

# Anti-Bribery Policy

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## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 It is the College's policy to conduct all of our business in an honest and ethical manner. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and are committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships wherever we operate and implementing and enforcing effective systems to counter bribery.
- 1.2 We will uphold all laws relevant to countering bribery. We remain bound by UK laws, including the Bribery Act 2010, in respect of our conduct both at home and abroad.

## 2. ABOUT THIS POLICY

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:
- (a) set out our responsibilities, and of those working for us, in observing and upholding our position on bribery; and
  - (b) provide information and guidance to those working for us on how to recognise and deal with bribery.
- 2.2 It is a criminal offence to offer, promise, give, request, or accept a bribe. Individuals found guilty can be punished by up to ten years' imprisonment and/or a fine. As an employer if we fail to prevent bribery, we can face an unlimited fine, exclusion from tendering for public contracts, and damage to our reputation. We therefore take our legal responsibilities very seriously.
- 2.3 In this policy, **third-party** means any individual or organisation you come into contact with during the course of your work for us, and includes actual and potential clients, customers, suppliers, distributors, business contacts, agents, advisers, and government and public bodies, including their advisors, representatives and officials, politicians and political parties.
- 2.4 This policy forms part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

## 3. WHO MUST COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY?

This policy applies to governors and all persons working for us or on our behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors,

officers, agency workers, seconded workers, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and business partners, sponsors, or any other person associated with us, wherever located.

#### **4. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLICY?**

- 4.1 The Audit Committee has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and the Executive is responsible for ensuring that all those under our control comply with it.
- 4.2 The Director of Finance has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, monitoring its use and effectiveness, dealing with any queries about it, and auditing internal control systems and procedures to ensure they are effective in countering bribery and corruption.
- 4.3 Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them understand and comply with this policy.

#### **5. WHAT IS BRIBERY?**

- 5.1 **Bribery** is offering, promising, giving or accepting any financial or other advantage, to induce the recipient or any other person to act improperly in the performance of their functions, or to reward them for acting improperly, or where the recipient would act improperly by accepting the advantage.
- 5.2 An **advantage** includes money, gifts, loans, fees, hospitality, services, discounts, the award of a contract or anything else of value.
- 5.3 A person acts **improperly** where they act illegally, unethically, or contrary to an expectation of good faith or impartiality, or where they abuse a position of trust. The improper acts may be in relation to any business or professional activities, public functions, acts in the course of employment, or other activities by or on behalf of any organisation of any kind.

## **The Bribery Act Includes 4 Offences:**

### **Offering a bribe**

You offer a potential client ticket to a major sporting event, but only if they agree to do business with us.

This would be an offence as you are making the offer to gain a commercial and contractual advantage. We may also be found to have committed an offence because the offer has been made to obtain business for us. It may also be an offence for the potential client to accept your offer.

### **Requesting, accepting or receiving a bribe**

A supplier gives your nephew a job but makes it clear that in return they expect you to use your influence in our organisation to ensure we continue to do business with them.

It is an offence for a supplier to make such an offer. It would be an offence for you to accept the offer as you would be doing so to gain a personal advantage.

### **Using a bribe to influence foreign official**

You arrange for the business to pay an additional "facilitation" payment to a foreign official to speed up an administrative process.

The offence of bribing a foreign public official is committed as soon as the offer is made. This is because it is made to gain a business advantage for us. We may also be found to have committed an offence.

### **Failure to prevent bribery**

A corporate offence whereby an organisation will be liable to prosecution if it fails to stop individuals operating on its behalf from being involved in bribery (due to there being no adequate procedures in place to prevent such actions)

## 6. WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO

It is not acceptable for you (or someone on your behalf) to:

- (a) give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift or hospitality with the expectation or hope that a business advantage will be received, or to reward a business advantage already given;
- (b) give or accept a gift or hospitality during any commercial negotiations or tender process, if this could be perceived as intended or likely to influence the outcome;
- (c) accept a payment, gift or hospitality from a third party that you know, or suspect is offered with the expectation that it we will provide a business advantage for them or anyone else in return;
- (d) accept hospitality from a third party that is unduly lavish or extravagant under the circumstances.
- (e) offer or accept a gift to or from government officials or representatives, or politicians or political parties;
- (f) threaten or retaliate against another individual who has refused to commit a bribery offence or who has raised concerns under this policy; or
- (g) engage in any other activity that might lead to a breach of this policy.

## 7. FACILITATION PAYMENTS AND KICKBACKS

7.1 We do not make, and will not accept, facilitation payments or "kickbacks" of any kind.

7.2 **Facilitation payments**, also known as "back-handers" or "grease payments", are typically small, unofficial payments made to secure or expedite a routine or necessary action (for example by a government official).

7.3 **Kickbacks** are typically payments made in return for a business favour or advantage.

