Personal Harassment Policy and Procedure

DISTRIBUTION

This Personal Harassment Policy and Procedures are communicated to all employees. A copy is available at the Head Office, held in the sites folder, and published on the internal company shared drive. All employees are encouraged to read it and communicate any queries to a Director.

REVISION HISTORY

Issue Number	Review Date	Changes	Signed
01	22/09/2023	Original version (draft)	
01	22/09/2023	Signed off	
01	20/09/2024	Review	
01	19/09/2025	Review	
02	20/05/2026	Address Updated	
02	18/09/2026	Review	

INTRODUCTION

1. Many people in our society are victimised and harassed as a result of their race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religious belief, political opinion or affiliation, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age or disability.
2. Personal harassment takes many forms ranging from tasteless jokes and abusive remarks to pestering for sexual favours, threatening behaviour and actual physical abuse. Whatever form it takes, personal harassment is always taken seriously and is totally unacceptable.
3. We recognise that personal harassment can exist in the workplace, as well as outside, and that this can seriously affect employees' working lives by interfering with their job performance or by creating a stressful, intimidating and unpleasant working environment.

POLICY

1. We deplore all forms of personal harassment and seek to ensure that the working environment is sympathetic to all our employees.
2. We have published these procedures to inform employees of the type of behaviour that is unacceptable and provide employees who are the victims of personal harassment with a means of redress.
3. We recognise that we have a duty to implement this policy and all employees are expected to comply with it.

EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL HARASSMENT

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Personal harassment takes many forms and employees may not always realise that their behaviour constitutes harassment. Personal harassment is unwanted behaviour by one employee towards another and examples of harassment include: -

a. insensitive jokes and pranks;
b. lewd or abusive comments about appearance;
c. deliberate exclusion from conversations;
d. displaying abusive or offensive writing or material;
e. unwelcome touching; and
f. abusive, threatening or insulting words or behaviour.

These examples are not exhaustive and disciplinary action at the appropriate level will be taken against employees committing any form of personal harassment.

COMPLAINING ABOUT PERSONAL HARASSMENT

Informal Complaint

We recognise that complaints of personal harassment, and particularly of sexual harassment, can sometimes be of a sensitive or intimate nature and that it may not be appropriate for you to raise the issue through our normal grievance procedure. In these circumstances you are encouraged to raise such issues with a senior colleague of your choice (whether or not that person has a direct supervisory responsibility for you) as a confidential helper. This person cannot be a Director, who will be responsible for investigating the matter if it becomes a formal complaint.
If you are the victim of minor harassment you should make it clear to the harasser on an informal basis that their behaviour is unwelcome and ask the harasser to stop. If you feel unable to do this verbally then you should hand a written request to the harasser, and your confidential helper can assist you in this.

FORMAL COMPLAINT

Where the informal approach fails or if the harassment is more serious, you should bring the matter to the attention of a Director as a formal written complaint and again your confidential helper can assist you in this. If possible, you should keep notes of the harassment so that the written complaint can include: -

a. the name of the alleged harasser;
b. the nature of the alleged harassment;
c. the dates and times when the alleged harassment occurred;
d. the names of any witnesses; and
e. any action already taken by you to stop the alleged harassment.

On receipt of a formal complaint we will take action to separate you from the alleged harasser to enable an uninterrupted investigation to take place. This may involve a

temporary transfer of the alleged harasser to another work area or suspension with pay until the matter has been resolved.

The person dealing with the complaint will invite you to attend a meeting, at a reasonable time and location, to discuss the matter and carry out a thorough investigation. You have the right to be accompanied at such a meeting by your confidential helper or another work colleague of your choice and you must take all reasonable steps to attend. Those involved in the investigation will be expected to act in confidence and any breach of confidence will be a disciplinary matter.

On conclusion of the investigation which will normally be within ten working days of the meeting with you, a draft report of the findings and of the investigator's proposed decision will be sent, in writing, to you and to the alleged harasser.

If you or the alleged harasser are dissatisfied with the draft report or with the proposed decision this should be raised with the investigator within five working days of receiving the draft. Any points of concern will be considered by the investigator before a final report is sent, in writing, to you and to the alleged harasser. You have the right to appeal against the findings of the investigator in accordance with the appeal provisions of the grievance procedure.

GENERAL NOTES

1 If the report concludes that the allegation is well founded, the harasser will be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with our disciplinary and disciplinary dismissal procedure. An employee who receives a formal warning or who is dismissed for harassment may appeal by using our capability/disciplinary appeal procedure.

2. If you bring a complaint of harassment you will not be victimised for having brought the complaint. However, if the report concludes that the complaint is both untrue and has been brought with malicious intent, disciplinary action will be taken against you.

Managing Director

Name: Danish Iftikhar

Sign: 

Dated: 22/09/2023