reviewers:** All reviewers are required to declare conflicts of interest as soon as they become apparent. If a conflict is identified after a review assignment, the request may be withdrawn, and transferred to another reviewer.

**Handling conflicts where authors are committee members or local chairs:** Authors who are also committee members or local chairs will not take part in review of, discussion of, or decision on their submissions.



Exceptions: The policy does not apply to the conference general chairs, who are the final decision makers in all instances. In exceptional cases for submissions in highly specialised areas, conflicts may be unavoidable, and will be recorded with justification.