



Anti- Bribery, Fraud & Corruption Policy

Introduction

This Policy explains the responsibilities of Multi Services Kent Limited (MSK) and those who work for us in regards to observing and upholding our zero-tolerance position on Bribery, Fraud and Corruption. It also exists to act as a source of information and guidance for those working for MSK. It helps them recognise and deal with Bribery, Fraud and Corruption issues, as well as understand their responsibilities.

Policy Statement

MSK is committed to conducting business in an ethical and honest manner, and is committed to implementing and enforcing systems that ensure Bribery, Fraud & Corruption is prevented. MSK has zero-tolerance for Bribery and corrupt activities. We are committed to acting professionally, fairly, and with integrity in all business dealings and relationships, wherever in the country we operate.

MSK will constantly uphold all laws relating to Anti-Bribery, Fraud and Corruption in all the jurisdictions in which we operate. We are bound by the laws of the UK, including the Bribery Act 2010, in regards to our conduct both at home and abroad.

MSK recognizes that Bribery, Fraud and Corruption are punishable by a custodial sentence; If an individual is found guilty of a Bribery offence, tried as a summary offence, he or she may be imprisoned for up to 12 months and fined up to £5,000. Someone found guilty on indictment, however, faces up to 10 years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

If MSK is discovered to have taken part in corrupt activities, we may be subjected to an unlimited fine, be excluded from tendering for public contracts, and face serious damage to our reputation. It is with this in mind that we commit to preventing Bribery, Fraud and Corruption in our business, and take our legal responsibilities seriously.

Who is covered by the Policy?

This Policy applies to all employees (whether temporary, fixed-term, or permanent), consultants, contractors, trainees, seconded staff, home workers, casual workers, agency staff, volunteers, interns, agents, sponsors, or any other person or persons associated with us (including third parties), or any of our subsidiaries or their employees, no matter where they are located (within or outside of the UK). The Policy also applies to Officers, Trustees, Board, and/ or Committee members at any level.

In the context of this Policy, third-party refers to any individual or organisation our company meets and works with. It refers to actual and potential clients, customers, suppliers, distributors, business contacts, agents, advisers, and government and public bodies – this includes their advisors, representatives and officials, politicians, and public parties.

Any arrangements MSK makes with a third party is subject to clear contractual terms, including specific provisions that require the third party to comply with minimum standards and procedures relating to anti-Bribery, Fraud and Corruption, including.

- the culture and the stance against Bribery, Fraud and Corruption;
- how to raise concerns and report financial malpractice;
- the principle of having an anti-Bribery, Fraud & Corruption strategy;
- the responsible officer.

All employees should play a key role in counter-Fraud initiatives. This includes providing a corporate framework within which counter-Fraud arrangements will flourish, and the promotion of an anti-Fraud culture across the whole of the Company. This should provide a sound defence against internal and external abuse of Company funds.

The relevant definitions are as follows;

Bribery

- Bribery refers to the act of offering, giving, promising, asking, agreeing, receiving, accepting, or soliciting something of value or of an advantage so to induce or influence an action or decision.
- A Bribe refers to any inducement, reward, or object/ item of value offered to another individual in order to gain commercial, contractual, regulatory, or personal advantage.
- Bribery is not limited to the act of offering a Bribe. If an individual is on the receiving end of a Bribe and they accept it, they are also breaking the law.
- Bribery is illegal. Employees must not engage in any form of Bribery, whether it be directly, passively (as described above), or through a third party (such as an agent or distributor). They must not Bribe a foreign public official anywhere in the world. They must not accept Bribes in any degree and if they are uncertain about whether something is a Bribe or a gift or act of hospitality, they must seek further advice from the company's Director.

