



House of Commons  
Committee on  
Standards and Privileges

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# **Conduct of Mr Gregory Campbell**

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**Seventh Report of Session 2006-07**





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*Report and Appendices, together with formal  
minutes*

*Ordered by The House of Commons  
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## The Committee on Standards and Privileges

The Committee on Standards and Privileges is appointed by the House of Commons to oversee the work of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards; to examine the arrangements proposed by the Commissioner for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests and any other registers of interest established by the House; to review from time to time the form and content of those registers; to consider any specific complaints made in relation to the registering or declaring of interests referred to it by the Commissioner; to consider any matter relating to the conduct of Members, including specific complaints in relation to alleged breaches in the Code of Conduct which have been drawn to the Committee's attention by the Commissioner; and to recommend any modifications to the Code of Conduct as may from time to time appear to be necessary.

### Current membership

Rt Hon Sir George Young Bt MP (*Conservative, North West Hampshire*) (Chairman)  
Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP (*Labour, Rother Valley*)  
Rt Hon David Curry MP (*Conservative, Skipton & Ripon*)  
Mr Andrew Dismore MP (*Labour, Hendon*)  
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Mr Brian Jenkins MP (*Labour, Tamworth*)  
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Mr Chris Mullin MP (*Labour, Sunderland South*)  
The Hon Nicholas Soames MP (*Conservative, Mid Sussex*)  
Dr Alan Whitehead MP (*Labour, Southampton Test*)

### Powers

The constitution and powers of the Committee are set out in Standing Order No. 149. In particular, the Committee has power to order the attendance of any Member of Parliament before the committee and to require that specific documents or records in the possession of a Member relating to its inquiries, or to the inquiries of the Commissioner, be laid before the Committee. The Committee has power to refuse to allow its public proceedings to be broadcast. The Law Officers, if they are Members of Parliament, may attend and take part in the Committee's proceedings, but may not vote.

### Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at: [www.parliament.uk/sandp](http://www.parliament.uk/sandp). A list of Reports of the Committee in the present Parliament is at the back of this volume.

### Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Dr Christopher Ward (Clerk), Dr Susan Griffiths (Second Clerk) and Miss Michelle Owens (Secretary).

### Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to The Clerk of the Committee on Standards and Privileges, Journal Office, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6615.

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# Conduct of Mr Gregory Campbell

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1. We have received a memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards concerning a complaint by Mr Noel Adams against Mr Gregory Campbell, Member for East Londonderry. The complaint alleged that Mr Campbell had failed to register remunerated positions as a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and as a member of Derry City Council from his election in 2001 until 13 March 2007, and that he had failed to declare his interest as a councillor at certain meetings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in 2005. The Commissioner's memorandum is reproduced at Appendix 1.
2. In accordance with our usual practice, we have shown Mr Campbell a copy of the Commissioner's memorandum. He subsequently sought a meeting with the Clerk, an agreed note of which is reproduced at Appendix 2, together with a letter from the Commissioner to the Clerk concerning two points raised by Mr Campbell which related to the conduct of the inquiry.
3. We agree with the Commissioner that the complaint by Mr Adams cannot be upheld in the form in which it was made. We also agree that Mr Campbell was late in registering his membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly after both the 2001 and 2005 General Elections, and his membership of Derry City Council after the 2005 Election.
4. Mr Campbell has written to the Chairman apologising for both failures to register those interests in a timely fashion. His letter is reproduced at Appendix 3.
5. In his meeting with the Clerk, and in his letter to the Chairman, Mr Campbell explained the background to his failure to declare his pecuniary interest as a councillor in the public evidence session of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee held on 29 November 2005,<sup>1</sup> and has expressed regret for this failure. As to the alleged failure to declare a similar interest at the meeting on 7 December 2005, we accept his explanation that he is uncertain that he was present when the Committee dealt with the relevant agenda item, but also note his admission that had he been, he would have been unlikely to have declared it for the same reasons as he had not done so at the evidence session.
6. Declaration of relevant financial interests by select committee members, particularly in public evidence sessions, plays an important part in ensuring transparency in parliamentary proceedings. The responsibility for ensuring that Members comply with the requirements of the House in this respect rests with them alone. While, as in this case, the interest may be well known to the Committee itself, and possibly to the

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1 The transcript of this evidence session is published on the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's webpage on the Parliamentary website as House of Commons Paper No. 732-i, Session 2005-06.

witnesses and others present, it cannot be assumed that those reading the transcript of evidence will be as aware of it, or aware of it at all.

