



STANDING ORDERS
ARGYLL AND BUTE INTEGRATION JOINT
BOARD

May 2022

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1. General

These Standing Orders are made under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014. These Standing Orders shall, as far as applicable be the rules and regulations for the proceedings of Committees and working groups and therefore reference to the term 'Board' in the said Standing Orders should be interpreted accordingly. The term 'Chairperson' shall also be deemed to include the Chairperson of any Committee or working groups but only in relation to such Committees or working groups.

1.2 In these Standing Orders "the Integration Joint Board" shall mean Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board established in terms of the (SSI 2015/88) Order 2015. "The Council" means Argyll & Bute Council and "The Health Board" means NHS Highland Health Board.

1.3 Any statutory provision, regulation or direction issued by the Scottish Ministers shall have precedence if they are in conflict with the Standing Orders.

2. Membership

2.1 Voting membership of the Integration Board shall comprise four NHS Highland Board members, nominated by the NHS Board, and four Elected Members of Argyll & Bute Council, (hereinafter referred to as the Council) nominated by the Council.

2.2 Non-voting membership of the Integration Board shall comprise:

- a. the Chief Social Work Officer of the Council;
- b. the Chief Officer of the Integration Joint Board;
- c. the proper officer of the Integration Joint Board appointed under section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973;
- d. a registered medical practitioner whose name is included in the list of primary medical services performers prepared by the Health Board in accordance with Regulations made under section 17P of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978;
- e. a registered nurse who is employed by the Health Board or by a person or body with which the Health Board has entered into a general medical services contract;
- f. a registered medical practitioner employed by the Health Board and not providing primary medical services.
- g. one member staff from the Health Board and one member of staff from the Council engaged in the provision of services provided under integration functions;
- h. one member in respect of third sector bodies carrying out activities related to health or social care in the area of the local authority;
- i. two members in respect of service users residing in the Council area Council;
- j. one member in respect of persons providing unpaid care in the Council area of ; and
- k. such additional members as the Integration Joint Board sees fit to appoint with the proviso that a member appointed under this paragraph may not be a councillor or a member of the Health Board.

The members appointed under paragraphs (d) to (f) must be determined by the Health Board.

2.3 A member of the Integration Joint Board in terms of 2.2 (a) to (c) will remain a member for as long as they hold the office in respect of which they are appointed. Otherwise, the term of office of Members of the Integration Joint Board shall be for a period of up to 3 years.

2.4 Where a member resigns or otherwise ceases to hold office, the person appointed in his/her place shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the Member they replace.

2.5 On expiry of a member's term of appointment the member shall be eligible for re-appointment provided that he/she remains eligible and is not otherwise disqualified from appointment.

2.6 A voting member appointed under paragraph 2.1 ceases to be a member of the Integration Joint Board if they cease to be either a Councillor or a member of the NHS Board or an Appropriate Person in terms of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014 from the date they cease to be a councillor or member of NHS Board or appropriate person.

2.7 A member of the Integration Joint Board, other than those members referred to in paragraph 2.2(a) to (g), may resign his/her membership at any time during their term of office by giving notice to the Integration Joint Board in writing. The resignation shall take effect from the date notified in the notice or on the date of receipt if no date is notified. If this is a voting member the Integration Joint Board must inform the constituent authority that made the nomination.

2.8 If a member has not attended three consecutive meetings of the Integration Joint Board, and their absence was not due to illness or some other reasonable cause as determined by the Integration Joint Board, the Integration Joint Board may, by giving one month's notice in writing to that member, remove that person from office.

2.9 If a member acts in a way which brings the Integration Joint Board into disrepute or in a way which is inconsistent with the proper performance of the functions of the Integration Joint Board, the Integration Joint Board may remove the member from office with effect from such date as the Integration Joint Board may specify in writing.

2.10 If a member is disqualified under article 8 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014 during a term of office they are to be removed from office immediately.

2.11 A constituent authority may remove a member which it nominated by providing one month's notice in writing to the member and the Integration Joint Board. (Article 14.1)

2.12 If a member is unable to attend a meeting, a suitably experienced proxy may be appointed by the constituent authority which nominated the member. The appointment of such proxy members will be subject to the same rules and procedures for members. Proxy members shall receive papers for meetings of the Integration Joint Board and shall be entitled to attend or vote at a meeting, only in the absence of the principal member they represent. If the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson is unable to attend a

meeting of the Integration Joint Board, any depute member attending the meeting may not preside over that meeting.

2.13 The acts, meetings or proceedings of the Integration Joint Board shall not be invalidated by any defect in the appointment of any member.

2.14 Where there is a temporary vacancy in the voting membership of the Integration Joint Board, the vote which would have been exercisable by a member appointed to that vacancy may be exercised jointly by the other members nominated by the relevant constituent authority. Where two or more temporary vacancies occur, or a temporary vacancy remains unfilled for longer than 6 months Article 13 of the Order shall be applied. [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Integration Joint Boards\) \(Scotland\) Order 2014](#)

3. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

3.1 The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be drawn from the NHS Board and the Council voting members of the Integration Joint Board. If a Council member is to serve as Chairperson then the Vice Chairperson will be a member nominated by the NHS Board and vice versa. The first Chairperson of the Integration Joint Board will be appointed on the nomination of the Council.

