

Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Standing financial instructions (also applicable to the Queen Victoria Hospital Trust Charitable Fund)

Approved by the Board of Directors 5 August 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION TO STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1.1 Purpose of the Standing Financial Instructions

- 1.1.1 The Standing Financial Instructions ("**SFIs**") explain the financial responsibilities, policies and procedures to be adopted by Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust ("**the Trust**"). These SFIs detail the financial responsibilities, policies and procedures to be adopted by the Trust, They are designed to ensure that its financial transactions are carried out in accordance with the law, Government policy in order to achieve probity, accuracy, economy, efficiency and effectiveness in all financial matter concerning the Trust. These SFIs should be used in conjunction with the Reservation of Powers to the Board and the Delegation of Powers adopted by the Trust.
- 1.1.2 These SFIs together with the Standing Orders and supported by the Reservation of Powers and Schemes of Delegation (SoD), provide a suite of governance documents for the Trust to operate within, and set the rules under which Directors, Officers and third parties contracted to the Trust are required to work.
- 1.1.3 These SFIs have been compiled under authority of the Board of Directors of the Trust. They have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and by the Board of Directors and have their full approval.
- 1.1.4 Any questions relating to the SFIs should be referred to the Director of Finance & Performance, Deputy Director of Finance or their nominated Officer. Any questions relating to the Standing Orders should be referred to the Company Secretary. The SFIs and SoD are formally adopted by the Board of Directors and shall be reviewed annually by the Trust.
- 1.1.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the SFIs and SoD apply to all Trust and Charitable Funds activity, including research and development, training and education, joint ventures and special purpose vehicles, unless specific exceptions are described in the sections of this document covering those areas.

1.2 Interpretation and definitions

- 1.2.1 Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting of the Board of Directors the Chair of the Trust (of the person presiding over the meeting) shall be the final authority on the interpretation of SFIs (on which he should be advised by the Chief Executive or the Director of Finance) and his decision shall be final and binding except in the case of manifest error.
- 1.2.2 Unless a contrary intention is evident or the context requires otherwise, words or expressions contained in these SFIs shall bear the same meaning as in the Standing Orders.
- 1.2.3 In these SFIs:
- "**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 Manager**" means the Director or Officer with delegated authority to manage finances (income and expenditure) for a specific area of the Trust;

"Funds Held on Trust" means those funds which the Trust holds on the 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;

"GBS" means the Government Banking Service;

"Officer" means an employee of the Trust; and

"SoD" means the Scheme of Delegation.

"WTO GPA" means World Trade Organisation Government Procurement Agreement.

1.2.4 Wherever the title Chief Executive, Director or other nominated Officer is used in these SFIs, this will include other officers who have been duly authorised to represent them.

1.2.5 References in these SFIs to 'Officer' shall be deemed to include all Officers of the Trust including any contractors/consultants, the Non-Executive Directors, temporary employees, locums and contracted staff.

1.3 Scope

1.3.1 These SFIs apply to all Officers in all locations, including temporary contractors, volunteers and staff employed by other organisations to deliver services in the name of the Trust. Failure to comply with the SFIs and SOs is a disciplinary matter that could result in dismissal.

1.4 Duties

1.4.1 All Officers of the Trust are required to comply with these SFIs. Delegation of duties can be found in the SoD.

1.5 Training and awareness

1.5.1 Post ratification, the document will be published to Trust's intranet and internet pages. The publication of the document will be highlighted to staff via communications issued by the Trust's corporate affairs department.

1.6 Equality

1.6.1 This document and protocol will be equality impact assessed in accordance with the Trust Procedural Documents Policy, the results of which are published on the Trust's internet page and recorded by the Trust's Equality and Diversity team.

1.7 Freedom of Information

1.7.1 Any information that belongs to the Trust may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This act allows anyone, anywhere to ask for information held by the Trust to be disclosed (subject to limited exemptions). Further information is available in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Trust Procedure which can be viewed on the Trust Intranet.

1.8 Review

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- 1.8.1 These SFIs will be reviewed on an annual basis from the date of ratification. Earlier review may be required in response to exceptional circumstances, organisational change or relevant changes in legislation or guidance.

1.9 Discipline

- 1.9.1 Failure to comply with or breaches of these SFIs will be investigated and may result in the matter being treated as a disciplinary offence under the Trust's disciplinary procedure, and may result in an employee's dismissal. Where such a breach results in clear financial loss, the Officer may be personally liable to compensate the Trust.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELEGATION

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 Roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, Committees, Directors and Officers of the Trust with regards to finance are set out below. Responsibilities are detailed in full in the SoD.
- 2.1.2 It should be noted that the Board of Directors remains accountable for all of its functions, even those delegated to the Chair, individual Directors or Officers, and should expect to receive information about the exercise of delegated functions to enable it to maintain a monitoring role.

2.2 Role of the Board of Directors

- 2.2.1 The Board of Directors shall exercise financial supervision and control by:
- (a) agreeing the Trust's financial strategy;
 - (b) requiring the submission of and approving annual financial plans, including revenue, capital and financing;
 - (c) approving policies such as these SFIs, SoD and Standing Orders for the Board of Directors in relation to financial control and ensuring value for money; and
 - (d) defining specific responsibilities placed on members of the Board of Directors and Officers as indicated in the SoD.
- 2.2.2 The Board of Directors has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board of Directors in formal session. These are set out in the SoD.
- 2.2.3 The Board of Directors will delegate responsibility for the performance of its functions in accordance with the SoD adopted by the Trust.

2.3 Role of the Finance and Performance Committee

- 2.3.1 In accordance with Standing Orders for the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall formally establish a Finance and Performance Committee with clearly defined terms of reference, which will provide an independent and objective view of financial and operational performance by:

- (a) reviewing, interpreting and challenging in-year financial and operational performance;
- (b) overseeing the development and delivery of any corrective actions plans and advise the Board of Directors accordingly; and
- (c) receiving, reviewing and providing guidance to the Board of Directors as to the approval of investment programmes, cost improvement programmes and business cases.

2.3.2 The terms of reference for the Finance and Performance Committee shall be considered as forming part of these SFIs.