**7. It is important that all members recognise that it is their personal responsibility to take the initiative in declaring pecuniary interests in select committee proceedings whenever they are relevant. It is no defence to an allegation of failure to declare that they were not prompted to do so, whether by the Chair or otherwise. We encourage all select committee members to be vigilant over this matter, and if in any doubt to seek advice from either the committee clerk or the Registrar of Members' Interests.**

8. The Commissioner concluded that, had Mr Campbell been willing to acknowledge and apologise for the several respects in which he had failed to comply fully with his obligations to register and declare interests, he would have been prepared to consider dealing with the matter under the rectification procedure.<sup>2</sup> As Mr Campbell has now done so, we do not recommend any further action against him. Had the Commissioner dealt with the matter under the rectification procedure, the relevant register entries would have appeared in a distinctive form. We have asked the Commissioner to ensure that they appear in the same form as they would have, had the matter been dealt with by him under the rectification procedure.

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<sup>2</sup> The procedure provided for in Standing Order No. 150(3) under which, in certain circumstances, the Commissioner may dispose of an established failure to comply with the rules without making a report to the Committee.

# Appendix 1: Memorandum from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

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# Complaint against Mr Gregory Campbell

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## The Complaint

1. On 17 April 2007 I received a letter from Mr Noel Adams about Mr Gregory Campbell, the Member for East Londonderry.<sup>1</sup> Mr Adams complained that:

- a) Mr Campbell had been elected a Member in 2001 but had not recorded his remunerated positions as a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and as a member of Derry City Council in the Register of Members' Interests until 13 March 2007.
- b) Mr Campbell had failed to declare his relevant interest as a Councillor at the meetings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee held on 29 November and 7 December 2005, at which the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland had been considered.<sup>2</sup>

2. Mr Adams suggested that, in and of itself, Mr Campbell's failure to register his interests might be regarded as a minor matter, now put right. However, Mr Campbell had also, he said, breached a clear rule that a Member should not take part in any proceeding of the House or of one of its committees if a relevant interest had not been declared. The Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland involved potential changes in local government that, Mr Adams alleged, had direct implications for Mr Campbell's paid position as a City Councillor.

## Relevant Provisions of the Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules

3. As regards the **registration and declaration of interests**, paragraph 16 of the Code provides:

*“Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members' Interests and shall always draw attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, or in any communication with Ministers, Government Departments or Executive Agencies.”<sup>3</sup>*

4. Paragraph 11 of the Guide to the Rules requires Members to submit a form notifying me of their registrable interests within 3 months of each occasion on which they are elected to the House.

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1 WE 1, p.13.

2 Mr Adams's letter refers to a meeting of the Select Committee on 7 November 2005 but there was no meeting of the Committee on that day. However, copies of the formal minutes of the Committee which he enclosed with his letter referred to meetings on the two dates I have mentioned.

3 “The Code of Conduct together with the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members”, HC 351, Session 2005-06. A similar provision was contained in previous editions of the Code.

5. Paragraph 65 of the Guide to the Rules contains a number of provisions relating to the declaration of interests in select committees. These reflect a Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 which approved certain paragraphs of a Report by the Select Committee on Members' Interests relating to the financial interests of Chairmen and members of Select Committees. The thrust of these provisions is that Members should declare any pecuniary or personal interest they have which is relevant to the work of any Select Committee of which they are a member, both when the Committee first meets and on any relevant subsequent occasions, especially when witnesses are present.<sup>4</sup>

## My Inquiries

6. In the light of the complaint I have:

- a) Checked the record of Mr Campbell's Register entries.
- b) Checked with the Clerk of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee the record of Mr Campbell's declarations of interest in the Committee.
- c) Sought Mr Campbell's own response to the complaint.

## 1. Registration

7. During the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly its Members (MLAs) received a salary of £31,817, although for MLAs who were also Members of the House this was abated by two thirds. Allowances for staffing and office costs amounted to £48,000 a year. As a member of Derry City Council, Mr Campbell has since April 2007 been entitled to a basic allowance of £9,500 a year, plus other expenses as appropriate. According to his letter of 3 July,<sup>5</sup> in the year prior to that he and other councillors were paid a fixed amount of some £4,000 p.a., plus an attendance allowance of £22 for any approved duty or meetings in any 24 hour period. Mr Campbell estimates that his average earnings as a councillor in the years between 2001 and 2006 were about £6,000 p.a.. Both his remunerated interest as an MLA and as a Derry City Councillor are registrable matters, and they are also declarable in relevant proceedings in the House or in Committee.

8. Mr Campbell entered the House at the 2001 General Election. In the first Register of Members' Interests of that Parliament, published in November 2001, he did register his membership of the City Council of Londonderry, of which he had been a member since 1981. The Register published a year later also contained an entry relating to Mr Campbell's membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly (of which Mr Campbell had notified my office on 9 July 2002). Mr Campbell had originally been a Member of the Assembly between 1982 and 1986, and had then been re-elected to it in 1998. Entries

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4 The text of Paragraph 65 of the Guide to the Rules is reproduced in full at WE 2, p. 13-14.