3.2 The appointment to Chairperson and Vice Chairperson is time limited to a period not exceeding two years and carried out on a rotational basis between Council and NHS Board appointed Chairperson, as agreed in the Integration Scheme. The Council or NHS Board may change their appointee as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson during an appointing period.

3.3 The Vice-Chairperson may act in all respects as the Chairperson of the Integration Joint Board if the Chairperson is absent or otherwise unable to perform his/her duties.

3.4 At every meeting of the Integration Joint Board or committee of the Integration Joint Board the Chairperson, if present, shall preside. If the Chairperson is absent from any meeting the Vice-Chairperson, if present, shall preside. If both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are absent, a Chairperson shall be appointed from the voting members by the voting members present for that meeting. Any proxy member attending the meeting may not preside over that meeting.

3.5 Powers, authority and duties of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

The Chairperson shall amongst other things:-

- (a) Preserve order and ensure that every member has a fair hearing;
- (b) Decide on matters of relevancy, competency and order, and whether to have a recess during the meeting, having taken into account any advice offered by the Chief Officer or other relevant officer in attendance at the meeting;
- (c) Determine the order in which speakers can be heard;
- (d) Ensure that due and sufficient opportunity is given to members who wish to speak to express their views on any subject under discussion;
- (e) If requested by any member, ask the mover of a motion, or an amendment, to state its terms;

- (f) Maintain order and at his/her discretion, order the exclusion of any member of the public who is deemed to have caused disorder or misbehaved;
- (g) The decision of the Chairperson on all matters within his/her jurisdiction shall be final;
- (h) Deference shall at all times be paid to the authority of the Chairperson. When he/she rises to speak, the Chairperson shall be heard without interruption; and
- (i) Members shall address the Chairperson while speaking;

4. Meetings

4.1 The first meeting of the Integration Joint Board will be convened at a time and place to be determined by the Chairperson. Thereafter Integration Joint Board shall meet at such place and such frequency as may be agreed by the Integration Joint Board.

4.2 The Chairperson may convene special meetings if it appears to him/her that there are items of urgent business to be considered. Such meetings will be held at a time, date and venue as determined by the Chairperson. If the Office of Chairperson is vacant, or if the Chairperson is unable to act for any reason the Vice-Chairperson may at any time call such a meeting.

4.3 If the Chairperson refuses to call a meeting of the Integration Joint Board after a requisition for that purpose specifying the business proposed to be transacted, signed by at least two thirds of the voting members, has been presented to the Chairperson or if, without so refusing, the Chairperson does not call a meeting within seven days after such requisition has been presented, those members who presented the requisition may forthwith call a meeting provided no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than specified in the requisition.

4.4 Adequate provision will be made to allow for members to attend a meeting of the Integration Joint Board or a committee of the Integration Joint Board either by being present together with other members in a specified place, or in any other way which enables members to participate despite not being present with other members in a specified place.

5. Notice of Meeting

5.1 Before each meeting of the Integration Joint Board, or a committee of the Integration Joint Board, a notice of the meeting, specifying the time, place and business to be transacted at it and agreed by the Chairperson, or by a member authorised by the Chairperson to agree on his/her behalf, shall be delivered to every member by electronic means so as to be available to them at least five full working days before the meeting. Failure of service of the notice on any member shall not affect the validity of anything done at a meeting.

5.2 In the case of a meeting of the Integration Joint Board called by members in default of the Chairperson, the notice is to be signed by those members who requisitioned the meeting.

5.3 At all ordinary or special meetings of the Integration Joint Board, no business other than that on the agenda shall be discussed or adopted except where by reason of

special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chairperson is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

6. Quorum

6.1 No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Integration Joint Board unless there are present, and entitled to vote both Council and NHS Board members and at least one half of the voting members of the Integration Joint Board are present.

6.2 If within ten minutes after the time appointed for the commencement of a meeting of the Integration Joint Board, a quorum is not present, the meeting will stand adjourned to such date and time as may be fixed and the minute of the meeting will disclose the fact.

7. Codes of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest

7.1 Members of the Integration Joint Board shall subscribe to and comply with both the Standards in Public Life - Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies and Councillors Code of Conduct and Guidance made in respect thereto which are deemed to be incorporated into these Standing Orders. All members who are not already bound by the terms of either Code shall be obliged before taking up membership, to agree in writing to be bound by the terms of the Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies.

7.2 If any member has a financial or non-financial interest as defined in the Councillors' Code of Conduct or the Code of Conduct of Members of Devolved Public Bodies and is present at any meeting at which the matter is to be considered, he/she must as soon as practical, after the meeting starts, disclose that he/she has an interest and the nature of that interest and if he/she is precluded from taking part in consideration of that matter.

7.3 If a member or any associate of theirs has any pecuniary or any other interest direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract or other matter and that member is present at a meeting of the Integration Joint Board, that member shall disclose the fact and the nature of the relevant interest and shall not be entitled to vote on any question with respect to it. A member shall not be treated as having any interest in any contract or matter if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to significantly affect or influence the voting by that member on any question with respect to that contract or matter.

7.4 Where an interest is disclosed, the other members present at the meeting in question must decide whether the member declaring the interest is to be prohibited from taking part in discussion of or voting on the item of business.

