

Manual of Financial Rules

Bribery Act 2010

12.1 The provisions of the Bribery Act come into force in April 2011. The aim of the Act is to prevent bribery occurring both in this country and abroad and breach of the Act could lead to a 10 year prison sentence or an unlimited fine. The new Act makes it an offence to give or receive gifts, hospitality or money where it is either a reward or an inducement for doing something in relation to a contract. It also makes it an offence to bribe foreign public officials, intending to influence them in their capacity as a foreign public official. This means that it is now an offence in the UK to make payments to officials just to ensure they expedite the performance of a particular official task. Expected guidance from the Government is likely to indicate that the Courts will apply the principles of “proportionality” in deciding whether a prosecution should be brought for such an offence. However, at the present time we are still awaiting formal guidance on these issues.

12.2 The University has recently approved a [new policy on gifts and hospitality](#).

12.3 It is often the case, however, that members of staff can avoid being placed in difficult situations with forethought. It is prudent not to accept hospitality or gifts from third parties including alumni or corporate bodies. It is often easier for the member of staff to simply say that the University policy is not to accept such gifts or hospitality rather than to engage in a conversation about the value of such gift or the hospitality concerned. If the University is about to enter into a contractual relationship with the third party it is essential that no gifts or hospitality are received.

12.4 If you are in any doubt as to whether or not an offer or hospitality or a gift is appropriate to receive then advice can be obtained from either [Legal Services](#) or the Finance Office.