

Funding the Future

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Rishi Sunak played a number of cards very badly yesterday when he said that it was not appropriate for people to question his wife's income from her family company which is continuing to trade in Russia, and which recently paid her £12 million in dividends.

Rishi does, I think, protest too much. The Ministerial Code says:

7.3 On appointment to each new office, Ministers must provide their Permanent Secretary with a full list in writing of all interests which might be thought to give rise to a conflict. The list should also cover interests of the Minister's spouse or partner and close family which might be thought to give rise to a conflict.

Sunak's claim that his wife's affairs are not in the public domain just because he is Chancellor is simply false. They are. Indeed, I think his father-in-law's interests should have been disclosed as well given how material they are to his well-being.

I had more to say on this on LBC last night. [Listen here, starting at 1.07 in.](#)

As I also noted there, his drawing a parallel between his situation and that of Will Smith took him to new lows. He claimed he was the good guy for not hitting anyone, but otherwise found similarities on wives being picked on. If you need to call Will Smith in your defence right now, you're in big trouble.