8. Adjournment of Meetings

8.1 A meeting of the Integration Joint Board may be adjourned to another date, time or place by a motion, which shall be moved and seconded and put to the meeting without discussion. If such a motion is carried by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote, the meeting shall be adjourned to the day, time and place

specified in the motion. In addition the Chairperson may adjourn the meeting at their sole discretion.

9. Disclosure of Information

9.1 No member or officer shall disclose to any person any information which falls into the following categories:-

- Confidential information within the meaning of Section 50(a) (2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.
- The full document, or any part of any document marked “not for publication by virtue of the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, unless and until the document has been made available to the public or press under section 50B of the said 1973 Act.
- Any information regarding proceedings of the Integration Joint Board from which the public have been excluded unless or until disclosure has been authorised by the Integration Joint Board or the information has been made available to the press or to the public under the terms of the relevant legislation.

9.2 Without prejudice to the foregoing no member shall use or disclose to any person any confidential and/or exempt information coming to his/her knowledge by virtue of his/her office as a member where such disclosure would be to the advantage of the member or of anyone known to him/her or which would be to the disadvantage of the Integration Joint Board.

10. Recording of Proceedings

No sound, film, video tape, digital or photographic recording of the proceedings of any meeting shall be made without prior written approval of the Integration Joint Board.

11. Admission of Press and Public

11.1 Subject to the extent of the accommodation available and except in relation to items certified as exempt, meetings of the Integration Joint Board shall be open to the public. The Chief Officer shall be responsible for giving public notice of the time and place of each meeting of the Integration Joint Board by posting within the main offices of the Integration Joint Board not less than five days before the date of each meeting.

11.2 The Integration Joint Board may by resolution at any meeting exclude the press and public during consideration of any item of business where it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or of the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 7(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 Act or it is likely that confidential information would be disclosed in breach of an obligation of confidence.

11.3 Every meeting of the Integration Joint Board shall be open to the public but these provisions shall be without prejudice to the Integration Joint Board’s powers of exclusion in order to suppress or prevent disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at a meeting. The Integration Joint Board may exclude or eject from a meeting a member or members of the press and public whose presence or conduct is impeding the work or proceedings of the Integration Joint Board.

12. Alteration, Deletion and Rescission of Decisions of the Integration Joint Board

Except insofar as required by reason of illegality, no motion to alter, delete or rescind a decision of the Integration Joint Board will be competent within six months from the decision, unless a decision is made prior to consideration of the matter to suspend this Standing Order in terms of Standing Order 13.

13. Suspension, Deletion or Amendment of Standing Orders

Any one or more of the Standing Orders in the case of emergency as determined by the Chairperson upon motion may be suspended, amended or deleted at any meeting so far as regards any business at such meeting provided that two thirds of the members of the Integration Joint Board present and voting shall so decide. Any motion to suspend Standing Orders shall state the number or terms of the Standing Order(s) to be suspended.

14. Motions, Amendment and Debate

14.1 It will be competent for any Member of the Integration Joint Board at a meeting of the Integration Joint Board to move a motion directly arising out of the business before the meeting.

14.2 No member, with the exception of the mover of the motion or amendment, will speak supporting the motion or amendment until the same will have been seconded.

14.3 Subject to the right of the mover of a motion, and the mover of an amendment, to reply, no member will speak more than once on the same question at any meeting of the Integration Joint Board except:-

- On a question of Order
- With the permission of the Chairperson
- In explanation or to clear up a misunderstanding in some material part of his/her speech.

In all of the above cases no new matter will be introduced.

14.4 The mover of an amendment and thereafter the mover of the original motion will have the right of reply for a period of not more than 5 minutes. He/she will introduce no new matter and once a reply in commenced, no other member will speak on the subject of debate. Once these movers have replied, the discussion will be held closed and the Chairperson will call for the vote to be taken.

14.5 Amendments must be relevant to the motions to which they relate and no member will be at liberty to move or second more than one amendment to any motion, unless the mover of an amendment has failed to have it seconded.

14.6 It will be competent for any member who has not already spoken in a debate to move the closure of such debate. On such motion being seconded, the vote will be taken, and if a majority of the members present vote for the motion, the debate will be closed. However, closure is subject to the right of the mover of the motion and of the

amendment(s) to reply. Thereafter, a vote will be taken immediately on the subject of the debate.

14.7 Any member may indicate his/her desire to ask a question or offer information immediately after a speech by another member and it will be the option of the member to whom the question would be directed or information offered to decline or accept the question or offer of information.

14.8 When a motion is under debate, no other motion or amendment will be moved except in the following circumstances:

- to adjourn the debate; or
- to close the debate.

14.9 A motion or amendment once moved and seconded cannot be altered or withdrawn unless with the consent of the majority of those present.

14.10 Any member who wishes to propose a motion for consideration by the Integration Joint Board shall give written notice of that motion to the Chairperson, at least 10 full working days prior to the meeting.

15. Voting

15.1 The IJB operating principle is partnership, cooperation and collaboration and members' task will be to ensure that the IJB operates by consensus in its decision making where possible.

15.2 Only the four members nominated by the NHS Board, and the four members appointed by the Council shall be entitled to vote. Voting shall be by show of hands.

