GIFTS, INDUCEMENTS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY

Organisations such as the Health and Care Professions Council must observe high standards of corporate governance and be able to demonstrate objectivity and integrity. The policy on gifts, inducements and hospitality is intended to support this aim, to provide assurance that the HCPC’s decisions are not influenced or seen to be influenced by the offer of gifts, inducements and hospitality.

The gifts, inducements and hospitality policy must be read in conjunction with the section of the Members’ Code of Conduct relating to Members’ Interests. Failure to comply with the policy may lead to the Member being in breach of the Code.

1. Members must not seek, receive or obtain, in respect of any services provided by or on behalf of the HCPC, any gift, hospitality, discount, rebate, commission or other inducement or corrupt payment (whether in cash or in kind).

2. Members must not accept or offer to others excessive amounts of entertainment.

3. Members are not permitted to accept, without the prior permission of the Chair of the Council, any gifts, hospitality, discounts, rebates, commission or favours in relation to the HCPC’s business from any person or business with whom members come into contact.

4. Members must declare all gifts, other than those of a token nature, in the Register of Members’ Interests.

Excessive amounts of entertainment may include (but are not limited to) offers of days out at events, offers of gifts such as baskets of goods and/or attending functions which involve non-HCPC related events.

Gifts of a token nature may include items such as flowers, pens, tee-shirts, diaries, calendars, bottles of wine, or functions that are related to HCPC activities.

No gifts should be accepted under any circumstances at the time of business transactions or contract awards.

Members should not accept private discounts if they buy products for their personal use from an HCPC supplier.

Members may be asked to attend or speak at conferences on behalf of HCPC. HCPC will not usually charge a speaker fee however it is acceptable for the organiser to reimburse the members’ direct travel costs.