



## Background - general

The Faraday Institution (FI) is committed to maintain the highest standards of impartiality, transparency and fairness in all aspects of its work. From time to time a situation can arise where there is a conflict of interest. This is particularly the case because the work of the Faraday Institution requires expert advice and those best placed to provide the required expertise are also likely to be actively involved in the field. These situations will be managed by adopting a clear policy for dealing with potential conflicts.

The Faraday Institution therefore requires all individuals who are contracted to the Institution to agree to act according to our policy on conflicts of interest.

## Our processes and policy on conflicts of interest

We operate by contracting out our research programmes to consortia led within the universities, and actively managed by us.

In order to determine what programmes of research the FI will focus on, the Faraday Institution will seek advice from leading researchers. A potential conflict of interest does not disqualify an individual from any interaction, remuneration, or support from the Faraday Institution, but requires a management plan to be in place. The management plan in most cases may be as simple as removing the person concerned from any direct evaluation or management of a proposal that they are directly connected with.

### Main principles relating to decisions on awarding research contracts:

1. The FI will develop its programmes based on getting a thorough understanding of industry requirements and then translating these into research areas based on **advice** from the UK's most experienced battery research leaders and engagement with the wider research community and relevant industry representatives.
2. The final recommendation for the programme will be made by the FI CEO and **approved** by the Board of Trustees. Within this process, the CEO and Board of Trustees will balance near-term and longer-term priorities and a proportion of the research carried out may be outside industry's immediate investment horizon.
3. Once a programme is determined, proposals will normally be invited from all eligible research institutions via a competitive process.
4. The FI may take elements of different proposals from different universities, and shape a new consortium team/ proposal, to ensure that we get the best out of British research.
5. Award of projects will be made following a peer review by non-conflicted researchers. Peer reviewers can include members of the Board/ Expert Panel, so long as they are not conflicted.
6. No-one who is proposing or who is closely involved in a project can be involved in the peer review or decision making to award money.



7. On-going management and reshaping of programmes are carried out by the Faraday Institution programme management staff under the direction of the FI CEO. This will be supported by project reviews by the expert panel.
8. Where the expert panel review a project, any members of the expert panel who are closely involved with a project must recuse themselves when that project is discussed.

### **Process for declaring conflicts of interest**

9. All Trustees, staff and officers of the FI, and experts advising the FI eg members of the expert panel, are required to notify the FI of their other interests highlighting where there are any potential conflicts. Notification is by means of a form which should be completed at the commencement of any engagement with the FI and sent to the FI Company Secretary who will keep a register of these. Any changes should be notified by submission of an amended form. In addition, the Company Secretary will ask individuals to reconfirm their register entries at least annually.
10. Where individuals are asked specifically to participate in an advisory panel or meeting, they will be asked beforehand to declare any potential conflicts of interest. The FI CEO will determine whether the individual can participate based on the specific circumstances and if so what measures should be taken to manage the potential conflict. This may include for example their excusing themselves from parts of any discussion relating to the area of conflict.
11. An individual will be considered to have a potential conflict of interest if in relation to any FI funded project or proposal for FI funding (referred to below as “project” and “proposal”) they:
  - 11.1 Have been involved directly, or a close family member has been involved, in a project or the writing of a proposal;
  - 11.2 Work for/have an interest in an institution, company or contractor involved in a project or a proposal (this may include for example, remunerated and non-remunerated positions, share-holding or other financial interests);
  - 11.3 Could in any way benefit (directly or indirectly) from either reviewing a project, or scoring a proposal, well or poorly; for example, as a competitor;
  - 11.4 Within the last 5 years, worked for an organisation or with an individual or as a supervisor to an individual involved in a project or named in a proposal;
  - 11.5 Feel in any way that they are not able to independently and objectively review a project or assess a proposal.
12. The FI will regularly review the register of interests and consider potential conflicts however it is the responsibility of the advisor, trustee, staff member or officer to keep the FI informed of their interests and of potential conflicts. Failure to do this may result in the FI discontinuing to work with the individual concerned.
13. In the interests of transparency, the register of interests for all Trustees and expert panel members will be published on the FI website.