

Contents

	Summary	2
	Mr Sam Tarry MP: Resolution Letter	3
	Letter from the Commissioner to the complainant, 11 February 2021	3
5	Written evidence	4
	1. Email from the complainant to the Commissioner, 11 September 2020	4
	2. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 17 September 2020	5
	3. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 13 October 2020	9
	4. Email from Mr Sam Tarry MP to the Commissioner, 30 October 2020	9
10	5. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 4 November 2020	9
	6. Letter from Mr Sam Tarry MP to the Commissioner, 11 November 2020	10
	7. Letter from the Commissioner to the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, 12 November 2020	12
	8. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 12 November 2020	13
15	9. Email from the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests to the Commissioner, 25 November 2020	13
	10. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 26 November 2020	15
	11. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 7 January 2021	15
20	12. Letter from Mr Sam Tarry MP to the Commissioner, 21 January 2021	19

Summary

5 The allegation I investigated was that the Member had failed to register three interests when he entered Parliament as required by the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members. This allegedly put the Member in breach of the requirements of Paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct.

I upheld the allegation.

10 I concluded that despite the interests in question being unpaid and conferring no financial benefit on Mr Tarry, two of the interests met the test laid out at paragraph 55b of Chapter 1 of the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members. It was my view that both interests could be reasonably considered as being capable of influencing the Member's words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial interest. In relation to the third interest, I concluded that registration was not necessary as the interest could not be reasonably considered to influence the Member's words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial interest.

15 The Member accepted my decision, acknowledged his breaches of the Rules, and apologised for the breach. The Member has also agreed to add the relevant interests to the Register of Members' Financial Interests, which will be annotated to show that they have been subject to an inquiry. I considered the Member's apology and remedial actions to be an appropriate outcome and I have concluded the matter by way of the rectification
20 procedure available to me under Standing Order No. 150.

25 During my inquiry, I also asked the Member to undertake a check whether there were any occasions when he should have declared these two interests in line with Paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct and Chapter 2 of the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members. The Member has reassured me that no such occasions have arisen, and I am content to accept this assurance.

Mr Sam Tarry MP: Resolution Letter

Letter from the Commissioner to the complainant, 11 February 2021

5 I wrote to you on 17 September 2020 to tell you that I had begun an inquiry into your allegation that Mr Sam Tarry MP had breached paragraph 14 of the House of Commons' Code of Conduct for Members by failing to register three interests.

10 Having investigated this matter, I found that Mr Tarry has breached the Code. I concluded that both his role as a Director of the Centre for Labour and Social Studies, and his role as a Director of Momentum Campaign Services Ltd, should have been registered under Category 8b in the Register of Members' Financial Interest. This is because I concluded that both interests, despite being unpaid and conferring no financial benefit on Mr Tarry, could be reasonably considered as being capable of influencing Mr Tarry's words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial interest. In deciding this, I was also mindful of the overall aim of transparency that underpins the registration of interests. I therefore uphold your allegation.

15 However, it was also my conclusion that the third interest that you brought to my attention, Mr Tarry's role as a Director at Mayesbrook Manor Barking Management Limited does not meet the test outlined at paragraph 55 of the Guide and did not need to be registered under Category 8b. This is because I considered that the interest is so specific and limited in nature, it could not be reasonably considered to influence Mr Tarry's words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial interest.

20 My full decision and rationale will be published on my webpage in due course, which will include the correspondence I exchanged with Mr Tarry.

25 Mr Tarry has accepted my decision. He has acknowledged his breaches of the rules, apologised, and agreed to add these two interests to the Register, which will be annotated to show that they have been subject to an inquiry. I have therefore concluded the matter by way of the rectification procedure available to me under Standing Order No. 150. I will notify the Committee on Standards in due course of this outcome.

The matter is now closed.

11 February 2021

Written evidence

1. Email from the complainant to the Commissioner, 11 September 2020

I wish to raise an issue with regard to Sam Tarry MP.