2.3.3 Where the Finance and Performance Committee feel there is a need to amend or modify the Trust's strategic initiatives in the light of changing circumstances or issues arising from implementation, the Chair of the Finance and Performance Committee should raise the matter at a full meeting of the Board of Directors.

2.4 Role of the Chief Executive

2.4.1 Within these SFIs, it is acknowledged that the Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer of the Trust.

2.4.2 The Chief Executive is ultimately accountable to the Secretary of State for ensuring that the Board of Directors meets its obligation to perform the Trust's functions within the available financial resources. The Chief Executive has overall executive responsibility for the Trust's activities and is responsible to the Board of Directors for ensuring that its financial obligations and targets are met.

2.4.3 The Chief Executive shall exercise all powers of the Trust that have not been retained as reserved by the Board of Directors or specifically delegated to a Committee. The SoD identifies functions that he/she shall perform personally and functions delegated to other Directors and Officers. All powers delegated by the Chief Executive can be re-assumed by them, should the need arise.

2.4.4 It is a duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that all existing Officers and new appointees are notified of their responsibilities within these SFIs.

2.4.5 The Chief Executive and Chair must ensure suitable recovery plans are in place to ensure business continuity in the event of a major incident taking place.

2.4.6 The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that financial performance measures with reasonable targets have been defined and are monitored, with robust systems and reporting lines in place to ensure overall performance is managed and arrangements are in place to respond to adverse performance.

2.4.7 The Chief Executive may determine that powers devolved under this document and the detailed SoD be taken back to a more senior level – for example, areas of the Trust that are deemed to be in financial recovery may be given a reduced level of devolved autonomy.

2.4.8 In accordance with guidance issued by the Regulator, the Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the Trust provides an annual forward plan to the Regulator each year, together with quarterly reports (or more frequent if required).

by NHS improvement), which should be appropriately communicated to the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors.

- 2.4.9 If the Chief Executive is absent powers delegated to them may be exercised by the acting Chief Executive after taking appropriate advice from the Company Secretary, and consulting with the Chair as necessary.

2.5 Role of the Director of Finance

2.5.1 The Director of Finance is responsible for the following:

- (a) advising on and implementing the Trust's financial policies and co-ordinating any corrective action necessary to further these policies;
- (b) design, implementation and supervision of systems of internal financial control including ensuring that detailed financial procedures and systems incorporating the principles of separation of duties and internal checks are prepared, documented and maintained to supplement these SFIs;
- (c) ensuring that sufficient records are maintained to show and explain the Trust's transactions, in order to report, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Trust at any time;
- (d) provision of financial advice to other members of the Board of Directors and Officers; and
- (e) preparation and maintenance of such accounts, certificates, estimates, records and reports as the Trust may require for the purpose of carrying out its statutory duties.

2.6 Corporate responsibilities of all members of the Board of Directors and Officers

2.6.1 All members of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Trust, are severally and collectively responsible for:

- (a) the security of the property of the Trust;
- (b) avoiding loss;
- (c) exercising economy and efficiency in the use of resources; and
- (d) conforming with the requirements of Standing Orders for the Board of Directors, these SFIs, SoD and all Trust policies and procedures.

2.6.2 Any contractor or employee of a contractor who is empowered by the Trust to commit the Trust to expenditure or who is authorised to obtain income shall be covered by these SFIs. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to ensure that such persons are made aware of this.

2.6.3 For any Officers of the Trust who carry out a financial function, the form in which financial records are kept and the manner in which members of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Trust discharge their duties must be to the satisfaction of the Director of Finance.

2.7 Scheme of delegation

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2.7.1 The principles of the SoD are as follows:

- (a) no financial or approval powers can be delegated to an Officer in excess of the powers invested in the delegating Officer;
- (b) powers may only be delegated to Officers within the organisational control of the delegating Officer;
- (c) all delegated powers must remain within the financial and approval limits set out in the SoD;
- (d) all powers of delegation must be provided in writing, duly authorised by the delegating Officer. Any variations to such delegated powers must also be in writing.
- (e) all applications for short term powers of delegation, such as holiday cover, which are not intended to be permanent must be provided in writing by the delegating Officer, prior to the period for which approval is sought.
- (f) any Officer wishing to approve a transaction outside their written delegated powers must in all cases refer the matter to the relevant line manager with adequate written powers, before any financial commitments are made in respect of the transaction.
- (g) powers may be delegated onwards unless this is specifically prohibited by the delegator; and
- (h) conditions or restrictions on delegated powers, e.g. not allowing onward delegation of those powers, should be reasonable in the circumstances and stated in writing.

3 AUDIT

3.1 References

3.1.1 The Board of Directors shall establish formal and transparent arrangements for considering how they should apply the financial reporting and internal control principles and for maintaining an appropriate relationship with the Trust's auditors.

3.2 Audit Committee

3.2.1 In accordance with Standing Orders for the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall formally establish an Audit Committee with clearly defined terms of reference, which will provide an independent and objective view of internal control by:

- (a) overseeing internal and external audit services (including agreeing both audit plans and monitoring progress against them);
- (b) receiving reports from the internal and external auditors (including the external auditor's management letter) and considering the management response;

- (c) monitoring compliance with Standing Orders for the Board of Directors and these SFIs;
- (d) reviewing schedules of losses and compensations and making recommendations to the Board of Directors;
- (e) reviewing the information prepared to support the annual governance declaration statement prepared on behalf of the Board of Directors and advising the Board of Directors accordingly;

as set out in the terms of reference approved by the Board of Directors.

3.2.2 The terms of reference for the Audit Committee shall be considered as forming part of these SFIs.

3.2.3 Where the Audit Committee feel there is evidence of ultra vires transactions, evidence of improper acts, or if there are other important matters that the Audit Committee wish to raise, the Chair of the Audit Committee should raise the matter at a full meeting of the Board of Directors.

3.3 Director of Finance's role in audit

3.3.1 In relation to audit, the Director of Finance is responsible for:

- (a) ensuring there are arrangements to review, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of internal financial control by the establishment of an internal audit function;
- (b) Ensuring that the internal audit is adequate and meets the NHS mandatory audit standards;
- (c) ensuring the production of the annual governance statement, and audited document for inclusion within the Trust's annual report, prepared in accordance with the prevailing guidance from the Regulator;
- (d) provision of annual reports including a strategic audit plan covering the forthcoming three (3) years, a detailed plan for the next year, and progress against plan over the previous year, and regular reports on progress on the implementation of internal audit recommendations;
- (e) ensuring that there is effective liaison with the relevant counter fraud services regional team or NHS Counter Fraud Authority on all suspected cases of fraud and corruption and all anomalies which may indicate fraud or corruption before any action is taken; and
- (f) deciding at what stage to involve the police in cases of misappropriation and other irregularities.

