

# Standing Orders

November 2015

Document Owner: Director of Corporate Business  
Issue Date: November 2015  
Review Date: Extended to March 2020  
Version No. 3

An electronic version of this document is available on the Trust's website and on Staffnet's Document Library

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>INTERPRETATION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 Statutory Framework	9
1.2 NHS Framework	10
1.3 Delegation of Powers	10
1.4 Failure to comply with Standing Orders	10
<b>2 THE TRUST BOARD: COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP, TENURE AND ROLE OF MEMBERS</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Composition of the Membership of the Trust Board	11
2.2 Appointment of the Chairman and Directors of the Trust	11
2.3 Terms of Office of the Chairman and Directors	11
2.4 Appointment and Powers of Vice-Chairman	12
2.5 Joint Members	12
2.6 Role of Directors	12
2.7 Corporate role of the Board	14
2.8 Schedule of Matters reserved to the Board and Scheme of Delegation	14
2.9 Lead Roles for Board Members	14
<b>3 MEETINGS OF THE TRUST</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 Calling meetings	14
3.2 Notice of Meetings and the Business to be transacted	15
3.3 Agenda and Supporting Papers	15
3.4 Petitions	15
3.5 Notice of Motion	15
3.6 Emergency Motions	16
3.7 Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting	16
3.8 Motion to Rescind a Resolution	18
3.9 Chairman of meeting	18
3.10 Chairman's ruling	19
3.11 Quorum	19
3.12 Voting	19
3.13 Suspension of Standing Orders	20
3.14 Variation and amendment of Standing Orders	20
3.15 Record of Attendance	21
3.16 Minutes	21
3.17 Admission of public and the press	21
3.18 Observers at Trust meetings	23

<b>4</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1	Appointment of Committees	23
4.2	Joint Committees	23
4.3	Applicability of Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions to Committees	24
4.4	Terms of Reference	24
4.5	Delegation of powers by Committees to Sub-Committees	24
4.6	Approval of Appointments to Committees	24
4.7	Appointments for Statutory functions	24
4.8	Committees established by the Trust Board	25
<b>5</b>	<b>ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS BY DELEGATION</b>	<b>26</b>
5.1	Delegation of Functions to Committees, Officers or other bodies	26
5.2	Emergency Powers and urgent decisions	27
5.3	Delegation to Committees	27
5.4	Delegation to Officers	28
5.5	Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Trust and Scheme of Delegation of powers	28
5.6	Duty to report non-compliance with Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions	28
<b>6</b>	<b>OVERLAP WITH OTHER TRUST POLICY STATEMENTS/PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND THE STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS</b>	<b>29</b>
6.1	Policy statements: general principles	29
6.2	Specific Policy statements	29
6.3	Standing Financial Instructions	29
6.4	Specific guidance	29
<b>7</b>	<b>DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS /DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGERS UNDER THESE STANDING ORDERS</b>	<b>30</b>
7.1	Declaration of Interests	30
7.2	Register of Interests	31
7.3	Disability of Chairman and Directors in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest	31
7.4	Standards of Business Conduct	35

<b>8</b>	<b>CUSTODY OF SEAL SEALING OF DOCUMENTS AND SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS</b>	<b>37</b>
	8.1 Custody of Seal	37
	8.2 Sealing of Documents	37
	8.3 Register of Sealing	37
	8.4 Signature of Documents	37
	8.5 Use of the Seal	37
<b>9</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>38</b>
	9.1 Joint Finance Arrangements	38

## FOREWORD

The purpose of Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions and their related documents is to regulate the proceedings and business of the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust. These documents fulfil the dual role of protecting the Trust's interests and protecting staff from any possible accusation that they have acted less than properly.

This set of documents provides a comprehensive business framework. All Executive and Non-Executive Directors, and all members of staff, should be aware of the existence of these defining documents<sup>1</sup> and where necessary, be familiar with their detailed provisions.

The Standing Orders incorporate provisions of the National Health Service Trusts (Membership and Procedure) Regulations 1990 SI (1990) 2024. Such provisions, as appropriate, are indicated in the body of the text in italics. A full copy of the Regulations can be obtained from the Chief Executive's Office.

These Standing Orders and the Standing Financial Instructions were approved by the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust Board on 27 November 2015.

Signed .....

Richard Crompton, Chairman

Date: 27 November 2015

<sup>1</sup> The defining documents are:

- Standing Orders
- Standing Financial Instructions
- Scheme of Reservation and Delegation
- Terms of Reference for Audit Committee
- Terms of Reference for Charitable Funds Committee
- Terms of Reference for Remuneration Committee
- Terms of Reference for Finance & Investment Committee
- Terms of Reference of Human Resources & Organisational Development Committee
- Terms of Reference for the Safety & Quality Committee

## INTERPRETATION

Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting the Chairman of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of Standing Orders on which he/she should be advised by the Chief Executive or Director of Corporate Business.

*Any expression to which a meaning is given in the National Health Service Act 1977, National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 and other Acts relating to the National Health Service or in the Financial Regulations made under the Acts shall have the same meaning in these Standing Orders and in addition:*

**'Accountable Officer'** means the NHS Officer responsible and accountable for funds entrusted to the Trust. The officer shall be responsible for ensuring the proper stewardship of public funds and assets. For this Trust it shall be the Chief Executive.

**'Trust'** means Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

**'Board'** means the Chairman, Executive and Non-Executive members of the Trust collectively as a body.

**'Budget'** means a resource, expressed in financial terms, proposed by the Board for the purpose of carrying out, for a specific period, any or all of the functions of the Trust.

**'Budget Holder'** means the director or employee with delegated authority to manage finances (Income and Expenditure) for a specific area of the organisation.

**'Chairman of the Board (or Trust)'** is the person appointed by the Secretary of State for Health to lead the Board and to ensure that it successfully discharges its overall responsibility for the Trust as a whole. The expression 'the Chairman of the Trust' shall be deemed to include the Vice-Chairman of the Trust if the Chairman is absent from the meeting or is otherwise unavailable.

**'Chief Executive'** means the Chief Officer of the Trust.

**'Committee'** means a committee appointed by the Board.

**'Committee members'** means persons formally appointed by the Board to sit on or to chair specific committees.

**'Director of Finance'** means the Chief Financial Officer of the Trust.

**'Funds held on trust'** shall mean those funds which the Trust holds on date of incorporation, receives on distribution by statutory instrument or chooses subsequently to accept under powers derived under S.90 of the NHS Act 1977, as amended. Such funds may or may not be charitable.