15.3 In the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall not have a second or casting vote. Where there is more than one amendment then the voting will proceed until one proposition has obtained an overall majority of the members taking part in the vote. In such a circumstance the proposition with the fewest votes will drop out and a further vote or votes will be taken on those that remain until the overall majority is achieved or there is only a motion and amendment before the meeting in which case the proposition with the most votes will prevail. If the voting members do not agree at the time on a proposed means of resolving a dispute at a meeting of the Integration Joint Board the matter will be continued to the next meeting of the Integration Joint Board and if there is no resolution at that further meeting then the matter shall be dealt with in terms of the formal dispute resolution mechanism specified in the Integration Scheme. Standing Order 12 shall not preclude reconsideration of any such item within the 6 month period following the meeting which failed to reach a decision.

16. Minutes

16.1 The names of the members and others attending a meeting of the Integration Joint Board shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

16.2 The minutes of the proceedings of each meeting of the Integration Joint Board or a committee, including any decision or resolution made by that meeting, shall be drawn up and submitted to the next ensuing meeting of the Integration Joint Board or the committee after which they must be signed by the person presiding at that meeting. A minute purporting to be so signed shall be received in evidence without further proof.

17. Committees and Working Groups

17.1 The Integration Joint Board may establish any committee or working group as may be required from time to time but each working group shall have a defined time span as may be determined by the Integration Joint Board.

17.2 The membership, Chairperson, remit, powers and quorum of any committee or working groups will be determined by the Integration Joint Board. Any committee established must include voting members, and must include an equal number of the voting members appointed by the Health Board on the one hand and the Council on the other hand. Any decision relating to the carrying out of functions under the Act or to integration functions taken by a committee established under 17.1 must be agreed by a majority of the votes of the voting members who are members of the committee

17.3 Agendas for consideration at a committee or working group will be issued by electronic means to all members no later than five days (not including Saturday and Sunday) prior to the start of the meeting.

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

1.1 This Code has been issued by the Scottish Ministers, with the approval of the Scottish Parliament, as required by the [Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2000 \(the “Act”\)](#).

1.2 The purpose of the Code is to set out the conduct expected of those who serve on the boards of public bodies in Scotland.

1.3 The Code has been developed in line with the nine key principles of public life in Scotland. The principles are listed in [Section 2](#) and set out how the provisions of the Code should be interpreted and applied in practice.

My Responsibilities

1.4 I understand that the public has a high expectation of those who serve on the boards of public bodies and the way in which they should conduct themselves in undertaking their duties. I will always seek to meet those expectations by ensuring that I conduct myself in accordance with the Code.

1.5 I will comply with the substantive provisions of this Code, being sections 3 to 6 inclusive, in all situations and at all times where I am acting as a board member of my public body, have referred to myself as a board member or could objectively be considered to be acting as a board member.

1.6 I will comply with the substantive provisions of this Code, being sections 3 to 6 inclusive, in all my dealings with the public, employees and fellow board members, whether formal or informal.

1.7 I understand that it is my personal responsibility to be familiar with the provisions of this Code and that I must also comply with the law and my public body’s rules, standing orders and regulations. I will also ensure that I am familiar with any guidance or advice notes issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland (“Standards Commission”) and my public body, and endeavour to take part in any training offered on the Code.

1.8 I will not, at any time, advocate or encourage any action contrary to this Code.

1.9 I understand that no written information, whether in the Code itself or the associated Guidance or Advice Notes issued by the Standards Commission, can provide for all circumstances. If I am uncertain about how the Code applies, I will seek advice from the Standards Officer of my public body, failing whom the Chair or Chief Executive of my public body. I note that I may also

choose to seek external legal advice on how to interpret the provisions of the Code.

Enforcement

1.10 [Part 2 of the Act](#) sets out the provisions for dealing with alleged breaches of the Code, including the sanctions that can be applied if the Standards Commission finds that there has been a breach of the Code. More information on how complaints are dealt with and the sanctions available can be found at [Annex A](#).

SECTION 2: KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1 The Code has been based on the following key principles of public life. I will behave in accordance with these principles and understand that they should be used for guidance and interpreting the provisions in the Code.

2.2 I note that a breach of one or more of the key principles does not in itself amount to a breach of the Code. I note that, for a breach of the Code to be found, there must also be a contravention of one or more of the provisions in sections 3 to 6 inclusive of the Code.

The key principles are:

Duty

I have a duty to uphold the law and act in accordance with the law and the public trust placed in me. I have a duty to act in the interests of the public body of which I am a member and in accordance with the core functions and duties of that body.

Selflessness

I have a duty to take decisions solely in terms of public interest. I must not act in order to gain financial or other material benefit for myself, family or friends.

Integrity

I must not place myself under any financial, or other, obligation to any individual or organisation that might reasonably be thought to influence me in the performance of my duties.

Objectivity

I must make decisions solely on merit and in a way that is consistent with the functions of my public body when carrying out public business including making appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits.

Accountability and Stewardship

I am accountable to the public for my decisions and actions. I have a duty to consider issues on their merits, taking account of the views of others and I must ensure that my public body uses its resources prudently and in accordance with the law.

Openness

I have a duty to be as open as possible about my decisions and actions, giving reasons for my decisions and restricting information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

I have a duty to act honestly. I must declare any private interests relating to my public duties and take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

I have a duty to promote and support these principles by leadership and example, and to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of my public body and its members in conducting public business.

