Conflicts of interest (COI) arise where there is a divergence between an individual’s responsibilities to COPE Council and their other interests, such that an individual’s motives might be compromised, or perceived to be compromised. COIs are important since Council members’ opinions and actions must be, and be seen to be, impartial. COI of all council members are collected on election and annually thereafter.

COI include, but are not limited to, the following. Council members are required to disclose any of the following:

- Grant/research support: None
- Consultancies: None
- Membership of speakers’ bureaux: None
- Patent ownership: None
- Membership of scientific advisory board: None
- Membership of board of directors: None
- Stock shareholding (directly purchased): None
- Other financial support (eg, honoraria, travel grants, gift, royalties) (please specify): None

Any non-financial relationships/affiliations relevant to COPE (please specify):

Further information
Charity Commission
http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity_requirements_guidance/charity_governance/go
While COIs will be reviewed annually, they must also be specifically declared at the beginning of each Council or Forum meeting or before participation in any complaints processes. COIs are posted on COPE’s website.