**'Executive Director'** means a Member of the Board who is an Officer.

**'Member'** means officer or non-officer member of the Board as the context permits. Member in relation to the Board does not include its Chairman.

**'Associate Member'** means a person appointed to perform specific statutory and non-statutory duties which have been delegated by the Trust Board for them to perform and these duties have been recorded in an appropriate Trust Board minute or other suitable record.

**'Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements Regulations'** means [NHS Membership and Procedure Regulations \(SI 1990/2024\)](#) and subsequent amendments. ([see SI 1990/ 2160](#) and [SI 1996 / 1755](#))

**'Nominated Officer'** means an officer charged with the responsibility for discharging specific tasks within Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.

**'Non-Executive Director'** means a Member of the Trust who is not an Officer of the Trust and is not to be treated as an Officer by virtue of the Membership and Procedure Regulations.

**'Officer'** means employee of the Trust or any other person holding a paid appointment or office with the Trust.

**'Officer Member'** means a member of the Trust who is either an officer of the Trust or is to be treated as an officer by virtue of regulation 1(3) (i.e. the Chairman of the Trust or any person nominated by such a Committee for appointment as a Trust member).

**'Secretary'** means a person who may be appointed to act independently of the Board to provide advice on corporate governance issues to the Board and the Chairman and monitor the Trust's compliance with the law, Standing Orders, and Department of Health guidance. In the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust this is the Board Secretary.

**'SFIs'** means Standing Financial Instructions.

**'SOs'** means Standing Orders.

**'Vice-Chairman'** means the Non-Executive Director appointed by the Board to take on the Chairman's duties if the Chairman is absent for any reason.

All references in these Standing Orders to the masculine gender shall be read as equally applicable to the feminine gender and vice versa.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

It is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that existing Executive and Non-Executive Directors, all employees and all new appointees are notified of and understand their responsibilities within Standing Orders. The Chief Executive shall ensure that the latest approved edition of Standing Orders (together with the Trusts' Standing Financial Instructions and Reservation of Powers and Scheme of Delegation) is available on the Trust's intranet.

Standing Financial Instructions and Reservation of Powers and Scheme of Delegation shall have the effect as if incorporated into SOs.

Standing Orders shall be reviewed as necessary by the Trust. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in SOs.

### 1.1 Statutory Framework

The Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust (the Trust) is a statutory body which came into existence on 1st November 1993 under The Plymouth Hospitals [NHS Trust \(Establishment\) Order 1993 SI \(1993\) 2568](#) (the Establishment Order).

- 1.1.1 NHS Trusts are governed by statute, mainly the NHS Act 2006 and Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 1.1.2 The principal places of business of the Trust are Derriford Hospital, the Child Development Centre, Scott Business Park and the Plymouth Dialysis Unit, Plymbridge Road, Plymouth.
- 1.1.3 As a statutory body, the Trust has specified powers to contract in its own name and to act as a corporate trustee. In the latter role it is accountable to the Charity Commission for those funds deemed to be charitable as well as to the Secretary of State for Health. The Trust also has a common law duty as a Bailee for patients' property held by the Trust on behalf of patients.
- 1.1.4 The Trust also has statutory powers under Section 28A of the NHS Act 1977, as amended by the Health Act 1999, to fund projects jointly planned with local authorities, voluntary organisations and other bodies.
- 1.1.5 The Code of Accountability requires the Trust to adopt Standing Orders (SOs) for the regulation of its proceedings and business. The Trust must also adopt Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) as an integral part of Standing Orders setting out the responsibilities of individuals.
- 1.1.6 The Trust will also be bound by such other statutes and legal provisions which govern the conduct of its affairs.

## **1.2 NHS Framework**

- 1.2.1 In addition to the statutory requirements the Secretary of State through the Department of Health issues further directions and guidance. These are normally issued under cover of a circular or letter.
- 1.2.2 The Code of Accountability requires that, inter alia, Boards draw up a schedule of decisions reserved to the Board, and ensure that management arrangements are in place to enable responsibility to be clearly delegated to senior executives (a scheme of delegation). The code also requires the establishment of Audit and Remuneration Committees with formally agreed terms of reference.
- 1.2.3 The Code of Conduct makes various requirements concerning possible conflicts of interest of Board members.
- 1.2.4 The Code of Practice on Openness in the NHS sets out the requirements for public access to information on the NHS. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 promotes greater openness in public authorities. It does not change the right of patients to protection or their patient confidentiality in accordance with Article 8 of the Human Rights Convention, the Data Protection Act and common law.

## **1.3 Delegation of Powers**

The Trust has powers to delegate and make arrangements for delegation. These Standing Orders set out the detail of these arrangements. Under the Standing Order relating to the Arrangements for the Exercise of Functions (SO 5) the Trust is given powers to 'make arrangements for the exercise, on behalf of the Trust of any of their functions by a committee, sub-committee or joint committee appointed by virtue of SO 5 or by an officer of the Trust, in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Trust thinks fit or as the Secretary of State may direct'. Delegated Powers are covered in separate documents (Reservation of Powers to the Board and Detailed Scheme of Delegation). These documents have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.

## **1.4 Failure to Comply with Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions**

Failure to comply with Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions is a disciplinary matter that may result in dismissal. If for any reason Standing Orders or Standing Financial Instructions are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance should be reported to the next formal meeting of the Audit Committee for determining or ratifying action. Notwithstanding the above, all Members of the Board of Directors, and all Officers, have a

duty to disclose any non-compliance to the Director of Finance immediately.

## **2 THE TRUST BOARD: COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP, TENURE AND ROLE OF MEMBERS**

### **2.1 Composition of the Membership of the Trust Board**

In accordance with the [Membership, Procedure and Administration Regulations](#) the composition of the Board shall be:

- i The Chairman of the Trust (Appointed by the NHS Trust Development Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health);
- ii Up to five Non-Executive Directors excluding the Chairman (appointed by NHS Trust Development Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health);
- iii Up to five voting Executive Directors (but not exceeding the number of Non-Executive Directors) including:
  - The Chief Executive
  - The Director of Finance
  - A medical or dental practitioner
  - A registered nurse or midwife

The Trust shall have not more than eleven and not fewer than eight Director members (unless otherwise determined by the Secretary of State for Health and set out in the Trust's Establishment Order or such other communication from the Secretary of State).

### **2.2 Appointment of the Chairman and Directors of the Trust**

The Chairman and Non-Executive Directors are appointed by the NHS Trust Development Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.

The Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements Regulations are also relevant.

### **2.3 Terms of Office of the Chairman and Directors**

The regulations setting out the period of tenure of office of the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors and for the termination or suspension of office of the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors are determined by the NHS Trust Development Authority and by the Trust's Fit and Proper Persons Test.

## **2.4 Appointment and Powers of Vice-Chairman**

- 2.4.1 Subject to SO 2.4.2 below, the Chairman and Directors of the Trust may appoint one of their number, who is not also an Executive Director, to be Vice-Chairman, for such period, not exceeding the remainder of his/her term as a Director of the Trust, as they may specify on appointing him/her.
- 2.4.2 Any Director so appointed may at any time resign from the office of Vice-Chairman by giving notice in writing to the Chairman. The Chairman and Directors may thereupon appoint another Director as Vice-Chairman in accordance with the provisions of SO 2.4.1.
- 2.4.3 Where the Chairman of the Trust has died or has ceased to hold office, or where he/she has been unable to perform his/her duties as Chairman owing to illness or any other cause, the Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman until a new Chairman is appointed or the existing Chairman resumes his/her duties, as the case may be; and references to the Chairman in these Standing Orders shall, so long as there is no Chairman able to perform his/her duties, be taken to include references to the Vice-Chairman.

## **2.5 Joint Members**

- 2.5.1 Where more than one person is appointed jointly to a post mentioned in regulation 2(4)(a) of the Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements Regulations those persons shall count for the purpose of SO 2.6 as one person.
- 2.5.2 Where the office of a director of the Board is shared jointly by more than one person:
- i either or both of those persons may attend or take part in meetings of the Board;
  - ii if both are present at a meeting they should cast one vote if they agree;
  - iii in the case of disagreements no vote should be cast;
  - iv the presence of either or both of those persons should count as the presence of one person for the purposes of SO 3.11 Quorum.

## **2.6 Role of Directors**

The Board will function as a corporate decision-making body, Officer and Non-Executive Directors will be full and equal members. Their role as members of the Board of Directors will be to consider the key strategic and managerial issues facing the Trust in carrying out its statutory and other functions.

### **2.6.1 Executive Directors**

Executive Directors shall exercise their authority within the terms of these Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions and the Scheme of Delegation.

### **2.6.2 Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive shall be responsible for the overall performance of the Executive functions of the Trust. He/she is the Accountable Officer for the Trust and shall be responsible for ensuring the discharge of obligations under Financial Directions and in line with the requirements of the Accountable Officer Memorandum for Trust Chief Executives.

### **2.6.3 Director of Finance**

The Director of Finance shall be responsible for the provision of financial advice to the Trust and to its directors and for the supervision of financial control and accounting systems. He/she shall be responsible along with the Chief Executive for ensuring the discharge of obligations under relevant Financial Directions.

### **2.6.4 Non-Executive Directors**

The Non-Executive Directors shall not be granted nor shall they seek to exercise any individual executive powers on behalf of the Trust. They may however, exercise collective authority when acting as directors of or when chairing a committee of the Trust which has delegated powers.

### **2.6.5 Chairman**

The Chairman shall be responsible for the operation of the Board and chair all Board meetings when present. The Chairman has certain delegated executive powers. The Chairman must comply with the terms of appointment and with these Standing Orders.

The Chairman shall liaise with the NHS Trust Development Authority over the appointment of Non-Executive Directors and once appointed shall take responsibility either directly or indirectly for their induction, their portfolios of interests and assignments, and their performance.

The Chairman shall work in close harmony with the Chief Executive and shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Board in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to the Board to inform the debate and ultimate resolutions.

## **2.7 Corporate role of the Board**

- 2.7.1 All business shall be conducted in the name of the Trust.
- 2.7.2 All funds received in trust shall be held in the name of the Trust as corporate trustee.
- 2.7.3 The powers of the Trust established under statute shall be exercised by the Board meeting in public session except as otherwise provided for in SO 3.
- 2.7.4 The Board shall define and regularly review the functions it exercises on behalf of the Secretary of State.

## **2.8 Schedule of Matters reserved to the Board and Scheme of Delegation**

The Board has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board in formal session. These powers and decisions are set out in the Scheme of Reservation and Delegation and shall have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders. Those powers which it has delegated to officers and other bodies are contained in the Scheme of Delegation.

## **2.9 Lead Roles for Board Members**

The Chairman will ensure that the designation of Lead roles or appointments of Board members as required by the Department of Health or as set out in any statutory or other guidance will be made in accordance with that guidance or statutory requirement (e.g. appointing a Lead Board Member with responsibilities for Infection Control or Child Protection Services etc).

## **3 MEETINGS OF THE TRUST**

### **3.1 Calling meetings**

- 3.1.1 Ordinary meetings of the Board shall be held at regular intervals at such times and places as the Board may determine.
- 3.1.2 The Chairman of the Trust may call a meeting of the Board at any time.
- 3.1.3 One third or more members of the Board may requisition a meeting in writing. If the Chairman refuses, or fails, to call a meeting within seven days of a requisition being presented, the members signing the requisition may forthwith call a meeting.

## **3.2 Notice of Meetings and the Business to be transacted**

- 3.2.1 Before each meeting of the Board a written notice specifying the business proposed to be transacted shall be delivered to every member, or sent by post to the usual place of residence of each member, so as to be available to members at least three clear days before the meeting. The notice shall be signed by the Chairman or by an officer authorised by the Chairman to sign on their behalf. Want of service of such a notice on any member shall not affect the validity of a meeting.
- 3.2.2 In the case of a meeting called by members in default of the Chairman calling the meeting, the notice shall be signed by those members.
- 3.2.3 No business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified on the agenda, or emergency motions allowed under SO 3.6.
- 3.2.4 A member desiring a matter to be included on an agenda shall make his/her request in writing to the Chairman at least 15 clear days before the meeting. The request should state whether the item of business is proposed to be transacted in the presence of the public and should include appropriate supporting information. Requests made less than 15 days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman.
- 3.2.5 Before each meeting of the Board a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed at the Trust's principal offices at least three clear days before the meeting, (required by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 1 (4) (a)).

## **3.3 Agenda and Supporting Papers**

The Agenda will be sent to members six days before the meeting and supporting papers, whenever possible, shall accompany the agenda, but will certainly be despatched no later than three clear days before the meeting, save in emergency.