Respect

I must respect all other board members and all employees of my public body and the role they play, treating them with courtesy at all times. Similarly, I must respect members of the public when performing my duties as a board member.

SECTION 3: GENERAL CONDUCT

Respect and Courtesy

3.1 I will treat everyone with courtesy and respect. This includes in person, in writing, at meetings, when I am online and when I am using social media.

3.2 I will not discriminate unlawfully on the basis of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, religion or belief, marital status or pregnancy/maternity; I will advance equality of opportunity and seek to foster good relations between different people.

3.3 I will not engage in any conduct that could amount to bullying or harassment (which includes sexual harassment). I accept that such conduct is completely unacceptable and will be considered to be a breach of this Code.

3.4 I accept that disrespect, bullying and harassment can be:

- a) a one-off incident,
- b) part of a cumulative course of conduct; or
- c) a pattern of behaviour.

3.5 I understand that how, and in what context, I exhibit certain behaviours can be as important as what I communicate, given that disrespect, bullying and harassment can be physical, verbal and non-verbal conduct.

3.6 I accept that it is my responsibility to understand what constitutes bullying and harassment and I will utilise resources, including the Standards Commission's guidance and advice notes, my public body's policies and training material (where appropriate) to ensure that my knowledge and understanding is up to date.

3.7 Except where it is written into my role as Board member, and / or at the invitation of the **Chief Officer**, I will not become involved in operational management of my public body. I acknowledge and understand that operational management is the responsibility of the **Chief Officer** and Executive Team.

3.8 I will not undermine any individual employee or group of employees, or raise concerns about their performance, conduct or capability in public. I will raise any concerns I have on such matters in private with senior management as appropriate.

3.9 I will not take, or seek to take, unfair advantage of my position in my dealings with employees of my public body or bring any undue influence to bear on employees to take a certain action. I will not ask or direct employees to do something which I know, or should reasonably know, could compromise them or prevent them from undertaking their duties properly and appropriately.

3.10 I will respect and comply with rulings from the Chair during meetings of:

- a) my public body, its committees; and
- b) any outside organisations that I have been appointed or nominated to by my public body or on which I represent my public body.

3.11 I will respect the principle of collective decision-making and corporate responsibility. This means that once the Board has made a decision, I will support that decision, even if I did not agree with it or vote for it.

Remuneration, Allowances and Expenses

3.12 I will comply with the rules, and the policies of my public body, on the payment of remuneration, allowances and expenses.

Gifts and Hospitality

3.13 I understand that I may be offered gifts (including money raised via crowdfunding or sponsorship), hospitality, material benefits or services ("gift or hospitality") that may be reasonably regarded by a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts as placing me under an improper obligation or being capable of influencing my judgement.

3.14 I will never **ask for** or **seek** any gift or hospitality.

3.15 I will refuse any gift or hospitality, unless it is:

- a) a minor item or token of modest intrinsic value offered on an infrequent basis;
- b) a gift being offered to my public body;
- c) hospitality which would reasonably be associated with my duties as a board member; or
- d) hospitality which has been approved in advance by my public body.

3.16 I will consider whether there could be a reasonable perception that any gift or hospitality received by a person or body connected to me could or would influence my judgement.

3.17 I will not allow the promise of money or other financial advantage to induce me to act improperly in my role as a board member. I accept that the money or advantage (including any gift or hospitality) does not have to be given to me directly. The offer of monies or advantages to others, including community groups, may amount to bribery, if the intention is to induce me to improperly perform a function.

3.18 I will never accept any gift or hospitality from any individual or applicant who is awaiting a decision from, or seeking to do business with, my public body.

3.19 If I consider that declining an offer of a gift would cause offence, I will accept it and hand it over to my public body at the earliest possible opportunity and ask for it to be registered.

3.20 I will promptly advise my public body's Standards Officer if I am offered (but refuse) any gift or hospitality of any significant value and / or if I am offered any gift or hospitality from the same source on a repeated basis, so that my public body can monitor this.

3.21 I will familiarise myself with the terms of the [Bribery Act 2010](#), which provides for offences of bribing another person and offences relating to being bribed.

Confidentiality

3.22 I will not disclose confidential information or information which should reasonably be regarded as being of a confidential or private nature, without the express consent of a person or body authorised to give such consent, or unless required to do so by law. I note that if I cannot obtain such express consent, I should assume it is not given.

3.23 I accept that confidential information can include discussions, documents, and information which is not yet public or never intended to be public, and information deemed confidential by statute.

3.24 I will only use confidential information to undertake my duties as a board member. I will not use it in any way for personal advantage or to discredit my public body (even if my personal view is that the information should be publicly available).

3.25 I note that these confidentiality requirements do not apply to protected whistleblowing disclosures made to the prescribed persons and bodies as identified in statute.

Use of Public Body Resources

3.26 I will only use my public body's resources, including employee assistance, facilities, stationery and IT equipment, for carrying out duties on behalf of the public body, in accordance with its relevant policies.

3.27 I will not use, or in any way enable others to use, my public body's resources:

- a) imprudently (without thinking about the implications or consequences);
- b) unlawfully;
- c) for any political activities or matters relating to these; or
- d) improperly.

