



Disclosure of Interest

Acquisition of BLPT

The Co-operation and Competition Panel (CCP) aims to promote fairness, openness and transparency in its decision-making processes.

The CCP has procedures in place to identify and manage conflicts of interest. Our Rules of Procedure provide that Panel members will not participate in decision-making about matters where they have a conflict of interest.

One Panel member, John Wotton, has disclosed that his wife holds a part-time position as a staff psychiatrist with Camden & Islington NHS FT.

We consider that no conflict of interest arises as the Panel member's wife is not involved in advising on or preparing the bid, and we have no reason to believe that her position would be affected by the success or failure of her organisation's bid for BLPT. Therefore, the Panel member will sit on the Panel when it makes its decision on this matter. We note generally that Panel members are subject to confidentiality obligations, and information about the Panel's consideration of the case will not be shared by any of the Panel members with third parties prior to a decision being taken.

Before reaching this view we wrote to all parties concerned in the matter on 9 August 2009 and no party raised any concern with this disclosure.

Andrew Taylor
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel

4 September 2009