5 I have looked at the MP's Register of Interested and have noted that he has never registered 3 directorships. There was also 1 company in which it was stated he was a person of significant control, i.e. more than 50%. Again, this was not registered.

The companies are as follows:

CENTRE FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL STUDIES LTD (CLASS)

- He became a director in July 2017.
- 10 • In April 2018 it was stated he had a significant control in the company.
- He signed the report and accounts for the year end 30th March 2020 on 16th July 2020.
- He resigned as a director on 21st July 2020.

MOMENTUM CAMPAIGN (SERVICES) LTD

- 15 • He became a director in December 2015.
- He continues to be a director.

MAYESBROOK MANOR MARKING MANAGEMENT LTD

- He became a director in November 2011.
- He continues to be a director.

20 I am attaching copies of documentation relating to this from the Companies House website.

I feel these are in breach of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament and should be investigated.

Enclosures: undated downloads from Companies House

11 September 2020

2. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 17 September 2020

I am writing to you to seek your assistance with a formal inquiry. I would welcome your help with a complaint from a member of the public, [the complainant], who alleges that you have failed to register several financial interests. I have enclosed [the complainant's] email of complaint, and his accompanying evidence, with this letter.

My inquiry

My inquiry will focus on the allegation that your actions have put you in breach of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members. Should the scope of my inquiry change, I will inform you in writing.

The Code of Conduct

In relation to the declaration of interests, paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members states:

“Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members’ Financial Interests. They shall always be open and frank in drawing attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders”

Further to the Code, the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members states the following at Chapter 1:

Requirements of the House

2. The House requires new Members, within one month of their election, to register all their current financial interests, and any registrable benefits (other than earnings) received in the 12 months before their election. After that, Members are required to register within 28 days any change in those registrable interests. Such a change includes both the acquisition of a new interest and the ceasing of any registered interest, for example because an employment has ceased or because a holding has reduced in value or been sold.

...

Category 1: Employment and earnings

Threshold for registration

5 6. Members must register, subject to the paragraphs below, individual payments of more than £100 which they receive for any employment outside the House. They must also register individual payments of £100 or less once they have received a total of over £300 in payments of whatever size from the same source in a calendar year.

Requirements for registration

7. Under this category Members must register:

Any of the following received as a director or employee or earned in any other capacity:

- 10 a) Salaries, fees and payments in kind; gifts received in recognition of services performed;
- b) Taxable expenses, allowances and benefits such as company cars;
- c) Redundancy and ex gratia payments;
- d) Income as a member of Lloyd's; and
- 15 e) Payments for opinion surveys (unless they fall below the registration threshold).

8. Members should not register under this category:

...

- 20 b) Unremunerated directorships (unless associated with, or a subsidiary of, a company or group of which the Member is a remunerated director);
- c) Directorships of companies not currently trading;

...

Category 8: Miscellaneous

25 Requirements for registration

55. Under this category Members must register:

...

- 5 b) Any other interest, if the Member considers that it might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions or words as a Member in the same way as a financial interest. This might include an unpaid employment or directorship, or directorship of a company not currently trading, non-practising membership of a profession, or a fund established to defray legal costs arising out of the Member's work, but from which no benefit has yet been received.

Next steps

10 Please can you address the following specific questions:

1. Is the information provided by [the complainant] accurate?
2. Are any of these directorships paid positions and, as such, should have been registered under category 1 (employment and earnings)? If so, why were these interests not registered by you?
- 15 3. Alternatively, if these directorships are unpaid positions, please can you outline for each interest why you considered that it did not need to be registered under category 8 (miscellaneous)?
4. Did you take any advice from House authorities before deciding whether to register these interests? If you did, I would be grateful to see a copy of that advice please.
- 20 5. Are you satisfied that your register entry is otherwise complete and accurate?

It would be helpful to receive any supporting evidence you have at the same time as receiving your response to these questions. Any other points you may wish to make to help me with this inquiry would also be most welcome.