5 Reproduced at WE 8, p. 17.

relating to Mr Campbell's role as a City Councillor and as an Assembly member continued to appear in the Register to the end of the 2001-05 Parliament.

9. Following Mr Campbell's re-election to the House in 2005, however, he submitted a 'nil return' prior to the publication of the first Register of the current Parliament. That 'nil return' continued in the Register up to and including the edition published on the internet on 6 February 2007. On 10 March 2007, Mr Campbell wrote to me requesting that reference to his membership of the City Council and the Assembly be reinstated. This was effected in the internet edition of the Register published on 13 March 2007.

## 2. Declaration

10. Mr Campbell has been a member of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee since 4 May 2004. I am reliably informed that Mr Campbell has always been open with the Committee about his work as a member of Derry City Council, and his membership of the Assembly, and both of these are of course matters of wider public record. However, there appears to be no formal record of Mr Campbell having formally declared these interests, as he was required to do,<sup>6</sup> either on nomination to the Committee in 2004 or when it met for the first time following its nomination in the current Parliament.

11. Nor, according to the Committee records, did Mr Campbell declare his interest as a City Councillor at the meetings of the Select Committee held on 29 November and 7 December 2005. The meeting on 29 November took place on the second day of a two-day visit by the Committee to Northern Ireland and involved the taking of formal evidence in the Guildhall in Londonderry from the team which had undertaken the Review of Public Administration in the Province. This evidence has been reported to the House and published on the Committee's website as House of Commons Paper No.732-i. The recommendations of the Review, if accepted, would significantly reduce both the number and size of membership of local councils in Northern Ireland. In the process, the likely political composition of the councils would also be affected. However there is no evidence from the verbatim record that Mr Campbell declared his particular interest as a City Councillor to the witnesses who appeared before the Committee, as the fourth bullet point in paragraph 65 of the Guide to the Rules suggests he should have done.<sup>7</sup>

12. The Committee's formal minutes record that it considered the Review again at its meeting on 7 December 2005. Mr Campbell is recorded in the minutes as having been present at this meeting. Again there appears to be no formal record that he declared a relevant interest to his fellow Committee members.

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6 See the third bullet point in paragraph 65 of the Guide to the Rules, WE 2, p. 13.

7 *Ibid.*

### 3. Mr Campbell's Response to the Complaint

13. I wrote to Mr Campbell on 18 April alerting him to Mr Adams's complaint and inviting his response.<sup>8</sup> Mr Campbell replied on 22 May. I have appended his written response to this report.<sup>9</sup>

14. In his response Mr Campbell first refers to Mr Adams's allegation that Mr Campbell only registered his income from the City Council, and the Assembly on 13 March 2007. He suggests that it is his membership of the two bodies, rather than the income he derived from the membership, which he is under an obligation to disclose in the Register. He goes on to point out that Mr Adams's allegation is factually incorrect, as the Register published in 2002 carried information about both memberships. He concludes that Mr Adams's complaint that he had only registered them in March 2007 "*is therefore without foundation*".

15. On the subject of declaration, Mr Campbell says that the meetings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee which considered the Review of Public Administration in the Province "*did not constitute an Investigation*". The report of the Review had just been published when the Committee visited the Province and the Committee "*took the opportunity to get a briefing on the concluded report*". The minutes of the two meetings, he suggests, bear this out.

16. Mr Campbell concludes:

*"I find it somewhat odd that Mr Adams wrote to you on 11 April 2007 about a Committee hearing that took place 17 months before, of which Mr Adams as a member of the Campaign for Labour to organise in Northern Ireland was fully aware."*

### Further Comments by Mr Campbell

17. I wrote to Mr Campbell on 8 June to say that, while I accepted his argument that Mr Adams was wrong on the facts to claim that Mr Campbell had not registered his memberships of the Assembly and the City Council before March this year, I was not convinced that his other arguments disposed of the complaint against him. It was clear from the evidence that:

- His membership of the Assembly had not been entered in the first Register of the 2001-05 Parliament, but had only been registered a year or so later.
- Neither his membership of the Assembly nor his membership of the City Council had been re-registered after his re-election in 2005 until March 2007.

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<sup>8</sup> The text of my letter is at WE 3, p. 14. At WE 4, p. 15, is the text of a further letter I sent Mr Campbell on 16 May, correcting an error in my earlier letter in respect of one aspect of the complaint against him.

<sup>9</sup> WE 5, p. 15.

As regards the question of declaration of his interest at the meetings of the Select Committee referred to by the complainant, neither the relevant Resolution of the House nor the Guide to the Rules distinguished between Committee meetings held for the purposes of an investigation and those held for other purposes. Nor was I convinced that Mr Campbell was right in saying that the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee had simply been receiving a briefing rather than conducting an investigation. I was therefore minded to report formally to the Committee on Standards and Privileges on the complaint.