Fraud

- Fraud is the "intentional distortion of financial statements or other records by persons internal or external to the organisation, which is carried out to conceal the misappropriation of assets or otherwise for gain."
- Corruption is the "offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward which may improperly influence the action of any person.
- Responsibility for an anti-Fraud culture is the joint duty of all those involved in giving direction, determining Policy and management. The strategy should be directed against Fraud and Corruption whether it is attempted against MSK from outside or from within its own workforce.
- MSK expects that employees at all levels will lead by example in ensuring adherence to legal requirements, contracts procedure rules, financial procedure rules, codes of conduct and best (professional) practice.
- As part of this culture, MSK will provide clear routes by which concerns can be raised by employees (full time, part time, temporary and casual).
- Senior Management is expected to deal swiftly and firmly with those who de-Fraud MSK or who are corrupt. MSK, including Directors and Senior Management, will be robust in dealing with financial malpractice.

What is and what is NOT acceptable - This section of the Policy refers to 4 areas:

- **Gifts & hospitality** - MSK accepts normal and appropriate gestures of hospitality and goodwill (whether given to/ received from third parties) so long as the giving or receiving of gifts meets the following requirements:
 - It is not made with the intention of influencing the party to whom it is being given, to obtain or reward the retention of a business or a business advantage, or as an explicit or implicit exchange for favours or benefits.
 - It is not made with the suggestion that a return favour is expected.
 - It is in compliance with local law.
 - It is given in the name of the company, not in an individual's name.
 - It does not include cash or a cash equivalent (e.g. a voucher or gift certificate).
 - It is appropriate for the circumstances (e.g. giving small gifts around Christmas or as a small thank you to a company for helping with a large project upon completion).
 - It is of an appropriate type and value and given at an appropriate time, taking into account the reason for the gift.
 - It is given/ received openly, not secretly.
 - It is not selectively given to a key, influential person, clearly with the intention of directly influencing them.
 - It is not above a certain excessive value, as pre-determined by the company's compliance manager (usually in excess of £100).
 - It is not offer to, or accepted from, a government official or representative or politician or political party, without the prior approval of the company's compliance manager.
 - Where it is inappropriate to decline the offer of a gift (i.e. when meeting with an individual of a certain religion/culture who may take offence), the gift may be accepted so long as it is declared to the compliance manager, who will assess the circumstances.
 - MSK recognises that the practice of giving and receiving business gifts varies between countries, regions, cultures, and religions, so definitions of what is acceptable and not acceptable will inevitably differ for each.
 - As good practice, gifts given and received should always be disclosed to the compliance manager. Gifts from suppliers should always be disclosed.

- The intention behind a gift being given/received should always be considered. If there is any uncertainty, the advice of the compliance manager should be sought.

Facilitation Payments and Kickbacks

MSK does not accept and will not make any form of facilitation payments of any nature. We recognise that facilitation payments are a form of Bribery that involves expediting or facilitating the performance of a public official for a routine governmental action. We recognise that they tend to be made by low level officials with the intention of securing or speeding up the performance of a certain duty or action.

MSK does not allow kickbacks to be made or accepted. We recognise that kickbacks are typically made in exchange for a business favour or advantage.

MSK recognizes that, despite our strict Policy on facilitation payments and kickbacks, employees may face a situation where avoiding a facilitation payment or kickback may put their/ their family's personal security at risk. Under these circumstances, the following steps must be taken:

- Keep any amount to the minimum.
- Ask for a receipt, detailing the amount and reason for the payment.
- Create a record concerning the payment.
- Report this incident to your line manager.

Political Contributions

MSK will not make donations, whether in cash, kind, or by any other means, to support any political parties or candidates. We recognise this may be perceived as an attempt to gain an improper business advantage.

Charitable Contributions

MSK accepts (and indeed encourages) the act of donating to charities – whether through services, knowledge, time, or direct financial contributions (cash or otherwise) – and agrees to disclose all charitable contributions it makes.

Employees must be careful to ensure that charitable contributions are not used to facilitate and conceal acts of Bribery. We will ensure that all charitable donations made are legal and ethical under local laws and practices, and that donations are not offered/ made without the approval of the compliance manager.

