
Public Board Meeting, 25 March 2010

Governance – Declarations of Interest and Nolan Principles

Report by: David McNeil, Trust Secretary

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to remind the Board of the need to ensure the declarations of interest are up to date and to confirm that it is operating in line with the Nolan principles.

Declarations of Interest

The Trust's corporate governance arrangements require it to hold a Register of Interests. The types of interests that are relevant and material are:

- Directorships (including Non Executive Directorships) held in private companies or PLCs (with the exception of those of dormant companies).
- Ownership or part-ownership of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
- Majority or controlling shareholding in organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
- A position of authority in a charity or voluntary body in the field of health and social care.
- Any material connection with a voluntary or other body contracting for NHS services.

Under the Trust's Standing Orders, declarations need to be reviewed and kept up to date annually. The Register is available to the public, and the Chief Executive must take reasonable steps to bring the existence of the Register to the attention of the local population.

Process

The Board were asked to complete and sign a Declaration of Interest form on joining the Trust. At each Board meeting, members are asked to declare any interests and, if any are declared, the declaration held centrally is update.

A summary of the declarations is published each year in the Trust's Annual Report.

The Register

Attached at Appendix A is a list of those interests that have been declared by individuals. This may differ from that published in the Annual Report if there have been recent updates.

The Nolan Principles of Public Life

Each year the Board also needs to remind itself of Nolan's 7 Principles of Public Life.

- **Selflessness** : Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.
- **Integrity** : Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- **Objectivity** : In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- **Accountability** : Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- **Openness** : Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty** : Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Leadership** : Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Recommendations

A revised version of the Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions will be presented to the May Board. In the meantime, the Board is asked to confirm they are aware of:

- the need to declare any potential conflicts of interest
- to confirm compliance with the Nolan Principle

David McNeil
Board Secretary
March 2010