18. Mr Campbell replied on 19 June.<sup>10</sup> He continued to argue that the complaint as made by Mr Adams was factually incorrect, and suggested that on this ground it was 'bizarre' for me to proceed any further. On a factual point, he had only received income of £9,500 from Derry City Council from April 2007 on. I subsequently asked Mr Campbell to clarify what sums, if any, he had received from the Council between the date he entered the House and 2007, and have summarised his response in paragraph 7 above.<sup>11</sup>

## Findings of Fact

19. When Mr Campbell first entered the House in 2001, he registered his membership of Derry City Council. A year later he also registered his membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Both memberships pre-dated his entry to the House. Those entries remained in the Register until the end of that Parliament.

20. After his re-election in 2005, Mr Campbell failed to re-register either membership until he wrote to me on 10 March 2007 asking for both entries to be reinstated.

21. Although his membership of both bodies is well known in Northern Ireland and I am reliably informed that he has been open about them with other members of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Mr Campbell failed to declare either membership to the Committee when nominated to it in 2004 or when it was nominated at the beginning of the current Parliament. The Committee's formal minutes do not record any formal declaration of his interest as a City Councillor at its meetings held on 29 November and 7 December 2005, at which the Review of Public Administration in the Province was considered. Mr Campbell argues that he was not obliged to make such a declaration as the two meetings "did not constitute an Investigation".

## Conclusion

22. I examine in turn the two aspects of Mr Adams's complaint, as set out in paragraph 1. First, Mr Adams complained that Mr Campbell had not registered his interests as a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and of Derry City Council from the time he entered the House in 2001 until 13 March 2007. As my account of the position in

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10 The text of Mr Campbell's response is at WE 6, p. 16.

11 The text of my letter to Mr Campbell of 21 June and of his reply of 3 July is at WE 7, p. 16, and 8, p. 17 respectively.

paragraphs 7–9 (which has not been disputed by Mr Campbell) shows, both of these were registrable interests. In fact Mr Campbell did register his membership of the City Council in 2001 and his membership of the Assembly almost a year later. However the entries were not continued between his re-election in 2005 and March 2007.

23. I conclude that Mr Campbell is correct in saying that the complaint by Mr Adams cannot be upheld in the form in which Mr Adams made it. However, it is clear that Mr Campbell has failed to meet his obligations consistently in respect of registration under the Code. Specifically:

- i) He did not register his membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly on first entering the House in 2001, as he should have done. The interest was not registered until 9 July 2002, well past the three month deadline in paragraph 11 of the Guide to the Rules;
- ii) He failed to re-register both his Assembly and City Council memberships when re-elected in 2005 and did not notify my office of them until March of this year, a period of some 19 months after the relevant deadline.

24. Mr Campbell argues that because Mr Adams’s complaint cannot be upheld in the terms in which Mr Adams has stated it, the matter should end there. I disagree. Mr Adams’s complaint as such cannot be upheld on the facts, but my investigation of it has exposed a failure by Mr Campbell to comply with his obligations as regards registration of interests under the Code. **I find that Mr Campbell has breached those obligations, in the two respects listed in the preceding paragraph.**

25. The second part of Mr Adams’s complaint alleges that Mr Campbell failed to declare his relevant interest as a councillor at the meetings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee on 29 November and 7 December 2005. As I have described in paragraphs 10–12, there is no formal record of Mr Campbell having declared his interest on these two occasions, or indeed when he first joined the Committee in 2004 or when he was re-appointed to it in 2005. Mr Campbell appears to argue in his letter of 22 May<sup>12</sup> that there was no need for him to declare his interest, as the meetings referred to by the complainant did not constitute an investigation. However, in relation to declaration, the Guide does not distinguish between different types of Committee activity. Nor does the fact that Mr Campbell’s role as a councillor was well known excuse him from the obligation to declare it in relevant proceedings in the House, particularly on an occasion when witnesses were present.

26. **I therefore recommend that the second part of Mr Adams’s complaint be upheld.** I also find that Mr Campbell breached his obligations under the Code to declare relevant interests when he became a member of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in 2004, and again in 2005.

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12 WE 5, p. 15-16.

27. Had Mr Campbell been willing to acknowledge and apologise for the several respects in which his conduct has fallen short of his obligations as a Member, I should have been prepared to consider dealing with the consequences under the 'rectification procedure'.<sup>13</sup> Since Mr Campbell has failed to do either, I make this formal report to the Committee, in order that it may take such action as it sees fit.

*5 July*

*Sir Philip Mawer*

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<sup>13</sup> By exercising the discretion given me by the House under Standing Order No. 150(3)(a),

# Written evidence received by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards

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## 1. Letter to the Commissioner from Mr Noel Adams, 11 April 2007

Having had a look at the Register of Members' Interests I feel there is a possible issue with regard to Gregory Campbell E. Londonderry. His income from Derry City Council and the Assembly was only registered on 13.03.07, not June 2001.