Outcomes

25 There are three possible outcomes to my inquiry:

1. I decide that you have not breached the Code of Conduct for Members and no further action is needed.
2. I decide that you have breached the Code of Conduct for Members and I am satisfied that the matter is suitable for rectification using the powers available to me under
- 30 Standing Order number 150.

3. I decide that you have breached the Code of Conduct for Members, and I decide that the matter cannot be rectified and must be put before the Committee on Standards.

Important information

5 As you will be aware, my inquiries are conducted in private. Following the decision taken by the House on 19 July 2018, I will not publish the fact that I am conducting an inquiry into an allegation of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct. My office will not comment to third parties on any aspect of the inquiry. They will answer direct factual questions about the processes I follow and the standards system more generally but will neither confirm nor deny that I have begun an inquiry.

10 Procedure

I enclose a copy of the Commissioner's Information Note, which sets out the procedure for inquiries. Please note that this has not yet been updated to reflect the changes flowing from the decision of 19 July 2018.

15 This letter and any subsequent correspondence between us in connection with this inquiry is protected by parliamentary privilege. Until such time as a final report is published, I must ask that you respect that confidentiality and do not disclose the contents of our correspondence to any third party. My decision and all the relevant evidence, including our correspondence, will be published at the end of the inquiry.

20 I should say now, as a matter of courtesy, that I may seek the advice of the House authorities and others as part of this inquiry. If I do so, I will share that correspondence with you.

While I do not, at this stage, know whether it will be necessary to interview you about this matter, it would be open to you to be accompanied at any such interview. I am, of course, very happy to speak with you at any stage if you would find that helpful.

25 Action

I would be grateful to have your response to this letter as soon as possible and no later than 30 September 2020 please. Due to the current health crisis, my team are working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

30 If you would prefer me to communicate with you by a different email address, please give the details when you reply to this letter. It would also be helpful if you were willing to provide a telephone number through which I might contact you.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

17 September 2020

3. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 13 October 2020

I wrote to you 17 September 2020 to inform you that I was opening a formal inquiry into your compliance with the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament and to request your assistance with a number of questions. I asked that you reply to my letter by 30 September, but I am yet to receive a reply from you.

Please can you reply to my original letter soon as possible and no later than 21 October 2020. In doing so, please can you also detail the reasons for the delay to your response.

Due to the current health crisis, my team are working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

13 October 2020

4. Email from Mr Sam Tarry MP to the Commissioner, 30 October 2020

Thank you for your email in regards to my registered interests, and I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I can confirm that the two directorships which have been mentioned in the correspondence by [the complainant] were all interests with no financial remuneration. My understanding of the register was that directorships need only be listed if they any financial remuneration is involved.

I hope this helps in clarifying the concerns from [the complainant] and I look forward to the registrar's final comments.

In the meantime, if you have any further questions for me please do let me know.

30 October 2020

5. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 4 November 2020

Thank you for your email of 30 October in response to my decision of 17 September to open a formal inquiry into your compliance with the rules on the registration of financial interests.

I am disappointed that you did not reply directly to the questions that I asked you in my letter of 17 September and failed to account for the delay in your reply. I note that you have confirmed that two of the three directorships highlighted by [the complainant] were unpaid. Please can you confirm which two directorships were unpaid and when

you stepped down from those positions. Please can you also confirm which of the three directorships is, or was, a paid position, the gross amount that you were paid, the nature of the work involved and the number of hours of work undertaken, and whether that position is ongoing.

5 Please can you ensure that you reply to this letter no later than 11 November 2020.

As you may be aware, due to the current health crisis, my team are currently working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

10 In the meantime, and as previously, our correspondence remains protected by parliamentary privilege and I must ask that you continue to maintain the strict confidentiality of the inquiry.