Dealing with my Public Body and Preferential Treatment

3.28 I will not use, or attempt to use, my position or influence as a board member to:

- a) improperly confer on or secure for myself, or others, an advantage;
- b) avoid a disadvantage for myself, or create a disadvantage for others or
- c) improperly seek preferential treatment or access for myself or others.

3.29 I will avoid any action which could lead members of the public to believe that preferential treatment or access is being sought.

3.30 I will advise employees of any connection, as defined at [Section 5](#), I may have to a matter, when seeking information or advice or responding to a request for information or advice from them.

Appointments to Outside Organisations

3.31 If I am appointed, or nominated by my public body, as a member of another body or organisation, I will abide by the rules of conduct and will act in the best interests of that body or organisation while acting as a member of it. I will also continue to observe the rules of this Code when carrying out the duties of that body or organisation.

3.32 I accept that if I am a director or trustee (or equivalent) of a company or a charity, I will be responsible for identifying, and taking advice on, any conflicts of interest that may arise between the company or charity and my public body.

SECTION 4: REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

4.1 The following paragraphs set out what I have to register when I am appointed and whenever my circumstances change. The register covers my current term of appointment.

4.2 I understand that regulations made by the Scottish Ministers describe the detail and timescale for registering interests; including a requirement that a board member must register their registrable interests within one month of becoming a board member, and register any changes to those interests within one month of those changes having occurred.

4.3 The interests which I am required to register are those set out in the following paragraphs. Other than as required by paragraph 4.23, I understand it is not necessary to register the interests of my spouse or cohabitee.

Category One: Remuneration

4.4 I will register any work for which I receive, or expect to receive, payment. I have a registrable interest where I receive remuneration by virtue of being:

- a) employed;
- b) self-employed;
- c) the holder of an office;
- d) a director of an undertaking;
- e) a partner in a firm;
- f) appointed or nominated by my public body to another body; or
- g) engaged in a trade, profession or vocation or any other work.

4.5 I understand that in relation to 4.4 above, the amount of remuneration does not require to be registered. I understand that any remuneration received as a board member of this specific public body does not have to be registered.

4.6 I understand that if a position is not remunerated it does not need to be registered under this category. However, unremunerated directorships may need to be registered under Category Two, "Other Roles".

4.7 I must register any allowances I receive in relation to membership of any organisation under Category One.

4.8 When registering employment as an employee, I must give the full name of the employer, the nature of its business, and the nature of the post I hold in the organisation.

4.9 When registering remuneration from the categories listed in paragraph 4.4 (b) to (g) above, I must provide the full name and give details of the nature of the business, organisation, undertaking, partnership or other body, as appropriate. I recognise that some other employments may be incompatible with my role as board member of my public body in terms of paragraph [6.7](#) of this Code.

4.10 Where I otherwise undertake a trade, profession or vocation, or any other work, the detail to be given is the nature of the work and how often it is undertaken.

4.11 When registering a directorship, it is necessary to provide the registered name and registered number of the undertaking in which the directorship is held and provide information about the nature of its business.

4.12 I understand that registration of a pension is not required as this falls outside the scope of the category.

Category Two: Other Roles

4.13 I will register any unremunerated directorships where the body in question is a subsidiary or parent company of an undertaking in which I hold a remunerated directorship.

4.14 I will register the registered name and registered number of the subsidiary or parent company or other undertaking and the nature of its business, and its relationship to the company or other undertaking in which I am a director and from which I receive remuneration.

Category Three: Contracts

4.15 I have a registerable interest where I (or a firm in which I am a partner, or an undertaking in which I am a director or in which I have shares of a value as described in paragraph 4.20 below) have made a contract with my public body:

- a) under which goods or services are to be provided, or works are to be executed; and
- b) which has not been fully discharged.

4.16 I will register a description of the contract, including its duration, but excluding the value.

Category Four: Election Expenses

4.17 If I have been elected to my public body, then I will register a description of, and statement of, any assistance towards election expenses relating to election to my public body.

Category Five: Houses, Land and Buildings

4.18 I have a registrable interest where I own or have any other right or interest in houses, land and buildings, which may be significant to, of relevance to, or bear upon, the work and operation of my public body.

4.19 I accept that, when deciding whether or not I need to register any interest I have in houses, land or buildings, the test to be applied is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard the interest as being so significant that it could potentially affect my responsibilities to my public body and to the public, or could influence my actions, speeches or decision-making.

Category Six: Interest in Shares and Securities

4.20 I have a registerable interest where:

- a) I own or have an interest in more than 1% of the issued share capital of the company or other body; or
- b) Where, at the relevant date, the market value of any shares and securities (in any one specific company or body) that I own or have an interest in is greater than £25,000.

Category Seven: Gifts and Hospitality

4.21 I understand the requirements of paragraphs [3.13 to 3.21](#) regarding gifts and hospitality. As I will not accept any gifts or hospitality, other than under the limited circumstances allowed, I understand there is no longer the need to register any.

Category Eight: Non-Financial Interests

4.22 I may also have other interests and I understand it is equally important that relevant interests such as membership or holding office in other public bodies, companies, clubs, societies and organisations such as trades unions and voluntary organisations, are registered and described. In this context, I understand non-financial interests are those which members of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts might reasonably think could influence my actions, speeches, votes or decision-making in my public body (this includes its Committees and memberships of other organisations to which I have been appointed or nominated by my public body).

