



NEUROBLASTOMA UK
FIGHTING CHILDHOOD CANCER

GRANT REVIEWS:

Conflict of Interest Policy

Neuroblastoma UK makes every effort to ensure that its decisions are fair, objective and transparent.

For both external reviewers and members of the Scientific Advisory Board, a conflict of interest policy is in place to seek to avoid the involvement of individuals with a conflict of interest, in relation to an application through its review process. Individuals who are applicants or co-applicants in the grant round are excluded from acting as reviewers for any of the applications.

When any internal (Scientific Advisory Board) or external individual is invited or assigned an application, they are asked to declare whether they have a conflict of interest. Where a potential conflict is declared, they will usually be asked not to undertake the review, depending on the nature of the conflict. Such conflicts of interest might include previous collaboration with one of the applicants or co applicants, being related to an applicant or co-applicant, financial interests such as shares relevant to the application, working at the same institution or having worked together in the last five years.

Code of Conduct

Reviewers have a right to expect that their comments will be treated in confidence by both Neuroblastoma UK's staff, trustees and other members of a peer review group.

While membership of the Scientific Advisory Board will be publicly available, the identity of reviewers in relation to specific grants will be kept confidential.

Applicants should not under any circumstances, directly approach members of the Scientific Advisory Board in connection with their (or another's) research application.

It is our policy to let external referees know the final outcome of applications that they have reviewed after we have communicated our decisions to applicants. Reviewers agree to treat all details of applications and their outcomes as confidential.

All reviewers are required to sign a declaration that they have no conflict of interest and can review documents on behalf of Neuroblastoma UK in an objective and impartial manner as outlined in this Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Policy.

(Updated – March 2024) Neuroblastoma UK will endeavour to review this policy, if necessary, every two years in consultation with the Board of Trustees.