4 November 2020

6. Letter from Mr Sam Tarry MP to the Commissioner, 11 November 2020

15 Firstly, let me offer a sincere apology for the original delay in replying to your letter of 17 September and my failure to respond to all five of the questions you raised with me. Unfortunately, due to a staffing error I was only made aware of this initial letter and the full nature of the inquiry very recently and I responded on the same day with an initial response via email. Of course, I take full responsibility for this delay and will endeavour to answer the questions in that original letter to set out my position, including clarifying
20 your recent email asking about a third remunerated directorship.

Addressing each of the specific questions in turn:

1. Is the information provided by [the complainant] correct?

Yes, the directorships listed in the copies of documentation from Companies House are accurate.

25 2. Are any of these directorships paid positions and, as such, should have been registered under category 1 (employment and earnings)? If so, why were these interests not registered by you?

30 None of the three directorships are paid positions, and never have been in form whatsoever. They have all been entirely voluntary positions and would not in any way qualify declaration under category 1 (employment and earnings).

3. Alternatively, if these directorships are unpaid positions, please can you outline for each interest why you considered that it did not need to be registered under category 8 (miscellaneous)?

a) Centre for Labour and Social Studies

5 I am no longer a Director of CLASS, which was a voluntary position that I was
nominated for by my former employer (TSSA). Therefore, my involvement since
becoming an MP was very limited, and consisted of Chairing a handful of meetings
and the AGM, during which I resigned and handed over to a new Chair/President.
10 They in turn replaced me as a Director of the company that pays the staff of the
Centre for Labour and Social Studies. As you can see from the list of former
directors, they are nearly all trade union General Secretaries or paid officials. I had
at no point made it any secret of my involvement in CLASS and was publicly
associated with it.

15 With hindsight I can see that, under category 8, it could be considered that I should
have declared it. My main focus when I became a new MP was on Category 1, and
that was what I had discussed with the 'buddy' who was assigned to me when I
became a new MP. If I had realised that this qualified for declaration, I would have
had absolutely no hesitation in doing so, because I was publicly associating with
this organisation and had been for several years. I would be happy to amend my
declaration accordingly.

b) Momentum Campaign (Services) Ltd

20 Since becoming an MP I have had little to no involvement in Momentum and had
wrongly assumed that, following the internal elections within Momentum, I had
been removed by the incoming committee that oversees the associated
organisation and replaced as Director of the service company that simply pays the
staff in the same way as the CLASS does. This was simply another voluntary and
non-remunerated position.

25 I am in the process of ensuring that I am removed as a Director of the service
company as soon as possible.

30 Similarly to CLASS, I had at no point made it a secret of my involvement in
Momentum and was well known to be publicly associated with it. With hindsight I
can see that, under category 8, it could also be considered that I should have
declared it. In the same way as the aforementioned directorship, my main focus
when I became a new MP was on Category 1. If I had realised that this qualified for
declaration, I would have had absolutely no hesitation in doing so, because I was
publicly associated with this organisation and had been for several years. I would
be happy to amend my declaration accordingly.

35 c) Mayesbrook Manor Barking Management Ltd.

I am still a Director of this company, which again is a non-remunerated position. It
is simply the legal entity company that oversees the block of flats where I reside,
employing a management company to carry out the day-to-day maintenance and
upkeep of the building. Its directors are all residents of our block of flats and have

5 no remuneration whatsoever for this voluntary position. I do not believe that it meets either category 1 or category 8 requirements for declaration as no reasonable person can think this would in any way influence me, given it simply oversees the decisions about such simple things as the types of lightbulbs in the communal areas of the building, how often the cleaning staff and grounds maintenance staff employed by the service company complete their tasks, etc.

For the sake of transparency I would be happy to declare it – but I do not believe it in any way meets the threshold for declaration under either of the required categories.

10 4. Did you take any advice from House authorities before deciding whether to register these interests? If you did, I would be grateful to see a copy of that advice please.

I did not take any advice from House Authorities that I can recall, other than a simple conversation with my ‘buddy’ during my induction as a new MP.

15 I spent a great deal of time ensuring that all my donations in relation to the Register of Interests that were related to my election campaign were correctly and extensively recorded.

