

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Outlined below are questions we are most frequently asked about the Lay Member appointments, and corresponding answers.

1. **Can I apply if I am a registered member of a political party?** Individuals are ineligible for this role if they are current or former MPs or Peers or if they have been involved in party political activity (as defined above pages 5/6) or have been a member of or donated to a political party during the 12 months before their application was submitted.
2. **What interests should I declare?** The purpose of these provisions is to avoid any danger of lay members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties. There is a requirement to declare any actual or potential conflict of interest you may have in being appointed in a separate form. Any actual or perceived conflicts of interest will be fully explored by the Panel at interview stage.
3. **Can I apply for this role if I do not live in the UK?** Applicants should be aware that if they have resided outside of the UK for a total of more than two of the last five years, they are not eligible for vetting.
4. **Is the role paid, and are expenses reimbursed?** This is a remunerated non-executive position currently paying £600 per 8-hour day (proportionate to actual hours worked, including preparation time). All reasonable out-of-pocket expenses wholly, exclusively, and properly incurred will be reimbursed (subject to providing vouchers, receipts, or other evidence of actual payment of such expenses and subject to the arrangement being specifically agreed in advance). Expenses incurred by candidates during the recruitment process will not be reimbursed except in exceptional circumstances and only when agreed in advance.
5. **What are the House of Commons Recess dates?** Please follow this link <https://www.parliament.uk/about/faqs/house-of-commons-faqs/business-faq-page/recess-dates/>
6. **What is the time commitment?** The appointment will be for a fixed term of up to a maximum of six years. The tenure is non-renewable. In total, candidates should be willing to dedicate around three to four days a month when Parliament is sitting to the Standards Committee.
7. **When are meetings held, and will I need to be available at short notice?** The Committee is likely to meet about two or three times a month on average when Parliament is sitting, dependent on workload. It is usually possible to schedule meeting dates some time in advance, but the Committee may need to meet at short notice and may sometimes delegate work to one or more sub-committees which would hold separate meetings. Meetings are currently held on a Tuesday at 9.00 am.

8. **When would I be expected to start if successful?** Successful candidates should be available to take up post as soon as possible.

9. **Has COVID-19 impacted the work of the Committee?** During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, all meetings of the Committee have been held remotely, via Microsoft Teams.