

11.0 Anti-Fraud & Bribery Prevention Policy Statement

Our Anti-Fraud and Bribery Prevention Policy sets down our approach to preventing, detecting, and reporting fraud and bribery within our company. We are fully committed to minimising our exposure to fraud, corruption, and bribery. Fraud and bribery are crimes, and we are committed to eradicating the risk of fraud and bribery.

This policy will assist in raising awareness both to the risk of fraud and bribery and the means of preventing it, as well as identifying existing procedures for reducing the likelihood of such events occurring.

The Managing Director has the overall responsibility for delivering and understanding this policy and the controls needed to ensure it is implemented throughout.

Under the Fraud Act 2006 Act, any individual who dishonestly makes a false representation to make a gain for himself or another, or dishonestly fails to disclose to another person information which they are under a legal duty to disclose, or commits fraud by an abuse of position, may be found guilty of the offence of fraud. Such elements of fraud will be taken to include theft, the removal of cash or assets to which the fraudster is not entitled to or giving false documentation or alteration of any accounting records.

The Bribery Act 2010 creates four offences, such as offering, promising, or giving a bribe; requesting, agreeing to receive or accepting a bribe; bribing a foreign official to retain business; and the failure of an organisation to prevent a bribe being paid on its behalf.

A function or activity to which a bribe relates includes any function of a public nature and any activity connected with a business. Organisations are therefore expected to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for bribery prevention.

We will operate a zero tolerance to fraud and bribery and whilst we do not anticipate that fraud or bribery will occur within our company, any suspected cases of fraud or bribery will be investigated and pursued, with the maximum penalties being sought through criminal/civil and employer disciplinary actions.

Under the Bribery Act 2010, six key principles have been identified to help inform an organisation in establishing procedures to prevent bribery and we will also adopt these to assist in preventing fraud. The main principles are outlined below and are proportionate to the size of our company, together with the procedures which sit under them to prevent fraud and bribery. The main aim of the Bribery Act 2010 relates to those who conduct business in foreign markets. In view of our limited exposure outside the UK, the procedures primarily reflect the need to mitigate domestic bribery.

Full commitment from all management must be implemented and persons will be made aware of this policy and that disciplinary action will be taken. Proof of fraud or bribery may result in criminal proceedings.

The procurement of goods and services are maintained at the office level only to ensure control of the provision of our services and ensure they are not outsourced to others. We will ensure our internal procedures are adopted to guard against fraud and bribery.

All staff will be made aware of our intolerance to any fraud or bribery, and their own individual personal responsibilities. We will be alert to opportunities for improving our procedures to minimise the risk of fraud and bribery and ensure financial management controls are maintained and that financial reporting is monitored.

Ensure that all employees are aware of our commitment to our whistle blowing policy and that we welcome persons to report any concerns, including potential cases of fraud and or bribery and ensure their contracts of employment are completed. All persons are to be made aware of this policy and that they must complete an Expenses Claim Policy with the relevant receipts attached.

Our policy on accepting gifts and hospitality and that any receipt of such must be referred to the head office. No person must give, promise or offer a payment, gift or hospitality unless there is believed that a business advantage will be received.

If any person is threatened or coerced into engaging in conduct, which might amount to a possible breach of this policy, then they may act in a way which will safeguard their health and safety and when safe to do so, report to the office.

All reports of fraud or bribery will be fully investigated and reported to me as the Managing Director, and I will ensure that the required accounts and records are submitted to the relevant persons as required.

Signed: 

Date: 1st July 2023

Mr. Bradley Rees, Managing Director

Health, Safety, Welfare, Quality & Environmental Policy – REV 17.0 – July 2023