5. Are you satisfied that your register entry is otherwise complete and accurate?

Yes, to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

20 Finally, I would like again to apologise for the initial delay in responding to you, and for failing to declare the two non-remunerated directorships on account of my naivety, that could be considered to fall under category 8 requirements.

If there is anything further you require from me then please do not hesitate to contact me.

11 November 2020

25 **7. Letter from the Commissioner to the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, 12 November 2020**

30 I would welcome your help with an inquiry that I am conducting in relation to Mr Sam Tarry MP concerning a complaint about his compliance with the rule on the registration of financial interests. For reference, I enclose a copy of the correspondence that I have exchanged with Mr Tarry to date on this matter.

Mr Tarry has indicated that he did not seek formal advice from the House authorities about the registration of the three interests in question. If Mr Tarry had approached you for advice, please can you tell me what advice you would have provided and why. Please

could you return your comments to me by 24 November 2020. I intend to share a copy of your advice with Mr Tarry for his comments in due course.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

12 November 2020

5 **8. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 12 November 2020**

Thank you for your thorough letter and apology of 11 November 2020.

As you will recall, in my first letter to you, of 17 September 2020, I explained that I might seek the advice of the House authorities as part of my inquiry. In accordance with my usual practice regarding inquiries relating the registration of financial interests, I have today written to the Registrar of Members' Interests, [name redacted], seeking her advice. I enclose the text of that letter for your information.

I will write to you again when I have the Registrar's advice and to give you an opportunity to comment on that advice. In the meantime, our correspondence remains protected by parliamentary privilege and I must ask that you continue to maintain the strict confidentiality of the inquiry.

Thank you for your continued co-operation with this matter.

Enclosure: copy of the Commissioner's letter to the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, dated 12 November 2020

12 November 2020

20 **9. Email from the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests to the Commissioner, 25 November 2020**

Thank you for your letter of 12 November about Sam Tarry MP. You ask whether we would have advised registering three unpaid directorships.

Information provided after the General Election

25 Mr Tarry was elected on 12 December 2019. This office provides all new MPs with a one to one briefing on the Code of Conduct and rules of the House, particularly the rules on registration. (This is not part of the buddying support which the House authorities arrange.) I can see that Mr Tarry attended a briefing interview on 8 January 2020, and that on 11 January 2020 he submitted the form for his first Register entry (attached).

30 The registration form which we provide to MPs explains that unpaid directorships and other non-financial interests may need to be registered. The form makes clear that such interests should be registered if others might reasonably consider them to influence the

MP (the condition for registration). The team members who interview new MPs also explain this; it is part of their brief. Our notes indicate that the colleague who saw Mr Tarry covered this in the briefing he provided. There is no record of Mr Tarry raising any particular question in his interview.

5 **Registering these three roles**

Unpaid directorships

10 If Mr Tarry had asked for advice on any of these roles at the time, I would have asked him whether others might reasonably have considered it to influence him (the condition for registration) on a reasonably ongoing basis. If so, I would have advised registering that role.

I would not have advised Mr Tarry to register his role in the management company for a block of flats as I do not believe this meets the condition for registration.

15 Depending on discussion with Mr Tarry, I think that I would probably have advised registering the role in CLASS. (We have previously advised registering roles in other thinktanks.) I see that the website for CLASS lists him as Chair and President. I do not however find it conclusive that Companies House lists him as a person of significant control. The House does not specifically require MPs to register roles where they are persons of significant control.

20 On the basis of the information you have sent, I am not sure whether I would have recommended registering a role in Momentum Campaign Services; but much would have depended on a discussion with Mr Tarry.

Shares

For the avoidance of doubt, since these companies were not limited by shares, Mr Tarry had no shareholding and was not required to register under the Shareholdings section.