In and of itself this might be a minor matter, now put right. However there is a clear rule in standards that an MP will not take part in any proceeding of the House or committee if a relevant interest has not been declared.

On 07.11.05 Mr Campbell was at the N.Ireland committee when RPA was on the agenda. This involved changes in local government that directly affected his paid position with Derry City Council. As this was not registered at the time the Commissioner might take a view that the matter is worth looking into.

*11 April 2007*

## 2. Paragraph 65 of the Guide to the Rules

Members of Select Committees on any matter or Bill are bound by the Resolution of the House of 13th July 1992 which approved certain paragraphs of a Report by the Select Committee on Members' Interests relating to the financial interests of Chairmen and members of Select Committees.[16] The main provisions are:

- before the Committee proceeds to the election of a Chairman all Members nominated to serve upon a Select Committee are required to send to the Clerk of the Committee details of any pecuniary interests for circulation to the Committee under the authority of the senior Member before its first meeting. The procedure is not necessary in the case of Select Committees of a wholly procedural nature. [Paragraph 25]
- “when a member of a Committee, particularly the Chairman, has a pecuniary interest which is directly affected by a particular inquiry or when he or she considers that a personal interest may reflect upon the work of the Committee or its subsequent Report, the Member should stand aside from the Committee proceedings relating to it.” [Paragraph 24]
- “before proceeding to business after the election of the Chairman, the Chairman of the Committee should invite all members of the Committee to declare any interests they may have which relate to the terms of reference of that Committee, or which are likely to be relevant to a substantial part of the work which the Committee may be expected to undertake”. [Paragraph 13]
- “A Member should make a declaration of interest at an early stage in any inquiry to which that interest particularly relates. If the interest is especially relevant to one witness or group of witnesses appearing before the Committee, the interest should be declared again at the appropriate session of evidence”. [Paragraph 13]
- A Member is required to “declare an interest when asking any questions which relate directly, or which might reasonably be thought by others to relate directly, to the pecuniary interest he or she holds ... Such a declaration must be made irrespective of any declaration having been made at an earlier meeting of the Committee”. One such declaration is sufficient for any questions asked of the same witnesses during one evidence Session. [Paragraph 13]
- “Although the main purpose of declaration of interest is to inform colleagues, it is right that witnesses and the public, if the Committee is meeting in public, should also be informed. When a Committee meets in public, declaration of interest should be in public Session. When a Committee meets in private and regularly takes oral evidence, declaration should be made when witnesses are present.” [Paragraph 13]

- “In making any declaration a Member should clearly identify the nature of the pecuniary interest. The form in which a declaration of interest is made, and its extent, must be primarily for the individual Member.” A casual reference is not sufficient. “A Member should make a declaration in clear terms and should ensure that such a declaration is entered in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee.” [Paragraph 14]
- It is “perfectly acceptable for a Member, when declaring an interest which is registered in the Register of Members’ Interests ... to refer to his or her entry in the Register”. [Paragraph 16]
- “we stress the importance of declaration when relevant and of declaring a pecuniary interest at the moment when it is most appropriate to do so. We do not wish to create a situation where the proceedings of Committees are frequently interrupted by declarations of tangential relevance to what is being considered ... the interests that a Member is required to register may not be at all relevant to his or her work on the Select Committee and consequently may never need to be declared during its proceedings.” [Paragraph 16]

### 3. Letter to Mr Gregory Campbell from the Commissioner, 18 April 2007

I enclose a copy of a letter and associated papers that I have received from Mr Adams, in which he in effect makes a complaint against you on the following grounds.

- i) that you became a Member of Parliament in 2001 but did not record your remunerated position as a Member of the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly and as a Councillor for Londonderry in the Register of Members’ Interests until 13 March 2007; and
- ii) that you failed to declare your relevant interest as a Councillor at the meetings of the Select Committee on Northern Ireland, of which you are a member, held on 29 November and 7 December 2005. (Mr Adams’s letter refers to a meeting of the Committee on 7 November 2005, although there was in fact no meeting on that date. The papers he enclosed with his letter refer, however, to the other two dates I have mentioned.)

From preliminary inquiries I have undertaken, I understand that:

- a) You have been a member of the Assembly since 1998 and of Londonderry City Council since 1981;
- b) neither of these interests was notified to this office until you sent an e-mail to me dated 10 March 2007.
- c) At its meetings on 29 November and 7 December 2005, the Northern Ireland Select Committee considered the Review of Public Administration (RPA) in Northern Ireland.
- d) The recommendations of the Review would, if accepted, have significantly reduced the number and size of councils in Northern Ireland, as well as affecting their likely political composition.
- e) There is no record of you having declared your Councillorship at either of those Committee meetings.
- f) Nor did you declare either interest to other members of the Committee when it met for the first time following the 2005 election.