3.3.2 The Director of Finance or designated auditors are entitled without necessarily giving prior notice to require and receive:

- (a) access to all records, documents and correspondence relating to any financial or other relevant transaction, including documents of a confidential nature. This includes work diaries;

- (b) access at all reasonable times to any land, premises or members of the Board of Directors or Officers of the Trust;
- (c) the production of any cash, stores or other property of the Trust under the control of a member of the Board of Directors or an Officer; and
- (d) explanations concerning any matter under investigation.

3.4 Role of internal audit

3.4.1 The internal audit shall:

- (a) provide an independent and objective assessment for the Chief Executive, the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee on the degree to which risk management, control and governance arrangements support the achievement of the Trust's objectives;
- (b) operate independently of the decisions made by the Trust and its Officers; and of the activities which it audits. No member of the team of the Internal Audit will have executive responsibilities.

3.4.2 Internal audit will review, appraise and report upon:

- (a) the extent of compliance with, and the financial effect of, relevant established policies, plans and procedures;
- (b) the adequacy and application of financial and other related management controls;
- (c) the suitability of financial and other related management data;
- (d) the extent to which the Trust's assets and interests are accounted for and safeguarded from loss of any kind, arising from fraud, bribery and other offences, waste, extravagance, inefficient administration, poor value for money or other causes.

3.4.3 Internal audit shall also independently assess the process in place to ensure the assurance frameworks are in accordance with current guidance from the Regulator.

3.4.4 Whenever any matter arises which involves, or is thought to involve, irregularities concerning cash, stores or other property or any suspected irregularity in the exercise of any function of a pecuniary nature, including any act which involves the giving or receiving of bribes, the Director of Finance must be notified immediately.

3.4.5 The lead internal auditor will normally attend meetings of the Audit Committee and have a right of access to all members of the Audit Committee, the Chair and Chief Executive of the Trust.

3.4.6 The lead internal auditor will be accountable to the Director of Finance. The reporting system for internal audit shall be agreed between the Director of Finance, the Audit Committee and the Lead Internal Auditor. The agreement shall be in writing and shall be reviewed at least every three (3) years.

3.5 Role of external audit

- 3.5.1 The Trust is to have an external auditor appointed (or removed) by the Council of Governors based on recommendations from the Audit Committee, who must ensure that external audit is providing a cost effective service that meets the prevailing requirements of the regulator and other regulatory bodies.
- 3.5.2 External audit responsibilities will vary from time to time in compliance with the requirements of the regulator, and are to:
- (a) be satisfied that the statutory accounts, quality accounts and annual report (and the external auditor's own work) comply with the prevailing guidance including relevant accounting standards;
 - (b) be satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources, reported by exception;
 - (c) issue an independent auditor's report to the Council of Governors, certify the completion of the audit and express an opinion on the accounts; and
 - (d) to refer the matter to the regulator if an Officer makes or is about to make decisions involving potentially unlawful action likely to cause a loss or deficiency.
- 3.5.3 External auditors will ensure that there is a minimum of duplication of effort between, them, internal audit and other relevant regulators, recognising the limitations that apply to external audit being able to rely on other work to inform their own work.
- 3.5.4 The Trust will provide the external auditor with every facility and all information which it may reasonably require for the purposes of its functions.

3.6 Fraud and corruption

- 3.6.1 In line with their responsibilities, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance shall monitor and ensure compliance with guidance issued by the Regulator or the NHS Counter Fraud Authority on fraud and corruption in the NHS.
- 3.6.2 The Director of Finance is responsible for the promotion of counter fraud measures within the Trust and, in that capacity, he will ensure that the Trust co-operates with NHS Counter Fraud Authority to enable them to efficiently and effectively carry out their respective functions in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of fraud in the NHS.
- 3.6.3 The Trust shall nominate a suitable person to carry out the duties of the Local Counter Fraud Specialist, as specified by the NHS Counter Fraud Authority.
- 3.6.4 The Director of Finance will ensure that the Trust's local counter fraud specialist received appropriate training in connection with counter fraud measures and that he is accredited by the Counter Fraud Professional Accreditation Board.
- 3.6.5 Where the Trust appoints a local counter fraud specialist whose services are provided to the Trust by an outside organisation, the Director of Finance must be satisfied that the terms on which those services are provided are such to enable

the local counter fraud specialist to carry out his functions effectively and efficiently and, in particular, that he will be able to devote sufficient time to the Trust.

- 3.6.6 The local counter fraud specialist shall report directly to the Director of Finance and shall work with NHS Counter Fraud Authority.
- 3.6.7 The local counter fraud specialist and the Director of Finance will, at the beginning of each Financial Year, prepare a written work plan outlining the local counter fraud specialist's projected work for that Financial Year.
- 3.6.8 The local counter fraud specialist shall be afforded the opportunity to attend Audit Committee meetings and other meetings of the Board of Directors, or its committees, as required.
- 3.6.9 The Director of Finance will ensure that the local counter fraud specialist:
- (a) keeps full and accurate records of any instances of fraud and suspected fraud;
 - (b) reports to the Board any weaknesses in fraud-related systems and any other matters which may have fraud-related implications for the Trust;
 - (c) has all necessary support to enable him to efficiently, effectively and promptly carry out his functions and responsibilities, including working conditions of sufficient security and privacy to protect the confidentiality of his work;
 - (d) receives appropriate training and support, as recommended by NHS Counter Fraud Authority; and
 - (e) participates in activities which NHS Counter Fraud Authority is engaged, including national anti-fraud measures.
- 3.6.10 The Director of Finance must, subject to any contractual or legal constraints, require all Officers to co-operate with the local counter fraud specialist and, in particular, that those responsible for human resources disclose information which arises in connection with any matters (including disciplinary matters) which may have implications in relation to the investigation, prevention or detection of fraud.
- 3.6.11 The Director of Finance must also prepare a "fraud response plan" that sets out the action to be taken both by persons detecting a suspected fraud and the local counter fraud specialist, who is responsible for investigating it.
- 3.6.12 Any Officer discovering or suspecting a loss of any kind must either immediately inform the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance or the local counter fraud specialist, who will then inform the Director of Finance and/or Chief Executive. Where a criminal offence is suspected, the Director of Finance must immediately inform the police if theft or arson is involved, but if the case involves suspicion of fraud, and corruption or of anomalies that may indicate fraud or corruption then the particular circumstances of the case will determine the stage at which the police are notified; but such circumstances should be referred to the local counter fraud specialist.