7.4 You must avoid any activity that might lead to a facilitation payment or kickback being made or accepted by us or on our behalf, or that might suggest that such a payment will be made or accepted. If you are asked to make a payment on our behalf, you should always be mindful of what the payment is for and whether the amount requested is proportionate to the goods or services provided. You should always ask for a receipt which details the reason for the payment. If you have any suspicions, concerns or queries regarding a payment, you should raise these with

Director of Finance.

## **8. GIFTS, HOSPITALITY AND EXPENSES**

- 8.1 You must comply with the College's policy on Gifts and Hospitality [here](#).

## **9. RECORD-KEEPING**

- 9.1 We must keep financial records and have appropriate internal controls in place which will evidence the business reason for making payments to third parties.
- 9.2 All accounts, invoices, and other records relating to dealings with third parties including suppliers and customers should be prepared with strict accuracy and completeness. Accounts must not be kept "off-book" to facilitate or conceal improper payments.

## **10. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 10.1 You must ensure that you read, understand and comply with this policy.
- 10.2 The prevention, detection and reporting of bribery and other forms of corruption are the responsibility of all those working for us or under our control. You are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.
- 10.3 You must notify the Director of Finance as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a conflict with this policy has occurred or may occur in the future. For example, if a client or potential client offers you something to gain a business advantage with us or indicates to you that a gift or payment is required to secure their business.
- 10.4 If you are concerned that the Director of Finance may be implicated in any breach of this policy, you must report the matter to the Company Secretary.
- 10.5 The Director of Finance or the Company Secretary will investigate and take further action in accordance with the College's Fraud Response Plan

## **11. HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN**

- 11.1 You are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of bribery or corruption at the earliest possible stage.

- 11.2 If you are offered a bribe, or are asked to make one, or if you believe or suspect that any bribery, corruption, or other breach of this policy has occurred or may occur, you must notify the Director of Finance or report it in accordance with our Whistleblowing Policy as soon as possible.
- 11.3 If you are unsure about whether a particular act constitutes bribery or corruption, raise it with the Director of Finance.

## **12. PROTECTION**

- 12.1 Individuals who refuse to accept or offer a bribe, or who raise concerns or report another's wrongdoing, are sometimes worried about possible repercussions. We aim to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.
- 12.2 We are committed to ensuring no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of refusing to take part in bribery or corruption, or because of reporting in good faith their suspicion that an actual or potential bribery or other corruption offence has taken place or may take place in the future. Detrimental treatment includes dismissal, disciplinary action, threats or other unfavourable treatment connected with raising a concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform the Director of HR & Development immediately. If the matter is not remedied, and you are an employee, you should raise it formally using our Grievance Procedure.

## **13. TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION**

- 13.1 Our zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption must be communicated to all suppliers, contractors, and business partners at the outset of our business relationship with them and as appropriate thereafter.

## **14. BREACHES OF THIS POLICY**

- 14.1 Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for misconduct or gross misconduct.
- 14.2 The College will involve the police where it suspects that a criminal offence has been committed and will support any resulting prosecution.
- 14.3 We may terminate our relationship with other individuals and organisations working on our behalf if they breach this policy.

- 14.4 Governors who are found to be in breach of the policy may be removed from the Corporation Board

## 15. **POTENTIAL RISK SCENARIOS: "RED FLAGS"**

The following is a list of possible red flags that may arise during the course of you working for us and which may raise concerns. The list is not intended to be exhaustive and is for illustrative purposes only. If you encounter any of these red flags while working for us, you must report them promptly to the Director of Finance:

- (a) you become aware that a third party engages in, or has been accused of engaging in, improper business practices;
- (b) you learn that a third party has a reputation for paying bribes, or requiring that bribes are paid to them;
- (c) a third party insists on receiving a commission or fee payment before committing to sign up to a contract with us, or carrying out a government function or process for us;
- (d) a third-party requests payment in cash and/or refuses to sign a formal commission or fee agreement, or to provide an invoice or receipt for a payment made;
- (e) a third-party requests that payment is made to a country or geographic location different from where the third party resides or conducts business;
- (f) a third party requests an unexpected additional fee or commission to "facilitate" a service;
- (g) a third party demands lavish entertainment or gifts before commencing or continuing contractual negotiations or provision of services;
- (h) a third-party requests that a payment is made to "overlook" potential legal violations;
- (i) a third-party requests that you provide employment or some other advantage to a friend or relative;
- (j) you receive an invoice from a third party that appears to be non-standard or customised;
- (k) a third party insists on the use of side letters or refuses to put terms agreed in writing;
- (l) you notice that we have been invoiced for a commission or fee payment that appears large given the service stated to have been provided;
- (m) a third party requests or requires the use of an agent, intermediary, consultant, distributor or supplier that is not



typically used by or known to us;

- (n) you are offered an unusually generous gift or offered lavish hospitality by a third party.