

Northern Ireland

Assembly

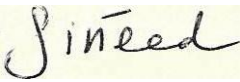
CLAIRE SUGDEN MLA for EAST LONDONDERRY

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Chairperson
Committee for Standards and Privileges
Room 254, Parliament Buildings,
Ballymiscaw, Stormont,
BELFAST
BT43XX

28 January 2021

Dear 

Inadvertent Failure to Declare a Minor Interest

I apologise to the Committee and the Northern Ireland Assembly for inadvertently failing to declare a minor interest when making representations on behalf of a constituent.

In 2017, I represented a constituent regarding a planning matter. At that stage, the constituent was the second cousin of my then fiancé. Given the distance of the connection and the absence of any other type of relationship with the constituent, I did not believe this to be an interest and therefore I did not declare.

Further to a complaint by a member of the public and subsequent preliminary investigation by the Commissioner for Standards, I understand the complainant perceived that I may have been influenced in my representations by the connection to my constituent. As per the Members' Code of Conduct and through discussions with the Commissioner, I acknowledge my inadvertent failure to declare a minor interest.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Sugden