

Decision Panel – Conflict of Interest

What is a conflict of interest?

A conflict of interest is defined as any financial, personal, professional or institutional interest or connection of any individual application which may, if undeclared, expose Hackney CVS or the recommendations of its funding committee open to accusations of bias and inappropriate influence in assessment or funding recommendations.

Panel reviewers will be sent this Conflict of Interest Policy and asked to declare any interest before committing to review a grant application.

Examples of Conflict of interest for panel members

A. Financial Conflict: anyone who has financial or commercial interest in a grant application submitted to Hackney CVS.

B. Applicant and partner conflict: anyone listed as main applicant on a grant application submitted Hackney CVS.

C. Involvement Conflict: anyone who was involved in developing any given application, for instance as a member of service user consulted on the project.

D. Competition Conflict: anyone who has competitive interest with a grant application submitted to Hackney CVS that may result in a strong decision bias during the time of the completion of their review.

This is not an exhaustive list; other conflicts of interest not listed here may arise. Hackney CVS asks potential panel members to use their judgement and declare a conflict of interest they feel may impact their ability to fairly and comprehensively review given a grant application.

Identification and resolution of conflicts of interest

It is up to the panel member to decide whether a conflict of interest could exist, and if so, to declare the conflict. Consideration must be given to how things could appear to others and, in all cases, individuals should err on the side of caution, declaring an interest if there is any possibility that a conflict may exist.

If a conflict is identified, the panel member concerned should declare this to Hackney CVS team as soon as possible. They may be excluded from reviewing that particular grant application but may review another application which they are not conflicted.