Employee Responsibilities

As an employee of MSK, you must ensure that you read, understand, and comply with the information contained within this Policy, and with any training or other anti-Bribery and Corruption information you are given.

All employees and those under our control are equally responsible for the prevention, detection, and reporting of Bribery and other forms of Corruption. They are required to avoid any activities that could lead to, or imply, a breach of this anti-Bribery Policy.

If you have reason to believe or suspect that an instance of Bribery or Corruption has occurred or will occur in the future that breaches this Policy, you must notify the compliance manager.

How to raise a concern

If you suspect that there is an instance of Bribery or corrupt activities occurring in relation to, you are encouraged to raise your concerns at as early a stage as possible. If you're uncertain about whether a certain action or behaviour can be considered Bribery or Corruption, you should speak to your line manager, the Health & Safety manager or your Director.

MSK will familiarize all employees with its whistleblowing procedures so employees can vocalize their concerns swiftly and confidentially.

- There is, of course, a need to ensure that any investigation process is not misused, therefore, any internal abuse, such as raising malicious or vexatious allegations, may be dealt with as a disciplinary matter.

What to do if you are a victim of Bribery or Corruption

You must tell your compliance manager as soon as possible if you are offered a Bribe by anyone, if you are asked to make one, if you suspect that you may be Bribed or asked to make a Bribe in the near future, or if you have reason to believe that you are a victim of another corrupt activity.

Protection

If you refuse to accept or offer a Bribe or you report a concern relating to potential act(s) of Bribery or Corruption, MSK understands that you may feel worried about potential repercussions. MSK will support anyone who raises concerns in good faith under this Policy, even if investigation finds that they were mistaken.

MSK will ensure that no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of refusing to accept or offer a Bribe or other corrupt activities or because they reported a concern relating to potential act(s) of Bribery or Corruption. Detrimental treatment refers to dismissal, disciplinary action, treats, or unfavorable treatment in relation to the concern the individual raised.

If you have reason to believe you've been subjected to unjust treatment as a result of a concern or refusal to accept a Bribe, you should inform your line manager or the compliance manager immediately. If any employee breaches this Policy, they will face disciplinary action and could face dismissal for gross misconduct. MSK has the right to terminate a contractual relationship with an employee if they breach this anti-Bribery Policy.

Training and communication

MSK will provide training on this Policy as part of the induction process for all new employees. Employees will also receive regular, relevant training on how to adhere to this Policy, and will be asked annually to formally accept that they will comply with this Policy. MSK's Anti-Bribery, Fraud and Corruption Policy and zero-tolerance attitude will be clearly communicated to all suppliers, contractors, business partners, and any third-parties at the outset of business relations, and as appropriate thereafter.

Record keeping

MSK will keep detailed and accurate financial records, and will have appropriate internal controls in place to act as evidence for all payments made. We will declare and keep a written record of the amount and reason for hospitality or gifts accepted and given, and understand that gifts and acts of hospitality are subject to managerial review.

Monitoring and reviewing

MSK's Health & Safety manager is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this Policy and will review the implementation of it on a regular basis. They will assess its suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. Internal control systems and procedures designed to prevent Bribery, Fraud and Corruption are subject to regular audits to ensure that they are effective in practice.

Any need for improvements will be applied as soon as possible. Employees are encouraged to offer their feedback on this Policy if they have any suggestions for how it may be improved. Feedback of this nature should be addressed to the Health & Safety manager or the Director.

This Policy does not form part of an employee's contract of employment and may amend it at any time so to improve its effectiveness at combatting Bribery and Corruption. All aspects of this policy shall remain in force and open to periodic review at any time.

Policy Reviewed by – Trevor Walker – MSK H & S Manager

Policy Approved by

Signed: 

Date: 15:07:2022

Mark Doughty
Managing Director