## **3.4 Petitions**

Where a petition has been received by the Trust the Chairman shall include the petition as an item for the agenda of the next meeting.

## **3.5 Notice of Motion**

- 3.5.1 Subject to the provision of SO 3.7 'Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting' and SO 3.8 'Motions to rescind a resolution', a member of the Board wishing to move a motion shall send a written notice to the Chief Executive who will ensure that it is brought to the immediate attention of

the Chairman.

- 3.5.2 The notice shall be delivered at least fifteen clear days before the meeting. The Chief Executive shall include in the agenda for the meeting all notices so received that are in order and permissible under governing regulations. This Standing Order shall not prevent any motion being withdrawn or moved without notice on any business mentioned on the agenda for the meeting.

### **3.6 Emergency Motions**

Subject to the agreement of the Chairman, and subject also to the provision of SO 3.7 'Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting', a member of the Board may give written notice of an emergency motion after the issue of the notice of meeting and agenda, up to one hour before the time fixed for the meeting. The notice shall state the grounds of urgency. If in order, it shall be declared to the Trust Board at the commencement of the business of the meeting as an additional item included in the agenda. The Chairman's decision to include the item shall be final.

### **3.7 Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting**

#### **3.7.1 Who may propose**

A motion may be proposed by the Chairman of the meeting or any member present. It must also be seconded by another member.

#### **3.7.2 Contents of motions**

The Chairman may exclude from the debate at their discretion any such motion of which notice was not given on the notice summoning the meeting other than a motion relating to:

- the reception of a report;
- consideration of any item of business before the Trust Board;
- the accuracy of minutes;
- that the Board proceed to next business;
- that the Board adjourn;
- that the question be now put.



### **3.7.3 Amendments to motions**

A motion for amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded.

Amendments to motions shall be moved relevant to the motion, and shall not have the effect of negating the motion before the Board.

If there are a number of amendments, they shall be considered one at a time. When a motion has been amended, the amended motion shall become the substantive motion before the meeting, upon which any further amendment may be moved.

### **3.7.4 Rights of reply to motions**

#### **(a) Amendments**

The mover of an amendment may reply to the debate on their amendment immediately prior to the mover of the original motion, who shall have the right of reply at the close of debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it.

#### **(b) Substantive / original motion**

The member who proposed the substantive motion shall have a right of reply at the close of any debate on the motion.

### **3.7.5 Withdrawing a motion**

A motion, or an amendment to a motion, may be withdrawn.

### **3.7.6 Motions once under debate**

When a motion is under debate, no motion may be moved other than:

- an amendment to the motion;
- the adjournment of the discussion, or the meeting;
- that the meeting proceed to the next business;
- that the question should be now put;
- the appointment of an 'ad hoc' committee to deal with a specific item of business;
- that a member/director be not further heard; a motion under Section 1(2) or Section 1(8) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 resolving to exclude the public, including the press (see SO 3.17).

In those cases where the motion is either that the meeting proceeds to the 'next business' or 'that the question be now put' in the interests of objectivity these should only be put forward by a member of the Board who has not taken part in the debate and who is eligible to vote.

If a motion to proceed to the next business or that the question be now put, is carried, the Chairman should give the mover of the substantive motion under debate a right of reply, if not already exercised. The matter should then be put to the vote.

### **3.8 Motion to Rescind a Resolution**

3.8.1 Notice of motion to rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six calendar months shall bear the signature of the member who gives it and also the signature of three other members, and before considering any such motion of which notice shall have been given, the Trust Board may refer the matter to any appropriate committee or the Chief Executive for recommendation.

3.8.2 When any such motion has been dealt with by the Trust Board it shall not be competent for any director/member other than the Chairman to propose a motion to the same effect within six months. This Standing Order shall not apply to motions moved in pursuance of a report or recommendations of a committee or the Chief Executive.

### **3.9 Chairman of meeting**

3.9.1 At any meeting of the Trust Board the Chairman, if present, shall preside. If the Chairman is absent from the meeting, the Vice-Chairman (if the Board has appointed one), if present, shall preside.

3.9.2 If the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, such member (who is not also an Executive Director of the Trust) as the members present shall choose shall preside.

### **3.10 Chairman's ruling**

The decision of the Chairman of the meeting on questions of order, relevancy and regularity (including procedure on handling motions) and their interpretation of the Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions, at the meeting, shall be final.

### **3.11 Quorum**

- i No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of the Chairman and members (including at least one member who is also an Executive Director of the Trust and one member who is not) is present.
- ii An Officer in attendance for an Executive Director (Officer Member) but without formal acting up status may not count towards the quorum.
- iii If the Chairman or member has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution by reason of a declaration of a conflict of interest (see SO 7) that person shall no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business.

### **3.12 Voting**

- i. Save as provided in SO 3.13 - Suspension of Standing Orders and SO 3.14 - Variation and Amendment of Standing Orders, every question put to a vote at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present and voting on the question. In the case of an equal vote, the person presiding (i.e.: the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second, and casting vote.
- ii. At the discretion of the Chairman all questions put to the vote shall be determined by oral expression or by a show of hands, unless the Chairman directs otherwise, or it is proposed, seconded and carried that a vote be taken by paper ballot.
- iii If at least one third of the members present so request, the voting on any question may be recorded so as to show how each member present voted or did not vote (except when conducted by paper ballot).
- iv If a member so requests, their vote shall be recorded by name.
- v In no circumstances may an absent member vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.
- vi A manager who has been formally appointed to act up for an Executive Director during a period of incapacity or temporarily to

fill an Executive Director vacancy shall be entitled to exercise the voting rights of the Executive Director.

vii A manager attending the Trust Board meeting to represent an Executive Director during a period of incapacity or temporary absence without formal acting up status may not exercise the voting rights of the Executive Director. A Director's status when attending a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

viii For the voting rules relating to joint members see SO 2.5.

### **3.13 Suspension of Standing Orders**

- i. Except where this would contravene any statutory provision or any direction made by the Secretary of State or the rules relating to the Quorum (SO 3.11), any one or more of the Standing Orders may be suspended at any meeting, provided that at least two-thirds of the whole number of the members of the Board are present (including at least one member who is an Executive Director of the Trust and one member who is not) and that at least two-thirds of those members present signify their agreement to such suspension. The reason for the suspension shall be recorded in the Trust Board's minutes.
- ii. A separate record of matters discussed during the suspension of Standing Orders shall be made and shall be available to the Chairman and members of the Trust.
- iii. No formal business may be transacted while Standing Orders are suspended.
- iv. The Audit Committee shall review every decision to suspend Standing Orders.

