



Conflict Of Interest Policy

If Something Isn't Right

You should speak with a committee officer or consult our **[grievance policy](#)** or **[whistleblowing policy](#)**.

This document was last updated in July 2026.

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Introduction

A conflict of interest is when your personal, financial, or professional interests conflict with, or has the appearance of conflicting with, the interests of BATS. You are obligated to report any potential conflicts of interest to the committee at the earliest opportunity.

It is not possible to define all of the ways in which a conflict of interest could arise. As examples, it could be;

Indirect Financial Benefit

If you own your own company, and you choose to allow BATS to hold a charity event on your premises, then you may benefit financially from the public good will of holding a charitable event.

Conflicts of Loyalty

You may find yourself torn between your obligations to BATS and another organisation such as another theatre company. If you were to find yourself on the committee of another local organisation with whom we were competing for the same pool of grant money you may find yourself needing to 'choose a side'.

Making a Declaration

If you need to make a declaration, you should do so in writing to the secretary, or other committee officer, detailing your potential conflict in as much detail as you can – as an example;

"I am a member of [nearby theatre company] where I am on the committee as the treasurer and I have responsibility for applying for grants from local and national organisations. [Nearby theatre company] is a registered charity and I am currently named as a trustee with the Charity Commission; however, I plan on resigning from this position at the AGM in January 2099."

Receiving a Decision

Once the committee is aware of the conflict, they will meet to make a decision on how to handle the conflict in the best interest of BATS. The committee is able to 'authorise' a conflict of interest in some cases where it is evident there is unlikely to be any detriment to BATS.

If you are a committee officer, this may mean having to withdraw from portions of a meeting and having your voting rights restricted or removed when the committee looks at topics where the conflict of interest would be an issue. In some cases, you may need the authorisation of the Charity Commission – for example, if you were to be on our committee then you would be one of our trustees and you may need permission to be a trustee of another local organisation.

We are legally obligated to follow the Charity Commissions rulings.