25 **Declaring an interest in CLASS and Momentum Campaign Services Ltd**

30 Whether or not Mr Tarry registered his roles in CLASS and Momentum Campaign Services Ltd, there may have been times when he should have drawn attention to ("declared") them in the course of his parliamentary activities. He should have done so in accordance with the rules in Chapter 2 of the Guide to the Rules on almost any occasion when others might reasonably have considered them to influence what he was saying or doing. If MPs have roles in thinktanks or campaigning organisation, I often advise them to make a declaration if they are speaking or writing about research carried out by the organisation, or a policy which it particularly promotes. I think it less likely that Mr Tarry would need to declare his role in the management company for the flats.

35 Please let me know if you need anything else.

Enclosure: Mr Tarry's New Member Registration Form 2019, dated 11 January 2020

25 November 2020

10. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 26 November 2020

5 As promised in my earlier letter of 12 November 2020, I am now able to share with you the response from the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests, [name redacted].

10 I would be happy to receive any observations that you may care to make about [the Registrar's] advice no later than 10 December 2020 please. As you will be aware, due to the current health crisis, my team are currently working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

15 In relation to the Registrar's advice concerning the declaration of these financial interests during your parliamentary activity; please can you review your record of oral contributions and correspondence and let me know whether there are any occasions when you believe you should have made a declaration to the House but did not do so.

In the meantime, and as previously, our correspondence remains protected by parliamentary privilege and I must ask that you continue to maintain the strict confidentiality of the inquiry.

20 **Enclosure: copy of the email from the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests to the Commissioner, dated 25 November 2020**

26 November 2020

11. Letter from the Commissioner to Mr Sam Tarry MP, 7 January 2021

25 I note that you have not replied to my letter of 26 November 2020, which allowed you an opportunity to comment on the earlier advice provided by the Registrar of Members' Financial Interests. I have therefore assumed that you have no comments to make and accept the Registrar's advice in full. I consequently believe that we can now bring my inquiry to a close.

My decision

30 I have considered the content of our correspondence, the published rules and guidance concerning the declaration of interests, and the Registrar's earlier advice, carefully before coming to a decision. I have decided that your roles as a Director of the Centre for Labour and Social Studies, and as a Director of Momentum Campaign Services Ltd, should have been registered under Category 8b on the first Register of Members' Financial Interests ("the Register") of this Parliament. The failure to register these

interests are breaches of paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament (“the Code”):

5 Members shall fulfil conscientiously the requirements of the House in respect of the registration of interests in the Register of Members’ Financial Interests. They shall always be open and frank in drawing attention to any relevant interest in any proceeding of the House or its Committees, and in any communications with Ministers, Members, public officials or public office holders.

10 I have decided that your role as a Director of Mayesbrook Manor Barking Management Limited did not need to be registered.

Rationale

15 Category 8b of the Register is a miscellaneous category that provides an opportunity for Members to register, at their own discretion, non-financial interests that might be reasonably thought by others to influence the Member’s words or actions in the same way as a financial interest. The full guidance is provided at paragraph 55 of Chapter 1 of the Guide to the Rules relating to the Conduct of Members (“the Guide”):

Category 8: Miscellaneous

Requirements for registration

55. Under this category Members must register:

20 b) Any other interest, if the Member considers that it might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions or words as a Member in the same way as a financial interest. This might include an unpaid employment or directorship, or directorship of a company not currently trading, non-practising membership of a profession, or a fund established
25 to defray legal costs arising out of the Member’s work, but from which no benefit has yet been received.

30 My understanding of your letter of 11 November 2020 is that when making your initial entry on the Register you did not consider the need to register any of the three unpaid directorships described above and, as such, failed to apply your discretion whether to register these directorships. On that basis, I satisfied that it is open to me to retrospectively consider how your discretion should have been used and to decide whether those directorships required registration.