### **3.14 Variation and amendment of Standing Orders**

These Standing Orders shall not be varied except in the following circumstances:

- i. upon a notice of motion under SO 3.5;
- ii. upon a recommendation of the Chairman or Chief Executive included on the agenda for the meeting;
- iii. that two thirds of the Board members are present at the meeting where the variation or amendment is being discussed, and that at least half of the Trust's Non-Executive Directors vote in favour of the amendment;

- iv. providing that any variation or amendment does not contravene a statutory provision or direction made by the Secretary of State.

### **3.15 Record of Attendance**

The names of the Chairman and Directors/members present at the meeting shall be recorded.

### **3.16 Minutes**

The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting shall be drawn up and submitted for agreement at the next ensuing meeting where they shall be signed by the person presiding at it.

No discussion shall take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the Chairman considers discussion appropriate.

### **3.17. Admission of public and the press**

3.17.1 The public and representatives of the press shall be afforded facilities to attend all formal meetings of the Trust ( Board of Directors) but shall be required to withdraw upon the Trust ( Board of Directors) resolving as follows: “That representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest” (Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

3.17.2 The Chair (or Vice-Chair) shall give such directions as he thinks fit in regard to the arrangements for meetings and accommodation of the public and representatives of the press such as to ensure that the Trust’s business shall be conducted without interruption and disruption and, without prejudice to the power to exclude on grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public will be required to withdraw upon the Board of Directors resolving as follows: “That in the interest of public order the meeting adjourn for (the period to be specified) to enable the Board of Directors to complete business without the presence of the public” (Section 1(8) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

3.17.3 Matters to be dealt with by the Trust Board of Directors following the exclusion of representatives of the press, and other members of the public, as provided in (i) and (ii) above, shall be confidential to the members of the Board of Directors.

3.17.4 Members and Officers or any employee of the Trust in attendance shall not reveal or disclose the contents of papers marked 'In Confidence' or

minutes headed 'Items Taken in Private' outside of the Trust, without the express permission of the Trust. This prohibition shall apply equally to the content of any discussion during the Board of Directors meeting which may take place on such reports or papers.

3.17.5 Nothing in these Standing Orders shall require the Trust (Board of Directors) to allow members of the public or representatives of the press to record proceedings in any manner whatsoever, other than writing, or to make any oral report of proceedings as they take place, without the prior agreement of the Board of Directors.

### **3.17.6 General disturbances**

The Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if one has been appointed) or the person presiding over the meeting shall give such directions as he/she thinks fit with regard to the arrangements for meetings and accommodation of the public and representatives of the press such as to ensure that the Trust's business shall be conducted without interruption and disruption and, without prejudice to the power to exclude on grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public will be required to withdraw upon the Trust Board resolving as follows:

- That in the interests of public order the meeting adjourn for (the period to be specified) to enable the Trust Board to complete its business without the presence of the public'. Section 1(8) Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

### **3.17.7 Business proposed to be transacted when the press and public have been excluded from a meeting**

Matters to be dealt with by the Trust Board following the exclusion of representatives of the press, and other members of the public, as provided in (i) and (ii) above, shall be confidential to the members of the Board.

Members and Officers or any employee of the Trust in attendance shall not reveal or disclose the contents of papers marked 'In Confidence' or minutes headed 'Items Taken in Private' outside of the Trust, without the express permission of the Trust. This prohibition shall apply equally to the content of any discussion during the Board meeting which may take place on such reports or papers.

### **3.17.8 Use of Mechanical or Electrical Equipment for Recording or Transmission of Meetings**

Nothing in these Standing Orders shall be construed as permitting the introduction by the public, or press representatives, of recording, transmitting, video or similar apparatus into meetings of the Trust or committee thereof. Such permission shall be granted only upon resolution of the Trust.

### **3.18 Observers at Trust meetings**

The Trust will decide what arrangements and terms and conditions it feels are appropriate to offer in extending an invitation to observers to attend and address any of the Trust Board's meetings and may change, alter or vary these terms and conditions as it deems fit.

## **4 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

### **4.1 Appointment of Committees**

Subject to such directions as may be given by the Secretary of State for Health, the Trust Board may appoint committees of the Trust.

The Trust shall determine the membership and terms of reference of committees and sub-committees and shall, if it requires to, receive and consider reports of such committees.

### **4.2 Joint Committees**

- i. Joint committees may be appointed by the Trust by joining together with one or more other health bodies, or other Trusts consisting wholly or partly of the Chairman and members of the Trust or other health service bodies, or wholly of persons who are not members of the Trust or other health bodies in question.
- ii. Any committee or joint committee appointed under this Standing Order may, subject to such directions as may be given by the Secretary of State or the Trust or other health bodies in question, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the committees or joint committee (whether or not they are members of the Trust or health bodies in question) or wholly of persons who are not members of the Trust or health bodies in question or the committee of the Trust or health bodies in question.

#### **4.3 Applicability of Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions to Committees**

The Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions of the Trust, as far as they are applicable, shall as appropriate apply to meetings and any Committees established by the Trust. In which case the term 'Chairman' is to be read as a reference to the Chairman of such other committee as the context permits, and the term 'member' is to be read as a reference to a member of such other committee also as the context permits. (There is no requirement to hold meetings of committees established by the Trust in public.)

#### **4.4 Terms of Reference**

Each such committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions (as to reporting back to the Board), as the Board shall decide and shall be in accordance with any legislation and regulation or direction issued by the Secretary of State. Such terms of reference shall have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders.

#### **4.5 Delegation of powers by Committees to Sub-Committees**

Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees they may not delegate executive powers to the sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Trust Board.

#### **4.6 Approval of Appointments to Committees**

The Board shall approve the appointments to each of the committees which it has formally constituted. Where the Board determines, and regulations permit, that persons who are neither members nor officers, shall be appointed to a committee, the terms of such appointment shall be within the powers of the Board as defined by the Secretary of State. The Board shall define the powers of such appointees and shall agree allowances, including reimbursement for loss of earnings, and/or expenses in accordance where appropriate with national guidance.

#### **4.7 Appointments for statutory functions**

Where the Board is required to appoint persons to a committee and/or to undertake statutory functions as required by the Secretary of State, and where such appointments are to operate independently of the Board, such appointment shall be made in accordance with the regulations and directions made by the Secretary of State.