Paragraph 16 of the Code of Conduct approved by the House provides:

‘Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members’ Interests and shall always draw attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committee, or in any communications with Ministers, Government Departments or Executive Agencies.’

Paragraph 11 of the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members (HC351, Session 2005–06) provides that Members are required to submit a form notifying the Registrar of their registrable interests within 3 months of their election to the House.

Paragraph 65 of the Guide contains a number of requirements relating to the declaration of interests in Select Committees of the House. I have sidelined those which appear most relevant on the enclosed extract from the Guide. Their thrust is that Members should declare any relevant pecuniary or personal interest they have which is relevant to the work of a Select Committee, both when the Committee first meets and on any relevant subsequent occasions, especially when witnesses are present.

In the light of these points, I should be grateful if you will let me have your response to Mr Adam's complaint, in accordance with the procedures for handling complaints approved by the House.

I enclose a note setting out these procedures, which I routinely send to all Members who are the subject of a complaint.

If you would like a word at any point about the complaint, please do not hesitate to ring me on the number above. Once I have received your response, I will decide how best to proceed.

*19 April 2007*

#### **4. Letter to Mr Gregory Campbell from the Commissioner, 16 May 2007**

As a month has passed since I wrote to you about this complaint, I am writing to enquire whether you are yet able to respond to Mr Adams's complaint?

I take this opportunity also to apologise for an error in my letter of 18 April. Further enquiries have disclosed that you did register your membership of Londonderry City Council in the Register of Members' Interests published in November 2001. You also registered your membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly in the Register published in November of the following year.

However, both memberships were omitted when the new Register was prepared following the 2005 General Election. You provided a nil return when that Register was drawn up (it was published in November 2005). The entries were re-instated in the Register published in March 2007.

The complaint by Mr Adams in this respect properly relates therefore to your failure to register these interests between the beginning of the current Parliament and 10 March 2007 when you asked my office to make an appropriate Register entry.

I hope this clarification is helpful and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

*16 May 2007*

#### **5. Letter to the Commissioner from Mr Gregory Campbell, 22 May 2007**

Thank you for your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

Mr Adams' assertion falls into two categories and therefore I shall respond to each.

His first point is that my "income from Derry City Council and the Assembly was only registered on 13.03.07, not June 2001". I assume this refers to membership as the income from membership of both is in the public domain and as I understand the requirements, it is membership rather than income from the membership which should be disclosed. Mr Adams' inference that I did not disclose membership of both Council and Assembly before 2001 is factually incorrect as the Register of Members Interest entry against my name as listed on the House of Commons internet site for 2002 indicates that I entered both memberships. His complaint regarding my having "only registered on 13.03.07" is therefore without foundation.

The second issue relates to the discussion of the Review of Public Administration at the NI Affairs Select Committee. The meetings referred to did not constitute an Investigation. Indeed the Review of Public Administration report had just been issued when the NI Committee were visiting Northern Ireland and the Committee took the opportunity to get a briefing on the concluded report. An examination of the minutes of the meetings at which this was discussed indicates this.

I find it somewhat odd that Mr Adams wrote to you on 11/4/07 about a Committee hearing that took place 17 months before, of which Mr Adams as a member of the Campaign for Labour to organise in Northern Ireland was fully aware.

I hope this has been helpful, I apologise for the delay in replying.

22 May 2007

## 6. Letter to the Commissioner from Mr Gregory Campbell, 19 June 2007

Thank you for your letter dated 8 June.

I wish to make just a few points regarding your investigation into the complaint by Mr Adams.

I fail to see the validity of a charge which clearly states that my income (and thereby membership) from the Assembly and the Council was “only registered on 13/3/07, not June 2001”. This is totally and incontrovertibly NOT THE CASE. The fact that you have admitted the charge is factually incorrect, but still wish to proceed seems bizarre.

On the issue of registration, income of £9,500 from the City Council only began to be paid to me from April 2007, not when the alleged “unregistration” occurred.

When the Committee on Standards and Privileges receives your formal report I trust I will be given the opportunity to respond.

19 June 2007

## 7. Letter to Mr Gregory Campbell from the Commissioner, 21 June 2007

I write formally to thank you for your letter of 19 June in reply to mine of 8 June about this complaint. Now that I have been able to study it I have one query to put to you, which I hope will be quickly resolved.

You say:

*“On the issue of registration, income of £9,500 from the City Council only began to be paid to me from April 2007, not when the alleged “unregistration” occurred.”*

I am not clear whether you received no income at all from the City Council prior to April 2007, or merely a sum below £9,500. I should be grateful if you would tell me what sums you received from the Council, if any, during the period between 2001 when you entered the House and April 2007.