3.6.13 For losses apparently caused by theft, fraud, arson, neglect of duty or gross carelessness, except if trivial and where fraud is not suspected, the Director of Finance must immediately notify:

- (a) the Board of Directors; and
- (b) the auditor.

3.7 Staff expenses

3.7.1 The Director of Finance shall be responsible for establishing procedures for the management of expense claims submitted by Officers on forms approved by the Director of Finance. The Director of Finance shall arrange for duly approved expense claims to be processed locally or via the Trust's payroll provider. Expense claims shall be authorised in accordance with the SoD.

3.7.2 Expenses should be claimed monthly. Any claims older than three months will not be paid unless approval is obtained from the Director of Finance.

3.8 Acceptance of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship by Officers

3.8.1 The Company Secretary shall ensure that all Officers are made aware of the Trust's Standards of Business Conduct Policy, and any additional rules that the Trust may hold or adopt in respect of preventing corruption and complying with the Bribery Act 2010.

3.8.2 All Officers will be responsible for notifying the Company Secretary who will record in writing, any gift, hospitality or sponsorship accepted (or refused) by Officers on behalf of the Trust.

3.8.3 Any offers for gifts, hospitality or sponsorship that do not comply with the Trust's Standard of Business Conduct Policy, should be courteously but firmly refused and the firm or individual notified of the Trust's procedures and standards.

3.9 Overriding Standing Financial Instructions

3.9.1 If, for any reason, these SFIs are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance, any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Audit Committee for action or ratification.

3.9.2 All members of the Board of Directors and Officers have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these SFIs to the Director of Finance as soon as possible.

4 ANNUAL PLANNING, BUDGETS, BUDGETARY CONTROL AND MONITORING

4.1 Annual business planning

4.1.1 The Chief Executive shall compile and submit to the Board of Directors and the Regulator, strategic and operational plans in accordance with the guidance issued about timing and the Trust's financial duties within the regulator's compliance framework. This will include:

- (a) income and expenditure budgets;

- (b) consistency with the overall activity and workforce plans and other aspects of the annual plan;
 - (c) identification of potential risks and opportunities within the plan; and
 - (d) plans for capital expenditure, including both replace and refresh of existing assets and new projects.
- 4.1.2 The operational plan shall be reconcilable to regular updates of the financial performance, which the Director of Finance will prepare and submit to the Finance and Performance Committee, the Board of Directors and the regulator.
- 4.1.3 The Director of Finance will also be required to compile and submit to the Board of Directors such financial estimates and forecasts, both revenue and capital, as may be required from time to time.
- 4.1.4 Officers shall provide the Director of Finance with all financial, statistical and other relevant information as necessary for the compilation of such business planning, estimates and forecasts.

Budgets, budgetary control and monitoring

4.2 Role of the Board of Directors

- 4.2.1 In advance of the financial year to which they refer, the Board of Directors will approve Budgets within the forecast limits of available resources and planning policies submitted by the Director of Finance.
- 4.2.2 Budgets will be in accordance with the aims and objectives set out in the Trust's annual plan.
- 4.2.3 The Director of Finance will devise and maintain systems of budgetary control incorporating the reporting of, and investigation into, financial, activity or workforce variances from budget. All Officers whom the Board of Directors may empower to engage Officers, to otherwise incur expenditure, or to collect or generate income, shall comply with the requirements of those systems.
- 4.2.4 The Director of Finance shall be responsible for providing budgetary information and advice and training to enable the Chief Executive and other Officers to carry out their budgetary responsibilities. All Officers of the Trust have a responsibility to meet their financial targets as agreed in the annual plan approved by the Board of Directors.
- 4.2.5 The Chief Executive may delegate management of a budget or part of a budget to Officers to permit the performance of defined activities. The SoD shall include a clear definition of individual and group responsibilities for control of expenditure. In carrying out those duties, the Chief Executive shall not exceed the budgetary limits set by the Board of Directors, and Officers shall not exceed the budgetary limits set them by the Chief Executive.

4.3 Responsibilities of all budget managers

- 4.3.1 Control of spending is maintained within budget and if applicable income targets and efficiency targets are achieved, through regular monitoring. Where a Budget Manager is responsible for both income and expenditure targets, the Director of

Finance may agree that a budget manager's accountability is defined as meeting their bottom line contribution target rather than individual income targets and expenditure Budgets.

- 4.3.2 At the time expenditure is committed there are sufficient resources in their budget to finance such expenditure along with other known commitments and anticipated costs for the remainder of the financial year.
- 4.3.3 Procedures in relation to procuring or ordering goods and services are adhered to.
- 4.3.4 Any likely overspending or underperformance against income targets is forecast, understood and escalated through the budget manager's hierarchy to the Director of Finance.
- 4.3.5 Corrective action is put in place, with the support from the budget manager's designated finance representative, in the event that financial targets are forecast to be missed.
- 4.3.6 Budgets are used for the purpose for which they were set, subject to the rules of virement (i.e. Budget transfer) as set out in the SoD.
- 4.3.7 Workforce is maintained within budgeted establishment unless expressly authorised by a manager or a member of the Board of Director within their delegated authority.
- 4.3.8 Non-recurring budgets are not used to finance recurring expenditure.
- 4.3.9 No agreements are entered into without the proper authority (for example, leases or service developments).

