# Regulatory Standards Board

**19 October 2026**

# Regulatory Standards Board publishes inquiry report on Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

The Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 (LAMIA) governs when a person is disqualified to stand for or remain in local office, and whether an elected member can ‘vote or take part in discussions... in which he has, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary (ie financial) interest, other than an interest in common with the public’.

The inquiry examined whether LAMIA is consistent with the responsible regulation principles set out in the Regulatory Standards Act 2025.

The Board found that LAMIA is inconsistent with principles relating to clarity and accessibility, liberties, and effective, efficient and proportionate legislation.

Board Chair Mr Paul Ridley-Smith said the Board recognises that effective management of conflicts of interest is fundamental to maintaining public confidence in local government decision-making and democratic institutions.

"New Zealanders need to have confidence that local authority decisions are being made in the public interest and not influenced by personal interests, especially financial interests”.

“The Board considers strong conflict of interest rules to be essential. However, we found that aspects of the current legislation are unclear, unnecessarily restrictive (the disqualification provision), punitive (criminal sanctions) and not the most effective or proportionate way of achieving those objectives."

The inquiry examined the legislation itself and did not investigate individual councils, elected members, or specific cases.

The Board's report provides an independent assessment of the legislation. In accordance with the Regulatory Standards Act 2025, the report has been provided

to the Chief Executive of the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport, the Minister for Regulation and the Minister of Local Government. Any decisions regarding future reform of LAMIA are matters for Ministers and Parliament.

The report is available here: Regulatory Standards Board publications.

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**Notes to editors:**

Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968 | New Zealand Legislation