## **4.8 Committees established by the Trust Board**

The committees established by the Board are:

### **4.8.1 Audit Committee**

In line with the requirements of the NHS Audit Committee Handbook, NHS Codes of Conduct and Accountability and the Higgs Report, an Audit Committee will be established and constituted to provide the Trust Board with an independent and objective review on its financial systems, financial information and compliance with laws, guidance, and regulations governing the NHS, both financial and non-financial. The Terms of Reference will be approved by the Trust Board and reviewed on a periodic basis.

The Higgs Report recommends a minimum of three Non-Executive Directors be appointed, unless the Board decides otherwise, of which one must have significant, recent and relevant financial experience.

### **4.8.2 Remuneration and Terms of Service Committee**

In line with the requirements of the NHS Codes of Conduct and Accountability and the Higgs Report, a Remuneration and Terms of Service Committee will be established and constituted.

The Higgs Report recommends the committee be comprised exclusively of Non-Executive Directors, a minimum of three, who are independent of management.

The purpose of the Committee will be to advise the Trust Board about appropriate remuneration and terms of service for the Chief Executive and other Executive Directors including:

- i. all aspects of salary (including any performance-related elements/bonuses);
- ii. provisions for other benefits, including pensions and cars;
- iii. arrangements for termination of employment and other contractual terms.

### **4.8.3 Trust and Charitable Funds Committee**

In line with its role as a corporate trustee for any funds held in trust, either as charitable or non charitable funds, the Trust Board will establish a Trust and Charitable Funds Committee to administer those funds in accordance with any statutory or other legal requirements or best practice required by the Charity Commission.

The provisions of this Standing Order must be read in conjunction with SO 2.8 and SFI No 18.

#### **4.8.4 Other Committees**

The Board has established the following Committees:

##### **Finance & Investment Committee**

The Committee's primary purpose is to review and provide assurance to the Board on the more detailed aspects of financial planning, reporting and delivery, investments, treasury management, procurement, estates and IM&T.

##### **Safety & Quality Committee**

The Committee's primary purpose is to review and provide assurance to the Board on the arrangements for ensuring safety and quality, compliance with regulatory requirements and reporting the Trust's performance in these areas.

##### **Human Resources & Organisational Development Committee**

The Committee's primary purpose is to review and provide assurance to the Board on the development and delivery of appropriate workforce and organisational development strategies.

- 4.8.5 The Board may also establish such other committees as required to discharge the Trust's responsibilities.

## **5 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS BY DELEGATION**

### **5.1 Delegation of Functions to Committees, Officers or other bodies**

5.1.1 Subject to such directions as may be given by the Secretary of State, the Board may make arrangements for the exercise, on behalf of the Board, of any of its functions by a Committee, sub-committee appointed by virtue of SO 4 or by an Officer of the Trust, or by another body as defined in SO 5.1.2 below, in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Trust thinks fit.

5.1.2 S16B of the NHS Act 1977 allows for regulations to provide for the functions of Trusts to be carried out by third parties. In accordance with the Trust's (Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements) Regulations 2000 the functions of the Trust may also be carried out in the following ways:

- (i) by another Trust;

- (ii) jointly with any one or more of the following: NHS trusts, NHS Trust Development Authority or Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs);
- (iii) by arrangement with the appropriate Trust or CCG, by a joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Trust and one or more other health service bodies;
- (iv) in relation to arrangements made under S63 (1) of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, jointly with NHS Trust Development Authority, NHS Trusts or CCG's.

5.1.3 Where a function is delegated by these regulations to another organisation, then that Trust or health service body exercises the function in its own right; the receiving Trust has responsibility to ensure that the proper delegation of the function is in place. In other situations, i.e. delegation to Committees, sub-committees or Officers, the Trust delegating the function retains full responsibility.

## **5.2 Emergency Powers and urgent decisions**

The powers which the Board has retained to itself within these Standing Orders (SO 2.8) may in emergency be exercised by the Chief Executive and the Chairman after having consulted at least two Non-Executive Directors. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and Chairman shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board in public session for ratification.

## **5.3 Delegation to Committees**

5.3.1 The Board shall agree from time to time to the delegation of executive powers to be exercised by committees, or sub-committees or joint-committees, which it has formally constituted in accordance with directions issued by the Secretary of State. The terms of reference of these committees, or sub-committees or joint committees, and their specific executive powers shall be approved by the Board in respect of its sub-committees.

5.3.2 When the Board is not meeting as the Trust in public session it shall operate as a Committee and may only exercise such powers as may have been delegated to it by the Trust in public session.

## **5.4 Delegation to Officers**

- 5.4.1 Those functions of the Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board or delegated to other Committee, sub-committee or joint-committee shall be exercised on behalf of the Trust by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive shall determine which functions he/she will perform personally and shall nominate Officers to undertake the remaining functions for which he/she will still retain accountability to the Trust.
- 5.4.2 The Chief Executive shall prepare a Scheme of Delegation identifying his/her proposals which shall be considered and approved by the Board, subject to any amendment agreed during the discussion. The Chief Executive may periodically propose amendment to the Scheme of Delegation that shall be considered and approved by the Board.
- 5.4.3 Nothing in the Scheme of Delegation shall impair the discharge of the direct accountability to the Board of the Director of Finance to provide information and advise the Board in accordance with statutory or Department of Health requirements. Outside these statutory requirements the roles of the Director of Finance shall be accountable to the Chief Executive for operational matters.

## **5.5 Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Trust and Scheme of Delegation of powers**

The arrangements made by the Board as set out in the Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Board and Scheme of Delegation of Powers shall have effect as if incorporated in these Standing Orders.

## **5.6 Duty to report non-compliance with Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions**

If for any reason these Standing Orders are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board for action or ratification. All Members of the Trust Board and staff have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these Standing Orders to the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

## **6 OVERLAP WITH OTHER TRUST POLICY STATEMENTS/PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND THE STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **6.1 Policy statements: general principles**

The Trust Board will from time to time agree and approve policy statements/procedures which will apply to all or specific groups of staff employed by Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust. The decisions to approve such policies and procedures will be recorded in an appropriate Trust Board minute and will be deemed where appropriate to be an integral part of the Trust's Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.

### **6.2 Specific Policy statements**

Notwithstanding the application of SO 6.1 above, these Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions must be read in conjunction with the following Policy statements:

- The Standards of Business Conduct Guidance for Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust staff;
- The Staff Disciplinary and Appeals Procedures adopted by the Trust both of which shall have effect as if incorporated in these Standing Orders.