You ask if you will be given the opportunity to respond when my report goes to the Committee on Standards and Privileges. The answer is ‘yes’. I am enclosing the relevant procedural note, by way of a reminder of the process.

A speedy reply to my query would be helpful.

21 June 2007

## **8. Letter to the Commissioner from Mr Gregory Campbell, 3 July 2007**

Further to your letter dated 21 June.

Prior to April 2007 local councillors were paid a fixed amount plus an attendance allowance. I understand the fixed amount for the year immediately preceding this one was approximately £4,000 pa, the attendance allowance was £22 for any approved duty/meetings in any 24 hour period. I do not recall the figures for the years before that. My average earnings as a councillor in the years between 2001 and 2006 were about £6,000 p.a.

*3 July 2007*

## Appendix 2: Agreed note of meeting between Mr Gregory Campbell and the Clerk of the Committee, 18 July 2007

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1. Mr Campbell asked for a meeting following receipt of the Commissioner's full report and my covering letter.

2. There were three matters which concerned him: an attempt by the Commissioner's office to contact him through his party Whips, despite a request that all contact be through his personal address as he wished to ensure the confidentiality of the investigation; the reference in the report to the possibility of using the rectification procedure, which he did not recall being put to him by the Commissioner in the course of his inquiry; and the arrangements for declaring interests in Select Committee. It was for these three reasons that he had asked to give oral evidence to the Standards and Privileges Committee.

3. On the first point, he explained that when he had raised the matter with the Commissioner's office, he had been advised to raise it with the Commissioner, which he thought odd, or with the Committee, as the body overseeing the Commissioner's work. As it appeared to me that there may have been an element of misunderstanding in the matter, I said that I would be happy to raise it with the Commissioner personally, to establish what had happened, rather than the point be put to the Committee in oral evidence. Mr Campbell agreed to this.

4. On the second point, Mr Campbell commented that he had approached the Commissioner's inquiry on the basis that, as the principal element of the complaint was palpably wrong, it was bound to fail, as it would in judicial proceedings. I responded that it had been the practice of successive Commissioners, endorsed by the Committee, that where potential breaches of the Code emerged in the course of the Commissioner's investigation of a complaint, to report on those even if the complaint had not been substantiated, in whole or in part. Mr Campbell responded that he had not appreciated this, nor had he been aware, before he saw the Commissioner's report, of the existence of the rectification procedure. Had he been, he would have wanted to explore with the Commissioner its potential as a way forward in dealing with the complaint.

5. I undertook to discuss the point with the Commissioner.

6. On the question of the delay, both in 2001 and 2005 in registering his interests both as a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly and as a member of the city council of Londonderry, he accepted that on both occasions he had been late in doing so, and apologised. His nil return in 2005 had been an inadvertent mistake; there was no intention on his part to mislead as, at the material time, his membership of the council was public knowledge through the Northern Ireland Assembly Register of Interests, as he would be happy to demonstrate to the Committee.

7. On his failure to declare his membership of the city council at the evidence session on 29 November 2005, Mr Campbell questioned both whether there had been an opportunity and whether the interest was of sufficient relevance, given the very general nature of the evidence session. The Chairman had not called for any declaration of interests; the Review of Public Administration went much further than simply proposing changes to local government; and given that the proposals had only just been published, and were controversial, there was no prospect of the evidence session having a direct bearing on their implementation.

8. I commented that the expectation was that Members took the initiative in select committee evidence sessions in declaring relevant financial interests; it was not for the Chair to prompt this. Mr Campbell had asked four questions of the witnesses and the normal practice was to preface the first question with any relevant declaration. Mr Campbell said that he had not been aware that this was the proper practice.

9. On the relevance of the interest, I commented that it was clear that the RPA proposals on local government, if implemented, would have an impact on the council of which he was a member. As a present member he received allowances, and any reorganisation might impact on his continued membership. He therefore had a financial interest in the matter, and I expected that the Committee would agree with the Commissioner on this point.

10. Mr Campbell accepted that, given what I had said to him, he should have declared the interest and was willing to offer an apology to the Committee for his failure to do so.

11. As to the 7 December meeting, Mr Campbell accepted that he had been present for at least some of the meeting but was not certain he had been present when the Review had been discussed. I said that the Committee would indeed recognise that inclusion on the attendance list was not conclusive evidence of whether a member had been present for a particular item. I had therefore asked the Clerk if his unpublished records shed any light on this point, one way or the other; they did not.

12. Mr Campbell commented that, had he been present, he would have been unlikely to have declared the interest, for the same reasons as he had not done so on 29 November.

13. It was agreed that Mr Campbell would write to me drawing my attention to his concerns on the first two points set out in paragraph 2. He would write to the Chairman apologising for his failure to register, and to declare his interest at the 29 November evidence session.