4.4 Role of the Finance and Performance Committee

- 4.4.1 The Finance and Performance Committee shall provide the Board of Directors with an in year oversight of the Trust's financial performance against the Trust's annual plan and advise the Board of Directors of any variances.
- 4.4.2 The Finance and Performance Committee shall keep the Board of Directors informed of the financial consequences of changes in policy, pay awards and other events and trends affecting Budgets and shall advise on the financial and economic aspects of future plans and projects.
- 4.4.3 The Finance and Performance Committee shall oversee the development and delivery of any corrective actions plans and advise the Board of Directors accordingly.
- 4.4.4 The Finance and Performance Committee shall oversee the development, management and delivery of the Trust's annual capital programme and other agreed investment programmes.
- 4.4.5 The Finance and Performance Committee shall report to the Board of Directors any significant in-year variance from the annual plan and advise the Board of Directors on the action to be taken.

- 4.4.6 Any funds not required for their designated purpose shall revert to the immediate control of the Chief Executive.
- 4.4.7 Expenditure for which no provision has been made in an approved budget (including expenditure exceeding a delegated Budget) and which is not subject to funding under the delegated powers of virement, shall only be incurred after authorisation by the Chief Executive or the Board of Directors as appropriate.

5 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

- 5.1 The Director of Finance, on behalf of the Trust, will prepare financial returns in accordance with the guidance given by the regulator and the Secretary of State for health, the Treasury the Trust's accounting policies and generally accepted accounting principles.
- 5.2 The Director of Finance will prepare annual accounts which must be certified by the Chief Executive. The Director of Finance will submit them, and any report of auditor on them, to the regulator.
- 5.3 The Trust's annual accounts must be audited by an auditor appointed by the Council of Governors in accordance with the appointment process set out in the Audit Code for NHS Foundation Trusts and the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance issued by the regulator.
- 5.4 The Trust will publish an annual report, in accordance with guidelines on local accountability and present it at a public meeting of the Council of Governors. The document will include the audited annual accounts of the Trust.
- 5.5 The annual report will be sent to the Regulator.

6 BANK ACCOUNTS

- 6.1 The Director of Finance is responsible for managing the Trust's banking arrangements and for advising the Trust on the provision of banking services and operation of accounts. This advice will take into account guidance and directions issued from time to time by the regulator. The Board of Directors shall approve the banking arrangements.
- 6.2 The Director of Finance is responsible for all bank accounts and for establishing separate bank accounts for the Trust's non-exchequer funds.
- 6.3 The Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring payments from commercial banks or Government Banking Service (GBS) accounts do not exceed the amount credited to the account except where arrangements have been made. Further they must report to the Board of Directors all arrangements with the Trust's bankers for accounts to be overdrawn.
- 6.4 The Director of Finance will prepare detailed instructions on the operation of bank and GBS accounts which must include the conditions under which each bank and GBS account is to be operated, the limit to be applied to any overdraft and those authorised to sign cheques or other orders drawn on the Trust's accounts.
- 6.5 The Director of Finance must advise the Trust's bankers in writing of the condition under which each account will be operated.
- 6.6 The Director of Finance will review the banking arrangements of the Trust at regular intervals to ensure they reflect best practice and represent best value for money by periodically seeking competitive tenders for the Trust's banking business.

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7 FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND TRANSACTION PROCESSING

Director of Finance's role in financial systems and transaction processing

- 7.1 The Director of Finance is responsible for designing, maintaining and ensuring compliance with systems for the proper and prompt recording, invoicing, collection, banking and coding of all monies due. This includes responsibility for an effective credit control system incorporating procedures for recovery of all outstanding debts due to the Trust. Income not received should be dealt with in accordance with losses procedures.
- 7.2 The Director of Finance is also responsible for ensuring a procedure is in place for the prompt banking of all monies received.
- 7.3 The Director of Finance is responsible for approving and regularly reviewing the level of all fees and charges other than those determined by the Regulator, the Secretary of State or statute. Independent professional advice on matters of valuation shall be taken as necessary.
- 7.4 The Director of Finance is responsible for approving the form of all receipt books, agreement forms, or other means of officially acknowledging or recording monies received or receivable.
- 7.5 The Director of Finance is responsible for prescribing systems and procedures for handling cash and negotiable securities on behalf of the Trust, including the provision of safes or lockable cash boxes, the procedures for keys, and for coin operated machines.
- 7.6 The Trust shall adhere to the National Tariff system and the regulator and Secretary of State's guidance and codes of conduct.
- 7.7 The setting of fees and charges other than those within the National Tariff or set by statute, including private patient prices, remains the responsibility of the members of the Board of Directors and budget managers, subject to prior approval of the Director of Finance unless specifically delegated in the SoD.
- 7.8 All invoices must be raised by Officers within the finance function, unless specifically agreed otherwise by the Director of Finance.
- 7.9 All Officers must inform their designated finance representative promptly of money due arising from transactions which they initiate/deal with, including providing copies of all contracts, leases, tenancy agreements, private patient undertakings and any other type of financial contract.
- 7.10 All payments made on behalf of the Trust to third parties should normally be made using the Bankers Automated Clearing System (BACS), or by crossed cheques and drawn up in accordance with these instructions, except with the agreement of the Director of Finance. Uncrossed cheques shall be regarded as cash.
- 7.11 Official money shall not under any circumstances be used for the encashment of private cheques nor will the trust accept I.O.U's.
- 7.12 All cheques, postal orders, cash etc., shall be banked intact. Disbursements shall not be made from cash received, except under arrangements approved by the Director of Finance.
- 7.13 The holders of safe keys shall not accept unofficial funds for depositing in their safe unless such deposits are in sealed envelopes (signed and dated across the seal) or lockable

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containers. It shall be made clear to the depositors that the Trust is not to be held liable for any loss, and written indemnities must be obtained from the organisation or individuals absolving the Trust from responsibility for any loss.

Money laundering

- 7.14 Under no circumstances will the Trust accept cash payments in excess of £1,000 or the equivalent in any other currency, in respect of any single transaction. Any attempts by an individual to effect payment above this amount should be notified immediately to the Director of Finance.

