

**8. Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee: Report (Members' Interests) –
Report received and recommendations approved**

The Chairman of the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee (Mr Speaker) to move:

That the First Report of the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee for the Session 2020-2021 [[PP No 2020/0215](#)] be received and the following recommendations be approved:

Recommendation 1

That the draft amendments to the Register of Members' Interests Rules set out at Annex 1 of this report be approved by Tynwald.

Recommendation 2

That the proposed revision to paragraph 4.7 to the Schedule of Tynwald Standing Orders at Annex 3 to this Report be made.

The President: We turn now to Item 8, Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee Report and I call on the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Speaker to move.

The Chairman of the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee (Mr Speaker):
Gura mie eu, Eaghtyrane.

Tynwald Standing Orders require the Tynwald Standards and Members' Interests Committee to establish Rules for the Register of Members' interests, subject to the approval of Tynwald.

The Rules place a duty on Members of Tynwald to register interests in order to inform Tynwald Court and the public of any circumstances arising from them which could reasonably be regarded as bearing upon the way in which any Member may carry out his or her duties.

I urge Members to keep their register entry constantly under review and up to date, especially regarding memberships and gifts which are the most likely to change.

When the Rules were established, the main administration of Members' Interests was based on hard-copy processes. Since then, the Office of the Clerk of Tynwald has transformed its processes so that most material is processed electronically. The Tynwald website has also grown in significance as a comprehensive source of information for Members of Tynwald and the public, and as a tool for greater public engagement.

The current Rules are based on an outdated hard copy approach to providing information. The purpose of this Report is to modernise the process of maintaining the Register to improve access for the public and to increase transparency.

Nowadays, there is no longer a need for a hard copy of the Register; the Tynwald website is a far more effective way to make the Register available to Members and the public. If a member of the public does not have access to the internet, of course it will be possible to provide printed copies of the Register.

Similarly, the method of registering interests should be made the same as other business and able to be done electronically, which at present the Rules do not allow.

There is one further change: the definition of 'relevant interest' in the Rules was written into section 3 of the Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020. The definition in the Act applies to candidates for the Keys and local authority elections and can be altered by the Council of Ministers subject to the approval of Tynwald.

There is no statutory obligation for either definition to be kept in line with the other. However, it was implied in the debates that if the Tynwald Members' definition changed, the Council of Ministers would bring the candidates' definition into line.

The Committee proposes to add a footnote to the Rules which will serve as a reminder to draw any future change to the Council of Ministers' attention so that they can consider doing this.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the draft amendments to the Register of Members' Interests Rules set out at Annex 1 of this report be approved by Tynwald, and a proposed revised version of the Register of Members' Interests Rules is printed at Annex 2.

Mr President, I beg to move.

The President: Hon. Member, Mr Robertshaw.

Mr Robertshaw: Thank you, Mr President.

These are welcome updates and I beg to second, thank you.

The President: Hon. Members, I put the motion to the Court. If there be no dissent, I take the motion to carry.

The motion carries. Thank you, Hon. Members.