35 Following the Registrar’s earlier advice, and your correspondence of 11 November 2020, I am satisfied that your role as a Director of the Centre for Labour and Social Studies should have been registered under Category 8b. I am mindful of the Registrar’s advice that this would be in line with the usual approach for roles at a think-tank. I have also

considered the broad policy work which the Centre for Labour and Social Studies reports that it undertakes and the trade union funding which enables that work. I am of the view that another person could reasonably consider your role at a national think-tank to be capable of influencing your words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial
5 interest. As the underlying aim of registration is openness, I think it would have been reasonable to have registered this interest from the outset of your time in Parliament. I note that you resigned from this position with effect from 21 July 2020.

Following the Registrar's earlier advice, and your correspondence of 11 November 2020, it has been less easy to reach a conclusion concerning your role as a Director of
10 Momentum Campaign Services Ltd. However, I note your comments that with hindsight you would have been inclined to register your role had you realised that non-financial interests could also be amenable to registration. On balance, I have decided that this would have been the correct approach. Momentum has a large public subscription and is an active campaigning body with clear national policy objectives. I am of the view that
15 another person could reasonably consider a role at a large and high-profile national political body to be capable of influencing your words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial interest. As above, I think it would have been reasonable to have registered this interest from the outset of your time in Parliament. I note that you remain listed as a Director of Momentum Campaign Services Ltd on their entry at Companies
20 House.

Following the Registrar's earlier advice, and your correspondence of 11 November 2020, I am content that your role as a Director of Mayesbrook Manor Barking Management Limited does not meet the test outlined at paragraph 55 of the Guide and did not need to be registered under Category 8b. I agree that a niche interest that solely concerns the
25 management of the block of flats where you reside could not be reasonably considered as influencing your words and actions in the House in the same way as a financial interest.

Declaration of these interests

You will be aware that the Registrar's earlier advice of 25 November 2020 also contained
30 this important advice about the declaration of these interests:

Whether or not Mr Tarry registered his roles in CLASS and Momentum Campaign Services Ltd, there may have been times when he should have drawn attention to ("declared") them in the course of his parliamentary activities. He should have done so in accordance with the rules in Chapter
35 2 of the Guide to the Rules on almost any occasion when others might reasonably have considered them to influence what he was saying or doing. If MPs have roles in thinktanks or campaigning organisation, I often advise them to make a declaration if they are speaking or writing about research carried out by the organisation, or a policy which it particularly promotes. I think it less likely that Mr Tarry would need to
40 declare his role in the management company for the flats.

As I have not received any comments from you about the Registrar's advice, I have assumed that there have been no occasions during your parliamentary activities when a declaration of any of these interests was needed. If that assumption is incorrect, please tell me now as I would prefer for this inquiry to reach a comprehensive outcome in relation to these interests.

Next steps

As you may be aware, having decided that the rules have been breached, I can, with the co-operation of the Member concerned, rectify less serious breaches using the powers available to me under Standing Order No. 150. For more serious breaches, or in instances where the Member rejects rectification, I would refer the matter to the Committee on Standards.

I have decided that a referral to the Standards Committee is not necessary and that I can resolve these minor breaches of the rules through rectification. To do so, the Committee would generally expect the Member to have accepted my decision, acknowledged and apologised for their breach of the rules, and to have taken any steps necessary to rectify their breach. On this occasion, I consider the necessary steps to rectify your breach to be the backdated addition of the two roles outlined above to the Register, and for these interests to be annotated so that readers will be aware that they have been subject to an inquiry. This is line with my usual practice for inquires that concern the late, or non, registration of a financial interest.

If you are content for me to conclude the inquiry in this way, please write to me to confirm that you accept my decision along with the necessary acknowledgement and apology by 21 January 2021. As outlined above, when you reply, please also confirm whether any of the three interests in question should have been declared by you during the course of your parliamentary activities and in line with the guidance of Chapter 2 of the Guide. If there were failures to declare these interests, I will consider whether those failures amount to further breaches of the rules and if my rectification offer can stand, needs to be modified, or should be retracted.

