

Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy Statement

Counter-fraud, bribery and corruption statement

1. The Forestry Commission is committed to the prevention and elimination of fraud, bribery and corruption across the organisation and to the promotion of an effective counter fraud culture. We will actively protect the Commission's finance and resource from fraud, other criminal activity and error.
2. We will also protect the organisation's strategic objectives and outcomes against deliberate actions of non-compliance with our regulations. Intent to ignore or circumvent compliance with our regulations leads to a financial gain for the perpetrator and will be treated in the same way as fraud against our financial resources.
3. The Forestry Commission operates a zero-tolerance approach to fraud, bribery and corruption and requires staff to act honestly and with integrity at all times, and to report all reasonable suspicions. We will not condone any behaviour that falls short of these requirements.
4. The nature and spread of the Commission's business is such that all staff in all parts of the organisation need to be aware of, and alert to, the risk of negligence, misconduct and fraud, both internal and external.
5. All instances of actual, attempted and suspected fraud, deliberate non-compliance with regulation and bribery or corruption will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with appropriately.
6. Outcomes of investigations will be reported so that lessons may be learned and future recurrence prevented.
7. We will actively seek to recover funds and assets lost through fraud, bribery and corruption.
8. Where investigation establishes staff misconduct has occurred, disciplinary and legal action may be taken where there are reasonable grounds to suspect criminal offences may have been committed. This could result in dismissal and/or prosecution.
9. We will notify the Public Sector Fraud Authority (PSFA) Internal Fraud Hub of any staff dismissed in the FC for fraud, bribery, corruption, or dishonesty. Their details will be recorded on a database designed to prevent them from re-joining the civil service for a period of five years.