### **6.3 Standing Financial Instructions**

Standing Financial Instructions adopted by the Trust Board in accordance with the Financial Regulations shall have effect as if incorporated in these Standing Orders.

### **6.4 Specific guidance**

Notwithstanding the application of **SO 1.5**, these Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions must be read in conjunction with the following guidance and any other issued by the Secretary of State for Health:

- Caldicott Guardian 1997;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **7 DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS/DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGERS UNDER THESE STANDING ORDERS**

### **7.1 Declaration of Interests**

Staff (including all Directors) must comply with the national guidance contained in HSG(93)5 Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff, the NHS Code of Conduct and Accountability and the Bribery Act 2010. The following provisions should be read in conjunction with those documents.

#### **7.1.1 Requirements for declaring interests and applicability to Board Members**

The NHS Code of Accountability requires Board members to declare interests which are relevant and material to the NHS board of which they are a member. All existing Board members and Executive Directors who are not members should declare such interests. Any Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors appointed subsequently should do so on appointment.

#### **7.1.2 Interests which are relevant and material**

Interests which should be regarded as 'relevant and material' are:

- i. Directorships, including non-executive directorships held in private companies or PLCs (with the exception of those of dormant companies).
- ii. Ownership or part-ownership of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
- iii. Majority or controlling share holdings in organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
- iv. A position of authority in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care.
- v. Any connection with a voluntary or other organisation contracting for NHS services.
- vi. Research funding/grants that may be received by an individual or their department;
- vii. Interests in pooled funds that are under separate management.

Any member of the Trust Board who comes to know that the Trust has entered into or proposes to enter into a contract in which he/she or any person connected with him/her (as defined in SO 7.3 below and elsewhere) has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, the Board member shall declare his/her interest by giving notice in writing of such fact to the Trust as soon as practicable.

### **7.1.3 Advice on interests**

If Board members have any doubt about the relevance of an interest, this should be discussed with the Chairman of the Trust or with the Board Secretary.

Financial Reporting Standard No 8 (issued by the Accounting Standards Board) specifies that influence rather than the immediacy of the relationship is more important in assessing the relevance of an interest. The interests of partners in professional partnerships including general practitioners should also be considered.

### **7.1.4 Recording of Interests in Trust Board minutes**

At the time Executive or Non-Executive Director's interests are declared, they should be recorded in the Board minutes.

Any changes in interests should be declared at the next Board meeting following the change occurring.

### **7.1.5 Publication of declared interests in Annual Report**

Board members' directorships of companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS should be published in the Board's Annual Report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding annual reports.

### **7.1.6 Conflicts of interest which arise during the course of a meeting**

During the course of a Trust Board meeting, if a conflict of interest is established, the Board member concerned should withdraw from the meeting and play no part in the relevant discussion or decision. (See overlap with SO 7.3).

## **7.2 Register of Interests**

The Chief Executive will ensure that a Register of Interests is established by the Board Secretary to record formally declarations of interests of Board or Committee members. In particular the Register will include details of all directorships and other relevant and material interests (as defined in SO 7.1.2) which have been declared by both Executive and Non-Executive Trust Board members

These details will be kept up to date by means of an annual review of the Register in which any changes to interests declared during the preceding twelve months will be incorporated.

The Register will be available to the public and the Chief Executive will

take reasonable steps to bring the existence of the Register to the attention of the local population and to publicise arrangements for viewing it.

### **7.3 Disability of Chairman and Directors in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest**

#### **7.3.1 Definition of terms used in interpreting 'Pecuniary' interest**

For the sake of clarity, the following definition of terms is to be used in interpreting this Standing Order:

- i. 'Spouse': shall include any person who lives with another person in the same household (and any pecuniary interest of one spouse shall, if known to the other spouse, be deemed to be an interest of that other spouse);
- ii. 'Contract': shall include any proposed contract or other course of dealing;
- iii. 'Pecuniary interest': subject to the exceptions set out in this Standing Order, a person shall be treated as having an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract if:
  - a. he/she, or a nominee of his/her, is a member of a company or other body (not being a public body), with which the contract is made, or to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the same, or
  - b. he/she is a partner, associate or employee of any person with whom the contract is made or to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the same.
- iv. Exception to Pecuniary interests: A person shall not be regarded as having a pecuniary interest in any contract if:
  - a. neither he/she or any person connected with him/her has any beneficial interest in the securities of a company of which he/she or such person appears as a member, or
  - b. any interest that he/she or any person connected with him/her may have in the contract is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence him/her in relation to considering or voting on that contract, or
  - c. those securities of any company in which he/she (or any person connected with him/her) has a beneficial interest



do not exceed £5,000 in nominal value or one per cent of the total issued share capital of the company or of the relevant class of such capital, whichever is the less.

Provided however, that where the third paragraph above applies the person shall nevertheless be obliged to disclose/declare their interest in accordance with SO 7.1.2-2.

### **7.3.2 Exclusion in proceedings of the Trust Board**

- i. Subject to the following provisions of this Standing Order, if the Chairman or a Director has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter and is present at a meeting of the Trust at which the contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, he/she shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or vote on any question with respect to it.
- ii. The Secretary of State may, subject to such conditions as he/she may think fit to impose, remove any disability imposed by this Standing Order in any case in which it appears to him /her in the interests of the National Health Service that the disability shall be removed. The Trust Board may exclude the Chairman or a director of the Board from a meeting of the Board while any contract, proposed contract or other matter in which he/she has a pecuniary interest is under consideration.
- iii. Any remuneration, compensation or allowance payable to the Chairman or a Director by virtue of paragraph 18 to Schedule 7 of the NHS Act 2006 shall not be treated as a pecuniary interest for the purpose of this Standing Order.
- iv. This Standing Order applies to a Committee or sub-committee and to a joint committee or sub-committee as it applies to the Trust and applies to a member of any such committee or sub-committee (whether or not he/she is also a Director of the Trust) as it applies to a Director of the Trust.

### **7.3.3 Waiver of Standing Orders made by the Secretary of State for Health**

Under regulation 11(2) of the NHS (Membership and Procedure Regulations SI 1999/2024 (“the Regulations”), there is a power for the Secretary of State to issue waivers if it appears to the Secretary of State in the interests of the health service that the disability in regulation 11 (which prevents a Chair or a member from taking part in

the consideration or discussion of, or voting on any question with respect to, a matter in which he has a pecuniary interest) is removed. A waiver has been agreed in line with sub-sections (2) to (4) below.

