

Bribery and Corruption Policy

Version v21.2

Bribery and Corruption Policy	
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Policy Owner	Quality & Compliance Manager
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Approved By	Leadership Team
Policy Relates to:	End-Point Assessment Provision, Awarding Provision, Endorsed Provision, Corporate
Policy is for the use of:	Learners, Apprentices, Training Providers, Recognised Centres, TQUK Employees, Third Parties,
Should be read in conjunction with:	Malpractice and Maladministration Policy, Conflicts of Interest Policy
Relevant GCoR	A6, A8

Introduction

This document outlines Training Qualifications UK's (TQUK) commitment to conduct its business in an honest and ethical manner and act with fairness and integrity in all its practices. In accordance with the guidance accompanying The Bribery Act 2010, TQUK has published this policy with the intention of informing all TQUK staff, partners and third parties of TQUK's commitment to upholding these principles and what standards it expects of those acting on its behalf.

TQUK Internal Responsibility

The Quality and Compliance Department are responsible for the maintenance and compliance of this policy. If the Quality and Compliance Manager is absent, the Responsible Officer will appoint another member of the Executive Team to ensure all of TQUK's actions and activities are in line with the content of this policy.

The Managing Director has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy complies with our ethical and legal commitments and that all TQUK actions and activities are in line with the contents of this policy.

Review arrangements

We will review the policy as part of our annual self-evaluation process and revise it as and when necessary from the following sources; in response to feedback from Recognised Centres, Training Providers, Learners or Apprentices, changes in our practices, actions by regulatory authorities or external agencies, changes in legislation, or trends identified from previous allegations of bribery/corruption.

In addition, this policy may be updated in light of operational feedback to ensure our arrangements for dealing with suspected cases of bribery or corruption remain effective. The annual review of this policy will be undertaken by the Quality and Compliance Department approximately four weeks prior to the submission of

TQUK's Statement of Compliance to regulators. Any amendments or updates to this policy will be approved by TQUK's Executive Team.

If you would like to raise any points or offer feedback regarding this policy, please contact us via the details provided at the start of this document.

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, TQUK have adopted the definition used by The Bribery Act 2010, defining bribery generally as giving someone a financial or other advantage to encourage that person to perform their functions or activities improperly or to reward that person for having already done so.

Commitments

Training Qualifications UK has no tolerance of bribery or corruption in any form and is committed to ensuring no such instances occur, accepting that it is not only illegal, but contrary to our fundamental values as an organisation.

TQUK considers the elimination of bribery and corruption as vital to ensuring trust in our own organisation and public confidence in qualifications in general. It is of paramount importance that we comply with the contents of this policy.

Managers/Team Leaders

As identified in the Government guidance on the Act and the procedures organisations can put in place to prevent bribery, managers and team leaders are in the best position to ensure their organisation conducts business without bribery. All TQUK managers and team leaders are responsible for ensuring this policy is understood and complied with by colleagues, and for monitoring the activities of those they are managing.

All TQUK Staff Members

TQUK staff members (including third parties acting as a representative of TQUK) must not accept any gift that could be perceived to influence any decision or activity which is part of their employment functions. If there is any doubt as to whether a particular circumstance presents such a risk, in protection of the individual and the business, a member of the Quality and Compliance Department must be made aware in writing of the details of the gift. This can take the form of an email to quality@tquk.org.

Receiving Gifts

A gift may be retained by the recipient only if it satisfies all of the following criteria:

- It is not cash or a cash equivalent (such as gift certificates or vouchers);
- It is of a value of less than £25;
- It is not made with the intention of influencing a decision, or to give a reward for having done so;
- It is given openly, not secretly;
- It is appropriate in the circumstances, for example the giving of small gifts at Christmas.

TQUK accepts that there may be exceptional circumstances where refusing a gift will cause significant offence or embarrassment. In such instances the gift may be accepted and subsequently shared amongst TQUK staff or donated to a charity of the company's choice to be administered by the Leadership Team.

The Gifts and Hospitality Register

The Executive Team will administer and maintain a Gifts and Hospitality Register which documents all gifts and hospitality received by or offered to TQUK staff and third parties acting on its behalf. All TQUK staff and third parties acting on its behalf will be expected to inform a member of the Executive Team whenever they accept or are offered a gift or hospitality.

The Gifts and Hospitality Register will be regularly reviewed by the Executive Team.

Third Parties

Certain operations by TQUK involve the use of third parties. Under the Bribery Act 2010, an organisation may be liable for the activities of any individual who 'performs services' for or on behalf of an organisation. As such, it is TQUK's position that all third parties acting on its behalf abide by the contents of this policy. For that to be true it is vital that all third parties:

- Have read and understood the contents of this policy;
- Have not previously been involved in any corrupt activity;
- Are aware of who they must contact if they are unsure of whether a particular circumstance would fall under the scope of this policy.

Hospitality

This policy does not prohibit normal and appropriate hospitality for the purpose of establishing, maintaining or improving business relationships or TQUK's reputation or image. For the purposes of this policy, Hospitality is defined as any form of accommodation, entertainment or reception that is more than an incidental kind, such as a beverage or light refreshment provided for an employee of TQUK (including third parties acting as a representative of TQUK).

As with a gift of any kind, it is vital that the hospitality not be offered or given with the intention of inducing the person to perform a relevant function improperly, and if there is any doubt as to whether a particular circumstance presents such a risk, in protection of the individual and the business, a member of the Quality and Compliance Department must be made aware of the details of the hospitality offered.

Investigation into suspected bribery and corruption

Any suspected act of bribery and corruption reported to TQUK will be investigated as an act of malpractice in line with our Malpractice and Maladministration Policy, within which documented guidance on our investigation processes can be found.

The Malpractice and Maladministration Policy also indicates how any potential whistleblower or informant can go about instigating an investigation into a suspected act of bribery or corruption, including those relating to a TQUK Recognised Centre. It is also to be used by TQUK staff members to ensure they deal with any investigations into bribery and corruption in a consistent manner.