

Annexe 3 - The seven principles of public life

All candidates for public appointments are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service. The seven principles of public life were first identified by the Nolan Committee in its first report on standards in public life in May 1995 (the Nolan principles) and updated by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its report of January 2013, Standards Matter. The seven principles of public life are:

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.

- Members of the public and members of the chiropractic professions are entitled to expect that you make decisions based on your conscientious assessment of what is in the public interest, without regard to your own interests or those of other organisations or individuals.
- Do not exploit your association with the GCC for your own gain or that of others and avoid any situation in which you might - even accidentally- give the impression that you are in a position to trade influence or access.
- If you have any involvement with a chiropractic business or organisation whose value, prospects or well-being might be affected by GCC decisions or policies, take responsibility for ensuring that your motivation and actions could not be challenged.

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.

- Do not accept payments, gifts, hospitality or favours where the nature of the person or organisation concerned, or the circumstances of the exchange, could give rise to a concern about your integrity.
- Do not put yourself - or allow others to put you - in a position in which your advancement or personal interests, or those of anyone close to you, could be seen as being linked to any decisions or actions you might take in the course of your GCC work.
- Assess your own behaviour by reference to these standards and make sure that you are seen to be following them.

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.

- When making recommendations and decisions, do not allow any non-GCC interests to influence the choices you make.
- Consider available options on their merits. Do not allow yourself to confuse the interests of the chiropractic profession, or any other particular sector of society, with the public interest.
- Take full account of all available evidence which is relevant to the decision you have to make in the course of your GCC work. This can include evidence of the opinions, wishes and concerns of people who may be affected by the decision. Make sure that you can distinguish clearly between the weight which is properly given to such evidence, and any undue, inappropriate or undeclared influence.

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.

- You have a responsibility to explain your actions when asked. Engage constructively and positively with appropriate opportunities to explain the ways in which you have managed your interests.
- If you are asked about an interest, or the way in which you have managed it, avoid taking a defensive or narrowly legalistic approach.

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 it.

- Make a full and open declaration of interests when asked to do so. If in doubt about whether or not you need to declare an interest, err on the side of openness and let others make an assessment of relevance. Perceptions vary, and you may not be best placed to make an objective assessment in your own case.
- Complying with the formalities is important but is not enough on its own. Take active steps to assure yourself that those who need to know about your interests on any particular occasion are aware of the situation.
- Demonstrate that you are open not only to disclosing any interests you may have but also that you are open to discussing their significance.

Reflect on any feedback and advice you receive and act on any learning points that emerge from your experience and the views of others.

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.

- In all that you do on behalf of the Council, demonstrate the same high standards of professionalism and personal probity which the Council expects of registered chiropractors.
- Answer any questions asked of you about your interests truthfully and in a spirit of openness.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

- Let your approach to managing your interests provide an example of good practice within the Council, enhancing the Council's standing as a model of good practice for the chiropractors we regulate.
- Provide leadership by ensuring that your actions match the words which we have agreed to live up to. Speak and act in ways which promote and encourage a culture of open discussion about issues concerning interests. Help promote a culture of accountability, in keeping with the spirit of this guidance.
- Support others with leadership roles within the Council, so that they are empowered and supported to fulfil their responsibilities on behalf of the whole organisation, in the public interest.