8 CONTRACTS FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS

- 8.1 The Director of Finance, supported by other Officers (nominated by the Director of Finance), is responsible for negotiating contracts with commissioners for the provision of services to patients in accordance with the annual plan.
- 8.2 In carrying out these functions, the Director of Finance should take into account the appropriate advice regarding national pricing and contracting policy, standards and guidance.
- 8.3 Contracts with commissioners shall be devised to minimise risk. Unless agreed otherwise, contracts with commissioners are legally binding and appropriate legal advice, identifying the Trust's liabilities under the terms of the contract should be considered.
- 8.4 The Director of Finance is responsible for setting the framework and overseeing the process by which provider to provider contracts, or other contracts for the provision of services by the Trust, are designed and agreed.
- 8.5 The Trust will comply with its responsibilities under its Licence to maintain an up to date record of commissioner-requested services (as defined in the Licence).

9 CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND HEALTHCARE SERVICE AGREEMENTS

9.1 Overview

- 9.1.1 The financial value of a project, contract or order against which the thresholds in the SoD apply is the total cost, including (as appropriate) all works, furniture, equipment, fees, land and VAT, for the whole expected life of the contract. Splitting or otherwise changing orders in a manner devised so as to avoid the financial thresholds is forbidden.
- 9.1.2 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that best value for money can be demonstrated for all services provided under contract or in-house. It is the responsibility of all Officers to ensure value for money at all times and to review all contracts prior to signing (or submitting for signature).
- 9.1.3 The Director of Finance shall:
- (a) advise the Board of Directors regarding the setting of thresholds above which quotations or formal tenders must be obtained;
 - (b) be responsible for establishing procedures to ensure that competitive quotations and tenders are invited for the supply of goods and services under contractual arrangements; and

- (c) ensure that an electronic register is established and maintained by the Head of Procurement of all formal tenders.

9.1.4 The Trust will ensure policies and procedures are put in place for the control of all tendering activity.

9.2 Directives and guidance

9.2.1 Directives by the Council of the European Union prescribing procedures for awarding all forms of contracts shall have effect as if incorporated in these SFIs. European Union Directives shall take precedence wherever non-conformity occurs.

9.2.2 The Trust shall comply as far as is practicable with the requirements of any other regulation/guidance issued by the Secretary of State or the Regulator.

9.2.3 If the sources of advice appear to conflict or there is ambiguity as to which advice takes precedence, the head of procurement should be consulted.

9.3 Quotations: competitive and non-competitive

General position on quotations

9.3.1 Quotations are required where formal tendering procedures are not adopted and where the intended expenditure or income exceeds, or is not reasonably expected to exceed £50,000. Quotes are required on the following basis:

& Works, Goods services	Threshold Values	Quotes
	Up to £5,000	Best value, supported by 1 written quote
	£5,001 to £50,000	3 written quotes
	£50,001 to WTO GPA threshold	Competitive tender exercise
	Over WTO GPA Threshold	WTO GPA Directive requirements

Competitive quotations

9.3.2 Quotations should be obtained from the number of firms/individuals shown in the table above based on specifications or terms of reference prepared by, or on behalf of, the Trust.

9.3.3 Quotations should be received in writing or via e-mail.

9.3.4 All quotations should be treated as confidential and should be retained for inspection and attached to the requisition/order for the goods or services.

9.3.5 The Chief Executive or their nominated Officer should evaluate the quotation and select the quote which gives the best value for money and the reasons why should be recorded in a record of quotations.

9.3.6 The Trust's procurement department should maintain a record of quotations.

- 9.3.7 In circumstances where competitive quotation is not possible due to lack of quotations, the Director of Finance of their nominated Officer will ensure that best value for money is obtained and the decision to proceed should be recorded in a record of quotations.

9.4 Formal competitive tendering

- 9.4.1 The Director of Finance shall be responsible for establishing procedures to carry out financial appraisals and shall instruct the appropriate requisitioning Officer to provide evidence of technical competence.
- 9.4.2 The Trust shall ensure that competitive tenders are invited for the supply of goods, materials and manufactured articles, management consultancy services, design, construction and maintenance of building and engineering works (including construction and maintenance of grounds and gardens) and disposals; subject to thresholds the SoD.
- 9.4.3 Formal tendering procedures need not apply to disposals, where expenditure is not reasonably expected to exceed £50,000 or where a nationally agreed NHS contract exists.

9.5 Contracting/tendering procedure

Invitation to tender

- 9.5.1 All invitations to tender shall state the date and time as being the latest time for the receipt of tenders.
- 9.5.2 All invitations to tender shall state that no tender will be considered for acceptance unless submitted electronically using the Trust's E-Tendering Tool (Delta).
- 9.5.3 Issue of all tender documentation will be undertaken electronically through the secure website with controlled access using secure login, authentication and viewing rules.
- 9.5.4 Every tender for goods, materials, services, (including consultancy services) or disposals shall embody such of the NHS Standard Contract Conditions as are applicable. Every tender must have given or give a written undertaking not to engage in collusive tendering or other restrictive practice.
- 9.5.5 Every tender for building or engineering works shall embody or be in the terms of the current edition of one of the Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) or Department of Environment (GC/Wks) standard forms of contract amended to comply with Concode. When the content of the work is primarily engineering, the General Conditions of Contract recommended by the Institution of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and the Association of Consulting Engineers (Form A), or in the case of civil engineering work the General Conditions of Contract recommended by the Institute of Civil Engineers. The standard documents should be amended to comply with Concode and, in minor respects, to cover special features of individual projects.

Opening tenders

- 9.5.6 The Director of Finance shall be responsible for establishing procedures to ensure that tenders are opened and documented appropriately and within an agreed timescale.

Admissibility

- 9.5.7 If for any reason the designated Officers are of the opinion that the tenders received are not strictly competitive (for example, because their numbers are insufficient or any are amended, incomplete or qualified) no contract shall be awarded without the approval of the Chief Executive or Director of Finance.
- 9.5.8 Where only one tender is sought and/or received the Chief Executive and Director of Finance shall ensure that the price to be paid is fair and reasonable and will ensure value for money for the Trust.

Late tenders

- 9.5.9 Tenders received after the due time and date, but prior to the opening of the other tenders, will not be accepted. However, they may be considered if the Director of Finance or their nominated Officer decides that there are exceptional circumstances i.e. despatched in good time but delayed through no fault of the tenderer.

