

AES Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy

1. About this policy

- 1.1. It is our 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.
- 1.2. Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for gross misconduct. Any non-employee who breaches this policy may have their contract terminated with immediate effect.
- 1.3. This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time. It will be reviewed regularly.

2. Who must comply with this policy?

- 2.1. This policy applies to 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.

3. What is bribery?

- 3.1. Bribe means a financial or other inducement or reward for action which is illegal, unethical, a breach of trust or improper in any way. Bribes can take the form of money, gifts, loans, fees, hospitality, services, discounts, the award of a contract or any other advantage or benefit.
- 3.2. Bribery includes offering, promising, giving, accepting or seeking a bribe.
- 3.3. All forms of bribery are strictly prohibited. If you are unsure about whether a particular act constitutes bribery, raise it with your manager.
- 3.4. Specifically, you must not:
 - give or offer any payment, gift, hospitality or other benefit in the expectation that a business advantage will be received in return, or to reward any business received;
 - accept any offer from a third party that you know or suspect is made with the expectation that we will provide a business advantage for them or anyone else;
 - give or offer any payment (sometimes called a facilitation payment) to a government official in any country to facilitate or speed up a routine or necessary procedure;
- 3.5. You must not threaten or retaliate against another person who has refused to offer or accept a bribe or who has raised concerns about possible bribery or corruption.

Examples:

Offering a bribe

You offer a potential client tickets 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. The Company may also be found to have committed an offence because the offer has been made to obtain business for it. It may also be an offence for

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the potential client to accept your offer.

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.

Bribing a foreign official

You arrange for the business to pay an additional payment to a foreign official to speed up an administrative process, [such as clearing goods through customs].

The offence of bribing a foreign public official has been 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.

4. Gifts and hospitality

- 4.1. This policy does not prohibit the giving or accepting of reasonable and appropriate hospitality for legitimate purposes such as building relationships, maintaining our image or reputation, or marketing our products and services.
- 4.2. A gift or hospitality will not be appropriate if it is unduly lavish or extravagant, or could be seen as an inducement or reward for any preferential treatment (for example, during contractual negotiations or a tender process).
- 4.3. Gifts must be of an appropriate type and value depending on the circumstances and taking account of the reason for the gift. Gifts must not include cash or cash equivalent (such as vouchers), or be given in secret. Gifts must be given in our name, not your name.
- 4.4. Promotional gifts of low value such as branded stationery may be given to or accepted from existing customers, suppliers and business partners.

5. Facilitation payments and kickbacks

- 5.1. We do not make, and will not accept, facilitation payments or "kickbacks" of any kind. Facilitation payments are typically small, unofficial payments made to secure or expedite a routine government action by a government official. They are not commonly paid in the UK, but are common in some other jurisdictions.
- 5.2. 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 a member of the Senior Management Team.
- 5.3. Kickbacks are typically payments made in return for a business favour or advantage. All workers must avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, that a facilitation payment or kickback will be made or accepted by us.

6. Donations

- 6.1. We do not make contributions to political parties.
- 6.2. We only make charitable donations that are legal and ethical under local laws and practices. No donation may be offered or made without the prior approval of a Director.

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7. Your responsibilities

- 7.1. You must ensure that you read, understand and comply with this policy.
- 7.2. 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. All workers are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.
- 7.3. You must notify your manager as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a conflict with this policy has occurred, or may occur. 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. Further "red flags" that may indicate bribery or corruption are set out in the The Schedule - Potential risk scenarios: "red flags".
- 7.4. Any employee who breaches this policy will face disciplinary action, which could result in dismissal for gross misconduct. We reserve our right to terminate our contractual relationship with workers if they breach this policy.

8. Record-keeping

- 8.1. You must declare and keep a written record of all hospitality or gifts given or received. You must also submit all expenses claims relating to hospitality, gifts or payments to third parties in accordance with our expenses policy and record the reason for expenditure.
- 8.2. 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.

9. How to raise a concern

- 9.1. If you are offered a bribe, or are asked to make one, or if you suspect that any bribery, corruption or other breach of this policy has occurred or may occur, you must notify your manager as soon as possible.

10. Protection

- 10.1. Workers who refuse to accept or offer a bribe, or those who raise concerns or report another's wrongdoing, are sometimes worried about possible repercussions. The Company aims to encourage openness and will support anyone who, in good faith, raises genuine concerns under this policy, even if are mistaken.
- 10.2. 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 a member of the Senior Management Team immediately. If the matter is not remedied, and you are an employee, you should raise it formally using our Grievance Procedure.

11. Training and communication

- 11.1. Training on this policy forms part of the induction process for all new workers and relevant training on how to implement and adhere to this policy will be provided as appropriate.

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- 11.2. 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.

12. Who is responsible for the policy?

- 12.1. The Senior Management Team have overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all employees comply with it.
- 12.2. The Senior Management Team have primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, for monitoring its use and effectiveness and for dealing with any queries on its interpretation. Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them are aware of and understand this policy and are given adequate and regular training on it.



Simon Holden
General Manager
8 March 2024

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The Schedule - 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 under various anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws. 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 your manager:

- you become aware that a third party engages in, or has been accused of engaging in, improper business practices;
- you learn that a third party has a reputation for paying bribes, or requiring that bribes are paid to them, or has a reputation for having a "special relationship" with foreign government officials;
- 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;
- 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;
- a third party requests that payment is made to a country or geographic location different from where the third party resides or conducts business;
- a third party requests an unexpected additional fee or commission to "facilitate" a service;
- a third party demands lavish entertainment or gifts before commencing or continuing contractual negotiations or provision of services;
- a third party requests that a payment is made to "overlook" potential legal violations;
- a third party requests that you provide employment or some other advantage to a friend or relative;
- you receive an invoice from a third party that appears to be non-standard or customised;
- a third party insists on the use of side letters or refuses to put terms agreed in writing;
- you notice that we have been invoiced for a commission or fee payment that appears large given the service stated to have been provided;
- 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; or
- you are offered an unusually generous gift or offered lavish hospitality by a third party.