

Fellows' Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct as recommended to the Society's Council in December 2000

Professional Conduct

All Chartered Fellows shall act in a manner worthy of the honour and interests of the profession of geographer and the Society and shall do nothing that may bring the profession of geographer or the Society into disrepute. They shall at all times safeguard the public interest and shall exercise their professional skill and judgement to the best of their ability and shall discharge their professional responsibilities with integrity. In order to ensure compliance with this bylaw, the Council shall from time to time publish Rules of Conduct to which those fellows holding the status of chartered geographers shall conform.

Rules of Conduct

- a. Fellows shall at all times conduct themselves in such a way as to uphold the reputation and good standing of the profession of geographer and the Society.
- b. Fellows shall, to the best of their ability, ensure that their professional activities do not unnecessarily put at risk the health, safety or welfare of any person.
- c. Fellows shall have due regard to the need to protect the environment, human rights, and to ensure efficient use of natural resources.
- d. Fellows shall not maliciously injure, or attempt to injure, directly or indirectly, the reputation, prospects or business of others.
- e. Fellows shall not purport to be experts in an area of geography, or any other professional discipline, in which they have insufficient ability, qualifications or experience.
- f. Fellows shall take reasonable steps to maintain and develop their professional competence and knowledge.
- g. Fellows shall comply with the Society's commitment to equal opportunities.

Investigations of allegations made against a Fellow for breach of The Code of Conduct

- 1.1 If there are grounds to believe that a Fellow is in breach of the Society's Code of Conduct, the evidence is to be referred to the Chair of the PSC.
- 1.2 The Chair of the PSC, or his/her appointed deputy, is to convene a Code of Conduct panel comprising at least three members of the Appeal Panel list.
- 1.3 If the PSC concludes that there are no grounds for action then the Director is to write to the Complainant that no further action is to be taken.
- 1.4 If there are grounds for believing that a breach of Code of Conduct has occurred, then the Director is to ensure that the matter is dealt with under the disciplinary procedure for breach of Code of Conduct.

Disciplinary procedure for breach of Code of Conduct

- 1.5 a. The Fellow is to be informed of possible breach of Code of Conduct by letter from the Director sent by the recorded delivery system of the UK postal service where possible.
- b. The Fellow is to be given the full details of alleged breach, by the same means as in paragraph 6.5.a, within 56 days of allegation being referred to a Code of Conduct panel.
- c. The Fellow is to be given reasonable time (at least 2 months) to respond to the allegation. The Fellow is to be invited to respond in writing, or if the Director considers it appropriate, by personal representation to the Code of Conduct panel.
- d. The Code of Conduct panel is to consider evidence from the Fellow within 2 months of receipt of Fellow's representation or receipt of his/her intention to present evidence by personal representation.
- e. The Fellow may be accompanied by legal representatives or one lay adviser.
- f. The Code of Conduct panel is to advise Council of their recommendations within 14 days of conclusion of the hearing.
- g. The Code of Conduct Panel is to recommend one of the following to Council:
That no further action be taken
That the Fellow be advised as to their future conduct
That the Fellow's name be deleted from the roll of Chartered Geographers maintained by the Society and their right to use the title CGeog be withdrawn.
That the Council may consider removing the Fellow from Fellowship of the Society in accordance with Bye Law iv.4.
- h. The Director is to advise the Fellow of Council's decision within 7 days of its being reached.