Acceptance of formal tenders

- 9.5.10 Any discussion with a tenderer which are deemed necessary to clarify technical aspects of the tender before the award of a contract will not disqualify the tender. Any such discussions must be entered through the e-tendering portal unless agreed otherwise with the Head of Procurement. Failure to comply will disqualify the tender
- 9.5.11 The most economically advantageous tender, shall be accepted unless there are good and sufficient reasons to the contrary. Such reasons shall be set out in the contract file or other appropriate record.

9.6 Financial standing and technical competence of contractors

- 9.6.1 The Director of Finance may make or institute any enquiries they deem appropriate concerning the financial standing and financial suitability of approved contractors. The Director with lead responsibility for clinical governance will similarly make such enquiries as is felt appropriate to be satisfied as to their technical/medical competence.

9.7 Awarding of contracts

- 9.7.1 Providing all the conditions and circumstances set out in these SFIs have been fully complied with, formal authorisation and awarding of a contract may be decided by the following Officers:
- (a) Board of Directors;
 - (b) Chief Executive;
 - (c) Director of Finance;

(d) Designated budget managers.

9.7.2 The levels of authorisation are in the SoD.

9.7.3 Formal authorisation must be put in writing. In the case of authorisation by the Board of Directors this shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors.

9.8 Instances where formal competitive tendering or competitive quotation are not required

9.8.1 Where competitive tendering or a competitive quotation is not required (contracts expected to be less than £5,000) the Trust should adopt one of the following alternatives:

- (a) the Trust shall use the NHS Supply Chain, NHS Commercial Solutions, Crown Commercial Services or other agreed NHS contracts for procurement of all goods and services unless the Chief Executive or nominated Officers deem it inappropriate or better value for money can be obtained elsewhere. The decision to use alternative sources must be documented; or
- (b) If the Trust does not use the NHS Supply Chain, NHS Commercial Solutions, Crown Commercial Services or other NHS contracts where tenders or quotations are not required, the Trust shall procure goods and services in accordance with procurement procedures approved by the Director of Finance.

9.9 Tender reports to the Board of Directors

9.9.1 Reports to the Board of Directors will be made on an exceptional circumstances basis only.

9.10 Waiving of tenders

9.10.1 There are five allowable reasons for waiving tenders, which should never be used to avoid competition or for administrative convenience. It should be noted that approval by this means will not be automatic and all waivers have to be agreed in advance:

- (a) in very exceptional circumstances where the Chief Executive and Director of Finance decide that formal tendering procedures would not be practicable and the circumstances are detailed in an appropriate Trust record;
- (b) the timescale genuinely precludes competitive tendering. Failure to plan the work properly is not regarded as a justification for a single tender waiver action;
- (c) specialist expertise is required and is available from only one source;
- (d) the task is essential to complete a project and engaging different consultants for the new task would compromise completion of the project;
or

- (e) for the provision of legal advice in relation to the obtaining of Counsel's opinion.
- 9.10.2 It should be noted that waiving of tender procedures only applies to internal tender procedures and cannot be applied for contracts with values greater than the WTO GPA limits.
- 9.10.3 Waiver request forms are available through the trust intranet or supplied by the Trust's procurement department upon request. Waiver forms must be returned to the procurement department before any official order can be placed on behalf of the trust. A waiver is not required where goods or services have been purchased under a framework where value for money has been sought, and where further competition is not required by that framework.
- 9.10.4 The Director of Finance will ensure that any fees paid are reasonable and within commonly accepted rates for the costing of such work.
- 9.10.5 Where it is decided that competitive tendering is not applicable and should be waived, the waiver and the reasons for it should be documented in an appropriate Trust record and reported to the Audit Committee at each meeting.
- 9.10.6 Items estimated to be below the limits set in these SFIs for which formal tendering procedures are not used which subsequently prove to have a value above such limits shall be reported to the Chief Executive, and be recorded in an appropriate Trust record.

9.11 Health care services

- 9.11.1 Service agreements with NHS providers for the supply of healthcare services shall be drawn up in accordance with the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, as amended, and administered by the Trust. Contracts with other Foundation Trusts', being Public Benefit Corporations, are legally binding and are enforceable in law.
- 9.11.2 The Chief Executive shall nominate Officers to commission service agreements with providers of healthcare in line with a commissioning plan approved by the Board of Directors.
- 9.11.3 Where the Trust elects to invite tenders for the supply of healthcare services these SFIs shall apply as far as they are applicable to the tendering procedure.
- 9.11.4 Health care services falls within the 'Light Touch Regime' (LTR) of the Procurement Regulations 2015. Any tendering for these services should be discussed with the head of procurement to identify suitability to the LTR process.

9.12 Compliance requirements for all contracts

- 9.12.1 The Board of Directors may only enter into contracts on behalf of the Trust within the statutory powers delegated to it and shall comply with:
 - (a) the Trust's Standing Orders and these SFIs;
 - (b) EU directives and other statutory provisions; and

- (c) Contracts with NHS Foundation Trusts must be in a form compliant with appropriate NHS guidance.

9.12.2 Where appropriate contracts shall be in or embody the same terms and conditions of contract as was the basis on which tenders or quotations were invited.

9.12.3 In all contracts made by the Trust, the Board of Directors shall endeavour to obtain best value for money by use of all systems in place. The Chief Executive shall nominate an Officer who shall oversee and manage each contract on behalf of the Trust.