Category Nine: Close Family Members

4.23 I will register the interests of any close family member who has transactions with my public body or is likely to have transactions or do business with it.

SECTION 5: DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Stage 1: Connection

5.1 For each particular matter I am involved in as a board member, I will first consider whether I have a connection to that matter.

5.2 I understand that a connection is any link between the matter being considered and me, or a person or body I am associated with. This could be a family relationship or a social or professional contact.

5.3 A connection includes anything that I have registered as an interest.

5.4 A connection does not include being a member of a body to which I have been appointed or nominated by my public body as a representative of my public body, unless:

- a) The matter being considered by my public body is quasi-judicial or regulatory; or
- b) I have a personal conflict by reason of my actions, my connections or my legal obligations.

Stage 2: Interest

5.5 I understand my connection is an interest that requires to be declared where the objective test is met – that is where a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard my connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence the discussion or decision-making.

Stage 3: Participation

5.6 I will declare my interest as early as possible in meetings. I will not remain in the meeting nor participate in any way in those parts of meetings where I have declared an interest.

5.7 I will consider whether it is appropriate for transparency reasons to state publicly where I have a connection, which I do not consider amounts to an interest.

5.8 I note that I can apply to the Standards Commission and ask it to grant a dispensation to allow me to take part in the discussion and decision-making on a matter where I would otherwise have to declare an interest and withdraw (as a result of having a connection to the matter that would fall within the objective test). I note that such an application must be made in advance of any meetings where the dispensation is sought and that I cannot take part in any discussion or decision-making on the matter in question unless, and until, the application is granted.

5.9 I note that public confidence in a public body is damaged by the perception

that decisions taken by that body are substantially influenced by factors other than the public interest. I will not accept a role or appointment if doing so means I will have to declare interests frequently at meetings in respect of my role as a board member. Similarly, if any appointment or nomination to another body would give rise to objective concern because of my existing personal involvement or affiliations, I will not accept the appointment or nomination.

SECTION 6: LOBBYING AND ACCESS

6.1 I understand that a wide range of people will seek access to me as a board member and will try to lobby me, including individuals, organisations and companies. I must distinguish between:

- a) any role I have in dealing with enquiries from the public;
- b) any community engagement where I am working with individuals and organisations to encourage their participation and involvement, and;
- c) lobbying, which is where I am approached by any individual or organisation who is seeking to influence me for financial gain or advantage, particularly those who are seeking to do business with my public body (for example contracts/procurement).

6.2 In deciding whether, and if so how, to respond to such lobbying, I will always have regard to the objective test, which is whether a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard my conduct as being likely to influence my, or my public body's, decision-making role.

6.3 I will not, in relation to contact with any person or organisation that lobbies, do anything which contravenes this Code or any other relevant rule of my public body or any statutory provision.

6.4 I will not, in relation to contact with any person or organisation that lobbies, act in any way which could bring discredit upon my public body.

6.5 If I have concerns about the approach or methods used by any person or organisation in their contacts with me, I will seek the guidance of the Chair, Chief Executive or Standards Officer of my public body.

6.6 The public must be assured that no person or organisation will gain better access to, or treatment by, me as a result of employing a company or individual to lobby on a fee basis on their behalf. I will not, therefore, offer or accord any preferential access or treatment to those lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients compared with that which I accord any other person or organisation who lobbies or approaches me. I will ensure that those lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients are not given to understand that preferential

access or treatment, compared to that accorded to any other person or organisation, might be forthcoming.

6.7 Before taking any action as a result of being lobbied, I will seek to satisfy myself about the identity of the person or organisation that is lobbying and the motive for lobbying. I understand I may choose to act in response to a person or organisation lobbying on a fee basis on behalf of clients but it is important that I understand the basis on which I am being lobbied in order to ensure that any action taken in connection with the lobbyist complies with the standards set out in this Code and the [Lobbying \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#).

6.8 I will not accept any paid work:

- a) which would involve me lobbying on behalf of any person or organisation or any clients of a person or organisation.
- b) to provide services as a strategist, adviser or consultant, for example, advising on how to influence my public body and its members. This does not prohibit me from being remunerated for activity which may arise because of, or relate to, membership of my public body, such as journalism or broadcasting, or involvement in representative or presentational work, such as participation in delegations, conferences or other events.

ANNEX A: BREACHES OF THE CODE

Introduction

1. [The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#) (“the Act”) provided for a framework to encourage and, where necessary, enforce high ethical standards in public life.
2. The Act provided for the introduction of new codes of conduct for local authority councillors and members of relevant public bodies, imposing on councils and relevant public bodies a duty to help their members comply with the relevant code.
3. The Act and the subsequent Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Act 2010 established the [Standards Commission for Scotland](#) (“Standards Commission”) and the post of [Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland](#) (“ESC”).
4. The Standards Commission and ESC are separate and independent, each with distinct functions. Complaints of breaches of a public body’s Code of Conduct are investigated by the ESC and adjudicated upon by the Standards Commission.
5. The first Model Code of Conduct came into force in 2002. The Code has since been reviewed and re-issued in 2014. The 2021 Code has been issued by the Scottish Ministers following consultation, and with the approval of the Scottish Parliament, as required by the Act.

