

The Bribery Act 2010

Statement from Bridget Fletcher, Chief Executive

The Bribery Act 2010 came into force on 1 July 2011, aiming to tackle bribery and corruption in both the private and public sector.

Airedale NHS Foundation Trust welcomes the Act and, in line with our commitment to ensuring that the work we do remains fair, honest and free of bribery, we are keen to ensure we comply with the Act's standards.

As an NHS organisation we conform to the highest standards of NHS business practice and have robust controls in place to prevent bribery along with other forms of financial crime. In addition, we have the capability to thoroughly investigate any claims of bribery or corruption should they be made, via both our Local Counter Fraud Specialist and NHS Protect.

However we cannot afford to be complacent and it is important that all our employees, contractors and agents – indeed, anyone that we do business with – comply with our established policies and procedures, particularly with regard to procurement, sponsorship, and to the provision or receipt of gifts and hospitality. It is essential that everyone working for, or on behalf of the Foundation Trust are aware of the standards of behaviour expected of them.

Accordingly, in order to limit our exposure to bribery we have in place a range of corporate policies and counter measures, including a clear Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy, a Whistleblowing (Raising Concerns) Policy, a Counter Fraud Policy, and a Local Counter Fraud Specialist. We encourage staff to report any suspicion of bribery and rigorously investigate any allegations made. In addition, we hold a register of interests for directors, staff, and governors and ask staff not to accept gifts or hospitality that will compromise them or the Foundation Trust. You will, no doubt, hear more about our range of anti-bribery measures in the months ahead.

One of the six principles of the Act demands that there is top level commitment to the prevention of bribery. The Director of Finance has been identified as the Board lead for the prevention of bribery.

On behalf of Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, I confirm our resolve to ensure compliance with the Bribery Act 2010, and our staff's commitment to ensure the organisation is free of bribery and corruption.

Bridget Fletcher, Chief Executive
On behalf of the Board of Airedale NHS Foundation Trust