If we are able to rectify and close this matter, I will share my written evidence pack with you, so that you can check its factual accuracy before publication. I will also report the outcome to the Committee on Standards in due course as a matter of routine. You are, of course, entitled to decline my proposed rectification, in which case I will refer this matter to the Committee on Standards for their review.

In the meantime, our correspondence remains protected by parliamentary privilege and I must ask that you continue to maintain the strict confidentiality of the inquiry.

As you know, due to the current health crisis, my team are currently working from home only, so I would be grateful if you could please send your response electronically to standardscommissioner@parliament.uk.

7 January 2021

12. Letter from Mr Sam Tarry MP to the Commissioner, 21 January 2021

Thank you for your letter setting out your position and your suggested route for rectification. Your view is very much in line with the one I set out in my letter in
5 November in that, with hindsight, I believe I should have declared the Centre for Labour and Social Studies (CLASS) and the Momentum Campaign Services Ltd (Momentum) directorships, but not the Mayesbrook Manor Ltd one.

As I said previously, I have never hidden my work with these organisations, indeed with CLASS think tank it was stated on my social media profile that promotes my work as an
10 MP, while I was publicly associated with, and known to be a member of Momentum before becoming an MP. Even though the actual company I was a director of is a simple service company, used to facilitate the paying of staff - rather than part of the political or oversight structure of Momentum as a campaigning or membership body, from which I am no longer involved, I entirely agree that – for the purposes of full disclosure - I should
15 have registered this interest.

I have recently again contacted the staff at Momentum and been assured that my resignation from the service company will happen in due course, and at the moment is merely an administrative oversight.

In the meantime, I am happy to retrospectively update my entry with the Registrar as
20 you see fit, so it accurately records these two directorships.

In line with the Registrar's guidance and your letter, and having undertaken a thorough search of my speeches, I believe there were no occasions where I had spoken in Parliament that warranted a declaration of my interests in line with either of these directorships.

25 There are several other occasions where I have drawn the House's attention to the Register in relation to my trade union affiliations.

As a further precaution I have taken the time to review all my speeches in Hansard and consulted with all my staff who were involved in writing them with me, and I am confident there are no occasions where I used material, or briefings from CLASS, nor
30 anything from Momentum, either in speeches or interventions I had given. Therefore, there is nothing additional to add at this juncture and I believe your conclusion to be correct and fair.

On that basis I am happy to accept your conclusion and findings, and the required rectification – the backdated addition of those two directorships – to my register of
35 interests.

In the letter you state that they will be annotated so that it notes that they have been part of an investigation. You also indicated that ‘This is line with my usual practice for inquiries that concern the late, or non, registration of a financial interest.’

5 I wish to put on record again that these are not financial interests, and no reasonable person could think that I would have received any financial or other benefit from these directorships. Given financial impropriety could, rightly, be seen as a much more serious misdemeanour in the public eye, and given that this was a simple oversight on my part as a new MP, who has meticulously registered all financial interests (election donations), I would be grateful if this could be made clear in the annotation, because it would not
10 seem fair to me and to my reputation as a parliamentarian, to have the public believe that I had in any way deliberately avoided transparency or indeed be in the same category as someone who had been opaque about financial benefits whilst holding elected office.

15 I would like to seek your assurance that that would be made clear in any annotation so as not to unfairly damage my reputation when I try to always uphold the highest standards of integrity.

You ask that I offer an apology, I am of course happy to do that, and I hope that the following is satisfactory in that regard:

20 “I would like to put on record my apology to the House, for the late declaration of two non- remunerated directorships, and have amended my register of interests accordingly. I apologise for this oversight as a new MP at the time and can confirm that all financial interests upon my election and since were recorded properly and in a timely fashion with the Registrar. I will continue to always seek to uphold the highest levels
25 of integrity and transparency as a Member of Parliament, as I serve my constituents.”

I hope that this is satisfactory, and once I have the clarification on the annotation I have reasonably sought, I would be happy for this matter to be concluded as you have suggested, and I will, endeavour to never again cause a breach of parliamentary
30 standards.

21 January 2021