

Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases NHS FT BOARD STATEMENT ON ANTI-BRIBERY

The Board of Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases recognises that bribery is a hugely damaging practice that undermines competition and the reputation of public and private bodies involved. This statement demonstrates our commitment to preventing bribery. It is our policy to act with integrity and we will not tolerate bribery and corruption. We will implement and enforce effective systems to counter bribery.

We have created an Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy that sets out procedures designed to prevent everyone associated with us from undertaking acts of bribery or corruption. This policy has been created with reference to the Bribery Act 2010 and the Ministry of Justice's statutory guidance.

We will uphold all laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption including those under the Bribery Act 2010 in respect of every aspect of our business. Bribery and corruption under the Act are punishable for individuals by up to ten years' imprisonment and if the Trust is found to have taken part in corruption we could face an unlimited fine and incalculable damage to our reputation. We therefore take our legal responsibilities very seriously. Any act of bribery undertaken by a member or an employee of the Trust will result in disciplinary action and will be treated extremely seriously by the Trust's Board. We require that all contractors instructed by our organisation demonstrate a commitment to bribery prevention in order to do business with us.

We believe a zero tolerance approach towards bribery supports our reputation for honest and ethical practice, and instils confidence in our patients and wider public.

As part of our commitment to prevent bribery within the Trust, the Board has initiated a number of bribery prevention procedures which include:

The creation of an Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy; A review of our policies in relation to Gifts and Hospitality, Disciplinary Policy, Commercial Sponsorship , Standards of Business Conduct, and Raising Concerns at Work;

A review of our Standing Financial Instructions and Standing Orders;

Appointment of a Compliance Officer from within the Board to develop and implement our bribery prevention procedures. This will also include regular monitoring and review of these procedures by the Compliance Officer.

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to this statement or our procedures in respect of bribery please contact the Director of Finance or NHS Direct.

Director of Finance
15th May 2013