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Chairperson  
Committee for Standards and Privileges  
Room 254  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont

Dear Chairperson,

Inadvertent failure to declare an interest to a constituent and failure to declare an interest in a timely manner

I apologise to the committee of standards and privileges for inadvertently failing to declare an interest in a timely manner and also inadvertently failing to declare an interest to a constituent seeking representation.

In January 2019 it was brought to my attention that my register of interests was blank. It was my misjudged understanding that my previous register of interests would carry on upon my return to the assembly. I rectified this immediately upon the realisation that this was not the case, including any additions.

In spring of 2019 I was approached by a constituent seeking advice and representation on a planning matter. It is my recollection that it was clear that I could not represent him as I was conflicted due to already having discussed the matter with another constituent, which is not disputed by the complainant. The issue raised in the complaint was that I did not declare in which capacity I was representing the other constituent. Given the passage of time, I am content with the commissioner's conclusion that any failure to declare the interest was inadvertent.

Having given consideration to the Members' Code of Conduct and through thorough discussions with the commissioner including a lengthy interview, I acknowledge my failure to declare an interest in a timely manner and when meeting with a constituent was inadvertent and accept the commissioner's conclusion.

Yours Sincerely

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**Trevor Clarke MLA  
South Antrim**