Investigation of Complaints

6. The ESC is responsible for investigating complaints about members of devolved public bodies. It is not, however, mandatory to report a complaint about a potential breach of the Code to the ESC. It may be more appropriate in some circumstances for attempts to be made to resolve the matter informally at a local level.
7. On conclusion of the investigation, the ESC will send a report to the Standards Commission.

Hearings

8. On receipt of a report from the ESC, the Standards Commission can choose to:
 - Do nothing;
 - Direct the ESC to carry out further investigations; or
 - Hold a Hearing.
9. Hearings are held (usually in public) to determine whether the member concerned has breached their public body’s Code of Conduct. The Hearing Panel comprises of

three members of the Standards Commission. The ESC will present evidence and/or make submissions at the Hearing about the investigation and any conclusions as to whether the member has contravened the Code. The member is entitled to attend or be represented at the Hearing and can also present evidence and make submissions. Both parties can call witnesses. Once it has heard all the evidence and submissions, the Hearing Panel will make a determination about whether or not it is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that there has been a contravention of the Code by the member. If the Hearing Panel decides that a member has breached their public body's Code, it is obliged to impose a sanction.

Sanctions

10. The sanctions that can be imposed following a finding of a breach of the Code are as follows:

- **Censure:** A censure is a formal record of the Standards Commission's severe and public disapproval of the member concerned.
- **Suspension:** This can be a full or partial suspension (for up to one year). A full suspension means that the member is suspended from attending all meetings of the public body. Partial suspension means that the member is suspended from attending some of the meetings of the public body. The Commission can direct that any remuneration or allowance the member receives as a result of their membership of the public body be reduced or not paid during a period of suspension.
- **Disqualification:** Disqualification means that the member is removed from membership of the body and disqualified (for a period not exceeding five years), from membership of the body. Where a member is also a member of another devolved public body (as defined in the Act), the Commission may also remove or disqualify that person in respect of that membership. Full details of the sanctions are set out in section 19 of the Act.

Interim Suspensions

11. Section 21 of the Act provides the Standards Commission with the power to impose an interim suspension on a member on receipt of an interim report from the ESC about an ongoing investigation. In making a decision about whether or not to impose an interim suspension, a Panel comprising of three Members of the Standards Commission will review the interim report and any representations received from the member and will consider whether it is satisfied:

- That the further conduct of the ESC's investigation is likely to be prejudiced if such an action is not taken (for example if there are concerns that the member may try to interfere with evidence or witnesses); or
- That it is otherwise in the public interest to take such a measure. A policy outlining how the Standards Commission makes any decision under Section 21 and the procedures it will follow in doing so, should any such a report be received from the ESC can be found [here](#).

12. The decision to impose an interim suspension is not, and should not be seen as, a finding on the merits of any complaint or the validity of any allegations against a member of a devolved public body, nor should it be viewed as a disciplinary measure.

ANNEX B: DEFINITIONS

“Bullying” is inappropriate and unwelcome behaviour which is offensive and intimidating, and which makes an individual or group feel undermined, humiliated or insulted.

"Chair" includes Board Convener or any other individual discharging a similar function to that of a Chair or Convener under alternative decision-making structures.

“Code” is the code of conduct for members of your devolved public body, which is based on the Model Code of Conduct for members of devolved public bodies in Scotland.

"Cohabitee" includes any person who is living with you in a relationship similar to that of a partner, civil partner, or spouse.

“Confidential Information” includes:

- any information passed on to the public body by a Government department (even if it is not clearly marked as confidential) which does not allow the disclosure of that information to the public;
- information of which the law prohibits disclosure (under statute or by the order of a Court);
- any legal advice provided to the public body; or
- any other information which would reasonably be considered a breach of confidence should it be made public.

"Election expenses" means expenses incurred, whether before, during or after the election, on account of, or in respect of, the conduct or management of the election.

“Employee” includes individuals employed:

- directly by the public body;
- as contractors by the public body, or
- by a contractor to work on the public body's premises.

“Gifts” a gift can include any item or service received free of charge, or which may be offered or promised at a discounted rate or on terms not available to the general public. Gifts include benefits such as relief from indebtedness, loan concessions, or provision of property, services or facilities at a cost below that generally charged to members of the public. It can also include gifts received directly or gifts received by any company in which the recipient holds a controlling interest in, or by a partnership of which the recipient is a partner.

“Harassment” is any unwelcome behaviour or conduct which makes someone feel offended, humiliated, intimidated, frightened and / or uncomfortable. Harassment can be experienced directly or indirectly and can occur as an isolated incident or as a course of persistent behaviour.

“Hospitality” includes the offer or promise of food, drink, accommodation, entertainment or the opportunity to attend any cultural or sporting event on terms not available to the general public.

“Relevant Date” Where a board member had an interest in shares at the date on which the member was appointed as a member, the relevant date is – (a) that date; and (b) the 5th April immediately following that date and in each succeeding year, where the interest is retained on that 5th April.

“Public body” means a devolved public body listed in Schedule 3 of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, as amended.

“Remuneration” includes any salary, wage, share of profits, fee, other monetary benefit or benefit in kind.

“Securities” a security is a certificate or other financial instrument that has monetary value and can be traded. Securities includes equity and debt securities, such as stocks bonds and debentures.

“Undertaking” means:

- a) a body corporate or partnership; or
- b) an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business, with or without a view to a profit.