

NICW Commissioner was appointed as a Commissioner to the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) in 2022.

The job specification for the role of Commissioner included the skills of:

- Able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of an economic, social or environment infrastructure sector (such as energy, transport, waste, flood, digital communications) or a related field (such as economics, planning, regulation, project/infrastructure finance, design, engineering, systems architecture and analysis, technology and innovation).
- Ability to communicate and influence across all levels. We are interested in hearing from individuals who can evidence success in communicating very complex, challenging information in a sensitive and effective way.
- Ability to represent organisations in public, including in the media and with a range of stakeholders.

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change approved this job specification for the role, and it was against these criteria that applicants for the post were assessed. NICW Commissioner was one of several appointable candidates which the Deputy Minister discussed with the Chair of NICW before being appointed. NICW Commissioner had declared his current position on his application.

The Deputy Minister for Climate Change had responsibility for making appointments to NICW. The First Minister was not directly involved in the process.

I have asked colleagues in the NICW Secretariat to contact the NICW Chair, as it is his responsibility to manage conflicts of interest in the Commission. He has responded as follows:

*“When the Commissioners were first appointed, they received training in standards of operating in public life and were informed about the need to declare interests both on the NICW register of interests and at each meeting. We ask for these declarations as a standing item at every meeting.*

*It is the responsibility of each Commissioner to keep these declarations up to date. NICW Commissioner has been diligent in informing NICW and the Secretariat of his interests. I believe there is no requirement for a conflict to be restated if it is recorded in the Conflicts of Interest Register. The register appears on both the NICW and Welsh Government websites and is updated periodically.*

*Many of the NICW Commissioners have interests declared / backgrounds in other infrastructure sectors and it is this experience which enables them to consider the issues which they have been set under the remit from Welsh Government. These are considered as part of the discussions within NICW meetings. Any outputs from the Commission are agreed by all Commissioners and, where we do not all agree, these are stated. We are working to improve our efforts in this area.*

*We have now updated our meeting notes on the website and our register of interests.”*