

Trust Board Meeting: Wednesday 14 May 2014
TB2014.64

Title	Register of Interests and Register of Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship Report
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Status	For Information
History	This is an annual report to the Board

Board Lead	Ms Eileen Walsh, Director of Assurance			
Key purpose	Strategy	Assurance	Policy	Performance

Summary

1	The Trust's Standing Orders require members of the Board to declare any personal interests that may bear on their duties as Directors of the Trust.
2	The acceptance of gifts, hospitality, preferential treatment in private transactions, sponsorship or loyalty schemes as an incentive for entering into business transactions is specifically prohibited by the Bribery Act 2013.
3	On the basis of the Bribery Act Risk Assessment undertaken by Counter Fraud, it was recommended that the Trust should update its policy on gifts and hospitality. It was further recommended that there be posted on the Trust's website a statement regarding the Bribery Act 2010, from the Chief Executive, together with a summary of the Act and this was approved by the Trust Board for implementation in January 2014.
4	An updated Declaration of Interests, Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship was approved by the Trust Board in January 2014.
5	The Register containing Board members' declarations for the year 2013/14 is attached for noting. These declarations will be included in the Annual Report.
7	In addition, details of gifts, hospitality, and sponsorship as declared by Trust Board members and members of the Trust Management Executive are included.

Recommendation

The Trust Board is asked to note the contents of the Registers and to discuss any potential conflicts of interest.

Declarations and Register of Interests

1. The Trust's Standing Orders require members of the Trust Board to declare any personal interests that may bear on the discharge of their duties as Directors of the Trust. Each member is required to declare interests on appointment, and subsequently each year, or at any point if their personal position changes during the year. Members are specifically asked at the commencement of all public and confidential Board meetings as well as meetings of Board sub-committees to declare any interests deriving from the agenda of that meeting. Declared interests are retained for public scrutiny and published in the Annual Report.
2. The Trust's updated Declaration of Interests, Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship Policy ["Trust Policy"] specifies the mechanism designed to ensure that all relevant and material interests, as well as gifts, hospitality and sponsorship are appropriately declared, recorded and monitored.
3. Relevant and material interests are depicted as:
 - a) Directorships, including Non-executive Directorships held in private companies or PLCs (with the exception of those of dormant companies);
 - b) Ownership or part-ownership of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS;
 - c) Majority or controlling share holdings in organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS;
 - d) A position of Authority in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care;
 - e) Any connection with a voluntary or other organisation contracting for NHS services;
 - f) Research funding/grants that may be received by an individual or their department;
 - g) Interests in pooled funds that are under separate management.
4. The Trust Board's Register of Interests is attached at Appendix A. Members of the Board have also declared their continued personal compliance with the NHS Codes of Conduct and Accountability.

Register of Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship

5. Under Trust Policy, all staff are required to declare any gifts, hospitality and sponsorship. One of the main purposes of this is to ensure that clinical decision making is not unduly influenced by the offer of gifts, and also that commercial decisions, such as in relation to procurement, remain open, transparent and beyond reproach. These requirements have been further strengthened by the Bribery Act 2010
6. Details of the declarations (including nil declarations) made by Trust Board members and other senior managers who are members of the Trust Management Executive (TME) are attached at Appendix B.
7. The Trust has taken steps to raise awareness of the need to submit declarations of interests, and to declare any gifts, hospitality and sponsorship. A summary of the Bribery Act 2010, together with a statement from the Chief Executive, is posted on

the Trust's website. Trust-wide consultation was undertaken on the updated Trust Policy. Declaration forms are included in the information packs given to all new starters, and explanations of the Trust's policies on gifts and hospitality and interests form part of the corporate induction.

8. A register containing details of declarations made by all staff other than Trust Board and TME members is maintained by the Corporate Governance team and is available for inspection upon request.

Recommendations

9. The Trust Board is asked to:
 - 9.1. Note the declaration of interests for Board members – this will be included in the Annual Report;
 - 9.2. Note the contents of the Register of Gifts, Hospitality, and Sponsorship.
 - 9.3. Discuss any potential conflicts of interest arising from the entries in the both registers.

Ms Eileen Walsh
Director of Assurance

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May 2014