

13. Gifts and Hospitality Register

Principles

1. Members of the GOsC's governance structure (Council, committees, fitness to practise panels and ad hoc working groups) and staff will be aware of the *Seven Principles of Public Life*, which apply to all in the public sector (these can be found annexed to the Code of Conduct). When applying these principles to the treatment of gifts and hospitality, additional factors need to be taken into account. These include the value of the gift, the hospitality offered, the number of staff or members in receipt of the gifts and hospitality, the circumstances and the frequency of offer.

Gifts

2. All gifts¹ should, where possible, be avoided and in all cases be considered very carefully before being accepted. The circumstances in which a gift is received can give rise to concern, particularly where it might be considered that the individual giving the gift was seeking to influence any decision of the GOsC, Council or a committee.

Hospitality

3. Hospitality should not generally present a problem provided it is recorded and is not out of proportion. For example, invitations to lunch or dinner by a trade representative without reference to any particular piece of business are more likely to be acceptable than a day at Ascot prior to a tendering exercise in which that representative has an interest.

Small gifts and incidental hospitality

4. Small gifts, such as trade calendars and diaries, and incidental hospitality, such as drinks, are acceptable in most circumstances and do not need to be recorded. But if there is a doubt about the intentions or the circumstances, then the event should be recorded.

General rule

5. The general rule is to use common sense and not put oneself in a situation where one's integrity could be challenged.

¹ A gift is defined as a personal present with a value in excess of £10. Promotional materials are excluded from this definition.

**Extract from the GOsC Governance Handbook
Section 13 – Gifts and Hospitality Policy**

Guidelines for the receipt of gifts

6. All offers of gifts and hospitality to members of the governance structure and staff, whether accepted or not, must be recorded in the Gifts and Hospitality Register which is maintained by the Council and Executive Support Officer to whom all declarations must be made.
7. When deciding whether to accept or decline an offer of a gift or hospitality the matter may be discussed with the Chair of Council or the relevant committee chair or a staff member's line manager, as appropriate, and the principles set out above must be followed.