14. In the light of the letters he was sending, Mr Campbell thought that he probably no longer needed to ask to appear personally. I noted this, and invited him to reflect overnight before giving me a firm decision.

# Letter to the Clerk of the Committee from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, 23 July 2007

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## COMPLAINT AGAINST MR GREGORY CAMPBELL

Thank you for sharing with me the letter you have received from Mr Campbell expressing concern about 2 points surrounding my report to the Committee about this complaint. I think that both matters reflect a degree of misunderstanding and I welcome this opportunity to clarify the position.

First, Mr Campbell expresses concern that at one point my office rang the DUP Whips Office to ask Mr Campbell to make contact with us. Although Mr Campbell's letters to me included his home address, he had not asked me to communicate with him only through that address, and in fact my letters had been addressed to him at the House of Commons. When, at one point, I needed to check the progress of a reply expected from Mr Campbell to a letter from me, I asked my PA to check the position with Mr Campbell's office. She rang Mr Campbell's office number at the House, which was diverted to the DUP Whips, something of which she could not have been aware. I can only express regret for any difficulty her entirely inadvertent contact with the staff of his party's Whips office may have caused Mr Campbell.

On the second matter, the availability of the 'rectification procedure' is mentioned in paragraph 13 and the Annex to Procedural Note 3, a copy of which I sent Mr Campbell with my initial letter to him of 18 April about the complaint. Since our correspondence never got beyond the facts surrounding the complaint, there was never again an occasion for me specifically to draw this possibility to Mr Campbell's attention.

I am only sorry in retrospect that Mr Campbell did not take up the offer of a conversation with me about the complaint, which I first tendered in my letter of 18 April. Had that happened, I am sure that these misunderstandings could easily have been avoided.

## Appendix 3: Letter to the Chairman from Mr Gregory Campbell, 18 July 2007

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I am writing in connection with the recent report by the Commissioner for Standards regarding a complaint against me.

The Report refers to my failure to declare my interest in the Members' Interest Register and at two meetings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (of which I am a member).

My failure to declare membership was an oversight which I regret and apologise for, the entries were made later, but before the complaint was instigated.

At the first of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee meetings alluded to I did not realise that a declaration would be required by me, if I had I would of course have declared it as my membership of the City Council is public knowledge in Londonderry where the meeting was held, and where I live. At the second meeting, while I was present for part of the meeting I am unsure if I was in attendance for the part of it which dealt with the Reform of Public Administration (where a declaration would have been necessary).

## Formal minutes

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**Wednesday 25 July 2007**

Members present:

Sir George Young, in the Chair

Mr Kevin Barron  
Mr Elfyn Llwyd

Mr Chris Mullin  
Dr Alan Whitehead

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report [Conduct of Mr Gregory Campbell], proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman's draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 8 read and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Seventh Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Several Papers were ordered to be appended to the Report.

*Ordered*, That the Appendices to the Report be reported to the House.—(*The Chairman.*)

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[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 October at 10.30 am

# Reports from the Committee on Standards and Privileges in the current Parliament

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## Session 2006–07

First Report	Evidence to the SSRB Review of Parliamentary pay, pensions and allowances	HC 330
Second Report	Conduct of Mr David Cameron	HC 429
Third Report	Complaints about alleged misuse of Parliamentary dining facilities	HC 431
Fourth Report	Conduct of Mr Julian Brazier	HC 682
Fifth Report	Handling of future complaints on misuse of the private dining facilities	HC 683
Sixth Report	Conduct of Mr George Galloway	HC 909
Seventh Report	Conduct of Mr Gregory Campbell	HC 992

## Session 2005–06

First Report	Conduct of Mr Jonathan Sayeed	HC 419
Second Report	Conduct of Mr John Horam	HC 420
Third Report	Conduct of Mr Tony Baldry	HC 421
Fourth Report	Pay for Standing Committee Chairmen	HC 568
Fifth Report	Electoral Administration Bill: Simplification of Reporting Requirements	HC 807
Sixth Report	Mr Stephen Byers (Matter referred on 19 October 2005)	HC 854
Seventh Report	Conduct of Mr George Galloway	HC 1067
Eighth Report	Conduct of Mr Mark Lancaster	HC 1144
Ninth Report	Lobbying and All Party Groups	HC 1145
Tenth	Conduct of Mr Michael Foster (Worcester)	HC 1223
Eleventh	Conduct of Ms Emily Thornberry	HC 1367
Twelfth	Conduct of Nadine Dorries	HC 1368
Thirteenth	Conduct of Mr John Prescott	HC 1553
Fourteenth	Conduct of Dr Desmond Turner	HC 1578
Fifteenth	Conduct of Mr Eric Illsley	HC 1579
Sixteenth	Review of the Guide to the Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members: Consultation Document	HC 1580