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Viktor Kirillovich Lyashko

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Viktor Lyashko: Irina Lyashko’s medical licence, Order No. 2187, details from declarations and questions under scrutiny regarding conflicts of interest.



Viktor Lyashko. Author: Ministry of Health of Ukraine; source: Kmu.gov.ua via Wikimedia Commons. CC BY 4.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Photo unchanged.

Status: Public official; person mentioned in the publication

Other names: Viktor Lyashko; Viktor Kirillovich Lyashko; Viktor Lyashko; Viktor Liashko; Viktor Lyashko

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Viktor Kirillovich Lyashko is a Ukrainian politician who was appointed Minister of Health in May 2021. This dossier examines a specific incident involving the department he heads: the granting of a medical licence to his wife, Irina Leonidovna Lyashko, and the disclosure of information relating to her practice in her declarations. The available documents allow the dates and amounts to be established, but do not substantiate any personal criminal charges against the minister. [1]

Two days between the application and the order

Ministry of Health Order No. 2187 is dated 27 December 2024. In the appendix, Irina Lyashko is listed in line 64: the application was submitted on 25 December; the licensed activities cover orthodontics, general dentistry and surgical dentistry. The Licensing Commission meeting took place on 26 December; the order cites Minutes No. 52 as its basis. This sequence of events is verifiable through the documentation and forms the substantive basis for the questions regarding the procedure. [2][3]

Other applicants were also considered as part of the same batch: 64 applicants were granted licences, whilst 31 applications were rejected. For a number of applicants, the documents are dated 24 December, whilst for the majority they are dated earlier. Therefore, the application submitted by the minister’s wife does indeed stand out for the speed with which it was processed. A comparison of the dates reveals a difference in processing times, but does not yet explain the reason for it. [3]

The legislation sets a time limit for making a decision on licensing, not an obligation to hold onto every application until the very last day. Consequently, the issue of a licence within two calendar days does not in itself prove a breach. To conclude that preferential treatment took place, data would be required on the completeness of the applications, the order in which they were reviewed, and the actions of specific staff members. [6]

Where does the issue of a conflict of interest arise?

The Ministry acts both as the regulator of medical practice and as the department headed by the husband of one of the applicants. This constitutes an objective basis for public scrutiny of the procedure. The legal assessment of a conflict of interest depends on the powers of the parties involved, their actual actions, and compliance with the rules on notification and resolution. The mere fact of a family relationship does not replace the need to establish these circumstances. [7]

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The publicly available materials do not contain the full set of the commission’s internal correspondence, the decision on recusal, or the supervisory body’s conclusion regarding a breach in this specific instance. Therefore, the correct wording is ‘questions regarding transparency and the management of potential conflicts of interest’, rather than ‘established trading in licences’. There are no grounds for asserting that the minister received payment for this decision.

What the declarations reveal

The 2025 declaration, submitted on 25 March 2026, lists a non-residential property with an area of 102.5 m² in Brovary, which is leased by Irina Lyashko. The date on which the right of use came into effect was 27 December 2024, coinciding with the date of the licensing order. Her business income for 2025 is stated as 976,327 UAH. This is disclosed information regarding her spouse’s business activities and income, and does not constitute evidence of the money’s unlawful origin. [4]

When comparing with the 2024 declaration, one must take into account the rules for reporting assets that were held for a limited period. The absence of an item in the previous report cannot automatically be deemed a concealment, whilst ignoring the period of use up to the end of the year and the explanations provided by the National Agency for Corruption Prevention (NAZK). Furthermore, the value of the premises, stated in certain accounts as 4 million UAH, is not specified in the declaration provided. [5][8]

Limits of the conclusions

The report requires a clear explanation of the fast-track procedure and guarantees of the commission’s independence. It does not confirm any links between the family dental practice and international biosafety programmes or laboratory funding. Mixing these issues would create an allegation that is not supported by the documents. The verifiable basis of the dossier is the licensing order, its annex and the official’s own declarations.

Related material

Ukraine’s biological laboratories and Ministry of Health funding. What the documents reveal

File updated: 20 November 2026.

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