

The Bribery Act 2010

The Bribery Act 2010 was introduced into law on the 1 July 2011.

Bribery is generally defined as “*an inducement or reward offered, promised or provided to someone to perform their functions or activities improperly in order to gain a personal, commercial, regulatory and/or contractual advantage*”.

Bribery is a criminal offence.

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust (‘the Trust’) does not, and will not, pay bribes or offer improper inducements to anyone for any purpose; nor do we, or will we, accept bribes or improper inducements. This approach applies to everyone who works for us, or with us. To use a third party as a conduit to channel bribes to others is a criminal offence. We do not, and will not, engage indirectly in, or otherwise encourage, bribery.

We are as committed to the prevention, deterrence and detection of bribery, just as we are to combatting fraud in the NHS. As an organisation, we have a zero-tolerance attitude towards bribery and we aim to maintain anti-bribery compliance as ‘business as usual’, rather than as a one-off exercise. The Trust will seek the most stringent sanctions available against anyone seeking to commit bribery.

The maximum penalty for bribery for individuals is 10 years imprisonment, with an unlimited fine. There is also a corporate offence, carrying a penalty of an unlimited fine, of ‘failing to prevent bribery’ for organisations that are held to be criminally liable for not having adequate preventative procedures in place.