#### **7.3.4 Definition of 'Chair' for the purpose of interpreting this waiver**

For the purposes of paragraph 7.3.3. (3) (below), the "relevant Chair" is:

- (a) At a meeting of the Trust, the Chair of that Trust;
- (b) At a meeting of a Committee:
  - (i) in a case where the member in question is the Chair of that Committee, the Chair of the Trust;
  - (ii) in the case of any other member, the Chair of that Committee.

#### **7.3.5 Application of waiver**

A waiver will apply in relation to the disability to participate in the proceedings of the Trust on account of a pecuniary interest. It will apply to:

- (i) A member of the Trust who is a healthcare professional, within the meaning of regulation 5(5) of the Regulations, and who is providing or performing, or assisting in the provision or performance, of:
  - (a) Services under the National Health Service Act 1977; or
  - (b) Services in connection with a pilot scheme under the National Health Service Act 1997; for the benefit of persons for whom the Trust is responsible.
- (ii) Where the 'pecuniary interest' of the member in the matter which is the subject of consideration at a meeting at which he is present:
  - (a) Arises by reason only of the member's role as such a professional providing or performing, or assisting in the provision or performance of, those services to those persons;
  - (b) has been declared by the relevant Chair as an interest which cannot reasonably be regarded as an interest more substantial than that of the majority of other persons who:
    - (i) Are members of the same profession as the member in question,

- (ii) Are providing or performing, or assisting in the provision or performance of, such of those services as he provides or performs, or assists in the provision or performance of, for the benefit of persons for whom the Trust is responsible.

### **7.3.6 Conditions which apply to the waiver and the removal of having a pecuniary interest**

- (a) The member must disclose his/her interest as soon as practicable after the commencement of the meeting and this must be recorded in the minutes;
- (b) the relevant Chair must consult the Chief Executive before making a declaration in relation to the member in question pursuant to paragraph 7.3.3 (2) (b) above, except where that member is the Chief Executive;
- (c) in the case of a meeting of the Trust:
  - (i) The member may take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter which must be subjected to a vote and the outcome recorded;
  - (ii) May not vote on any question with respect to it.
- (d) in the case of a meeting of the Committee:
  - (i) The member may take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter which must be subjected to a vote and the outcome recorded;
  - (ii) May vote on any question with respect to it; but
  - (iii) The resolution which is subject to the vote must comprise a recommendation to, and be referred for approval by, the Trust Board of Directors.

## **7.4 Standards of Business Conduct**

### **7.4.1 Trust Policy and National Guidance**

All Trust staff and members must comply with the Trust's Standards of Business Conduct Guidance and the national guidance contained in HSG (93)5 on 'Standards of Business Conduct for NHS staff' (see SO 6.2).

#### **7.4.2 Interest of Officers in Contracts**

- i. Any officer or employee of the Trust who comes to know that the Trust has entered into or proposes to enter into a contract in which he/she or any person connected with him/her (as defined in SO 7.3) has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, the Officer shall declare their interest by giving notice in writing of such fact to the Chief Executive and the Board Secretary as soon as practicable.
- ii. An Officer should also declare to the Chief Executive and the Board Secretary any other employment or business or other relationship of his/hers, or of a cohabiting spouse, that conflicts, or might reasonably be predicted could conflict with the interests of the Trust.
- iii. The Trust will require interests, employment or relationships declared, to be entered in a Register of Interests of staff to be held by the Board Secretary.

#### **7.4.3 Canvassing of and Recommendations by Members in Relation to Appointments**

- i. Canvassing of Directors of the Trust or members of any Committee of the Trust directly or indirectly for any appointment under the Trust shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The contents of this paragraph of the Standing Order shall be included in application forms or otherwise brought to the attention of candidates.
- ii. Directors of the Trust shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Trust or recommend any person for such appointment; but this paragraph of this Standing Order shall not preclude a director from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Trust.

#### **7.4.4 Relatives of Directors or Officers**

- i. Candidates for any staff appointment made by the Trust shall, when making application, disclose in writing to the Trust whether they are related to any Director or the holder of any office under the Trust. Failure to disclose such a relationship shall disqualify a candidate and, if appointed, render him/her liable to instant dismissal.
- ii. The Chairman and every Director of the Trust shall disclose to the Trust Board any relationship between themselves and a candidate of whose candidature that Director or officer is aware. It shall be the

duty of the Chief Executive to report to the Board any such disclosure made.

- iii. On appointment, Directors (and prior to acceptance of an appointment in the case of Executive Directors) should disclose to the Board whether they are related to any other Director or holder of any office in the Trust. Where the relationship to a Director of the Trust is disclosed, the Standing Order headed 'Disability of Chairman and Directors in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest' (SO 7.3) shall apply.

## **8. CUSTODY OF SEAL, SEALING OF DOCUMENTS AND SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS**

### **8.1 Custody of Seal**

The Common Seal of the Trust shall be kept by the Board Secretary in a secure place.

### **8.2 Sealing of Documents**

Where it is necessary that a document shall be sealed, the seal shall be affixed in the presence of an Executive Director and a Non-Executive Director and shall be attested by them. The Executive Director shall not be from the originating department.

### **8.3 Register of Sealing**

The Board Secretary shall, on behalf of the Chief Executive, keep a register which records the sealing of every document.

### **8.4 Signature of Documents**

Where any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings on behalf of the Trust, it shall, unless any enactment otherwise requires or authorises, be signed by the Chief Executive or any Executive Director.

In land transactions, the signing of certain supporting documents will be delegated to Managers and set out clearly in the Scheme of Delegation but will not include the main or principal documents effecting the transfer (e.g. sale/purchase agreement, lease, contracts for construction works and main warranty agreements or any document which is required to be executed as a deed).

## **8.5 Use of the Seal**

The Board shall receive quarterly updates on the use of the Trust's seal.

## **9 MISCELLANEOUS**

### **9.1 Joint Finance Arrangements**

The Board may confirm contracts to purchase from a voluntary organisation or a local authority using its powers under Section 28A of the NHS Act 1977. The Board may confirm contracts to transfer money from the NHS to the voluntary sector or the health related functions of local authorities where such a transfer is to fund services to improve the health of the local population more effectively than equivalent expenditure on NHS services, using its powers under Section 28A of the NHS Act 1977, as amended by section 29 of the Health Act 1999. See overlap with SFI No. 10.3.