Queries about the application of, or about potential policy breaches of, Cochrane’s [Commercial Sponsorship Policy (2014)](https://www.cochrane.org/cochrane-commercial-sponsorship-policy) and [CoI Policy for Cochrane Library Content (2020)](https://www.cochrane.org/cochrane-commercial-sponsorship-policy) can be referred to the Research Integrity Editors and CoI Panel using the referral process.

**Col referral workflow and timelines**

Referral is submitted via Editorial Manager (for editors) or to coiarbiter@cochrane.org

Referral is reviewed by the Research Integrity Editor

- **Policy breach clearly has / has not occurred; straightforward answer**

Referral is reviewed by the Senior Research Integrity Editor

- **Unclear policy breach, or complex case needing additional assessment**

Referral is reviewed by the chair of the Col Panel, who may seek input from the Col Panel

- **Ambiguous or complex case needing additional assessment**

The decision, including a recommended course of action for managing any policy breaches, will be communicated directly to the person who submitted the Col referral.

Decisions involving the Col Panel must have a majority agreement among panel members. If consensus cannot be achieved, the Senior Research Integrity Editor will make a final decision.