

Conflicts of Interest Policy

May 2026

To ensure the British Skin Foundation (BSF) makes fair, objective, and credible funding decisions, all individuals involved in the review process are required to declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

A conflict of interest may arise where a reviewer, committee member, Trustee, or member of staff has a connection to an application, applicant, or organisation that could influence – or reasonably be perceived to influence – independent judgement or decision-making.

Examples of conflicts may include:

- being named on an application
- working at the same institution as an applicant
- recent or ongoing research collaboration
- supervisory or mentoring relationships
- personal or family relationships
- financial or business interests
- consultancy, advisory, or board roles
- direct scientific competition or closely overlapping research interests

The BSF office works closely with Committee Chairs to identify, assess, and appropriately manage conflicts throughout the review process.

Individuals with a relevant conflict of interest:

- will not receive papers relating to the application
- must not participate in discussion, scoring, or decision-making
- may be required to leave the meeting during consideration of the application

All declared conflicts of interest are formally recorded as part of the governance process.

The BSF recognises that not all situations are clear-cut. Where uncertainty exists, individuals are expected to declare the interest so that an appropriate and transparent decision can be made regarding participation in the review process.

These measures help ensure that BSF funding decisions are based solely on scientific merit, patient benefit, research quality, and fairness, while maintaining the confidence of researchers, donors, patients, and the wider research community.

