

Statement from the Chief Executive about the Bribery Act 2010

The Bribery Act came into force on 1 July 2011. The purpose of the Act is to prevent bribery and corruption in both the public and private sectors.

Bribery can be defined as the offering; promising, giving, accepting or soliciting of an advantage as an inducement for an action which is illegal or a breach of trust. The Act has six principles, one of which is that there is top level commitment in the organisation to prevent and detect bribery. Solent NHS Trust Board of Directors is committed to this and the Trust operates a zero tolerance policy against fraud, bribery and corruption.

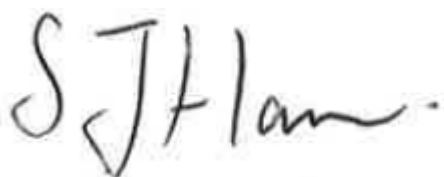
The Trust employs a fraud specialist to provide a comprehensive programme to tackle fraud, bribery and corruption. The fraud specialist reports to the Chief Financial Officer and the Trust's Audit and Risk Committee.

It is essential that everyone working for, or on behalf of, the Trust is aware of the standards of behaviour expected of them. These standards are set out in the Trust's policies and procedures and reflect not only the law but the expectations of behaviour at Solent NHS Trust.

As an NHS organisation we follow good NHS business practice and have robust controls in place to prevent bribery. As a Trust we cannot afford to be complacent and it is important that all our employees, contractors and agents comply with Trust policies and procedures, particularly with regard to procurement and sponsorship.

On behalf of the Trust I confirm our commitment to ensuring that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the prevention of bribery and corruption and that the risk of Trust exposure to acts of bribery is mitigated.

We ask all who are involved with the work of the Trust – as employees, agents, trading partners, stakeholders and patients – to help us in our fight against fraud, bribery and corruption, and to contact us immediately if they have any concerns or suspicions. If you have any concerns or suspicions the Trust's fraud specialist can be contacted in confidence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Harriman'.

Sue Harriman

Chief Executive Officer