9.13 Disposals

9.13.1 Competitive tendering or quotations procedures shall not apply to the disposal of:

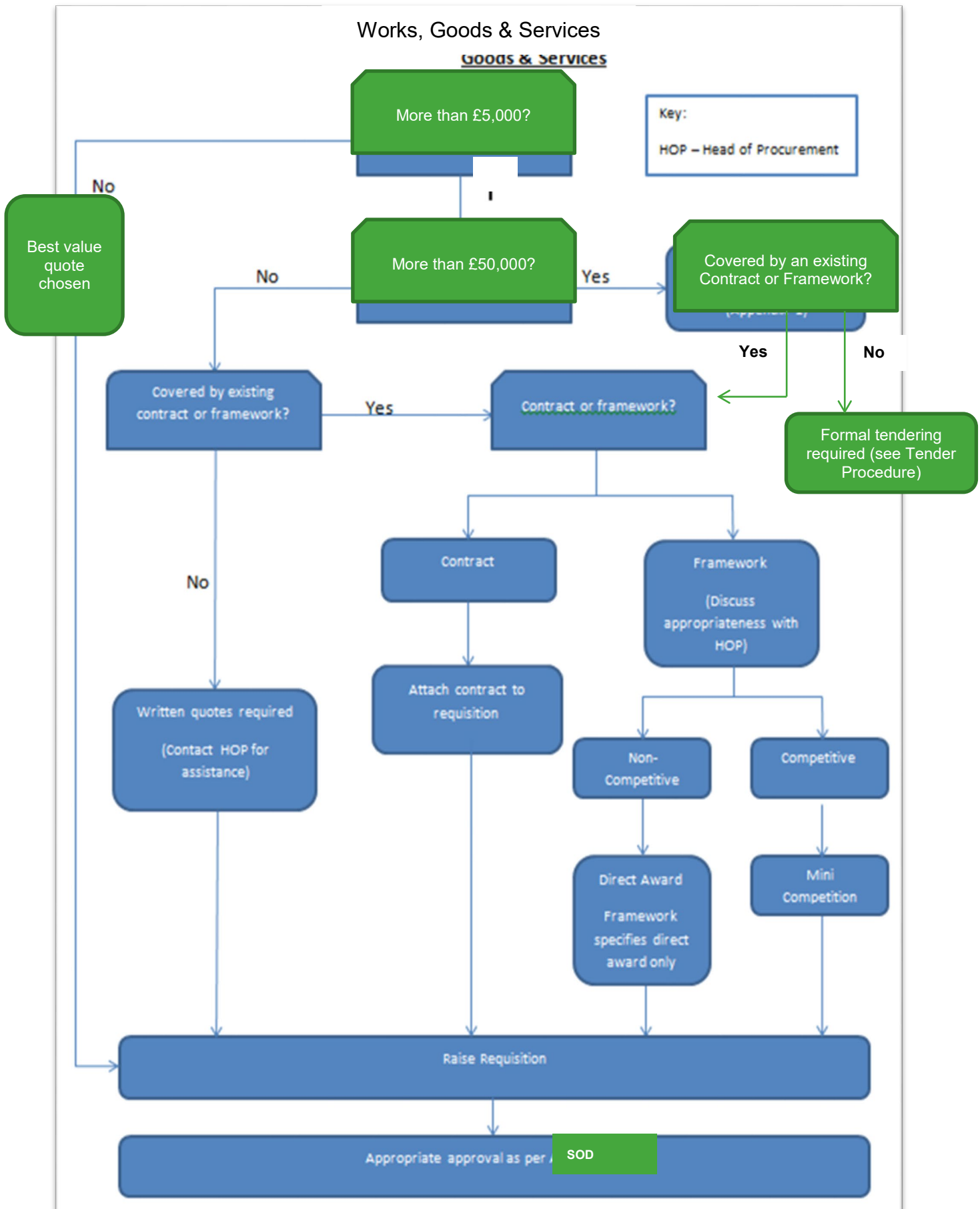
- (a) any matter in respect of which a fair price can be obtained only by negotiation or sale by auction as determined, or pre-determined in a reserve, by the Chief Executive or their nominated Officer;
- (b) obsolete or condemned articles, which may be disposed of in accordance with the accounting procedures of the Trust;
- (c) items to be disposed of with an estimated sale value of less than £1,000, this figure to be reviewed on a periodic basis; or
- (d) items arising from works of construction, demolition or site clearance, which should be dealt with in accordance with the relevant contract.

9.14 In-house services

9.14.1 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that best value for money can be demonstrated for all services provided on an in-house basis. The Trust may also determine from time to time that in-house services should be market tested by competitive tendering.

9.15 Applicability of SFIs on tendering and contracting for Funds Held on Trust including charitable funds

9.15.1 These SFIs shall not only apply to expenditure of revenue funds but also to works, services and goods purchased from the charitable fund or any Funds Held on Trust.



10 TERMS OF SERVICE, STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND PAYMENTS

10.1 Nomination and Remuneration Committee

10.1.1 In accordance with Standing Orders and the Code of Governance, the Board of Directors shall establish a Nomination and Remuneration Committee, with clearly defined terms of reference, specifying which posts fall within its area of responsibility, its composition and the arrangements for reporting.

10.1.2 The terms of reference shall be considered as forming part of these SFIs.

10.2 Staff appointments

10.2.1 No Director or Officer may re-grade Officers, either on a permanent or temporary nature, or agree to changes in any aspect of remuneration unless authorised to do so by the Director of Human Resources and Director of Finance; and within the limit of the approved Budget and funded establishment.

10.2.2 No Director or Officer may engage, re-engage, either on a permanent or temporary nature, or hire agency staff, unless within the limit of the approved Budget and funded establishment.

10.2.3 The Board of Directors will approve procedures presented by the Chief Executive for the determination of commencing pay rates, conditions of service, etc., for Officers.

10.3 Contracts of employment

10.3.1 The Board of Directors shall delegate responsibility to the Director of Human Resources for:

- (a) ensuring that all Officers and Executive Directors are issued with a contract of employment in a form approved by the Board of Directors and which complies with employment legislation; and
- (b) dealing with variations to, or termination of, contracts of employment.

10.4 Payroll

10.4.1 The Director of Finance shall make arrangements for the provision of payroll services to the Trust to ensure the accurate determination of any entitlement and to enable prompt and accurate payment to Officers.

10.4.2 The Director of Finance, in conjunction with the Director of Human Resources, shall be responsible for establishing procedures covering advice to managers on the prompt and accurate submissions of payroll data to support the determination of pay including where appropriate, timetables and specifications for submission of properly authorised notification of new Officers, leavers and amendments to standing pay data and terminations.

10.4.3 The Director of Finance will issue detailed procedures covering payments to Officers including rules on handling and security of bank credit payments.

10.5 Advances of pay

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- 10.5.1 Advances of pay will only be made in exceptional circumstances subject to the approval of at least one of either the Director of Finance, the Deputy Director of Finance, the Director of Human Resources and/or the Deputy Director of Human Resources.

11 NON-PAY EXPENDITURE

11.1 Delegation of authority

- 11.1.1 The Board of Directors will approve the level of non-pay expenditure on an annual basis and the Chief Executive will determine the level of delegation to Budget Managers.
- 11.1.2 The Chief Executive will set out:
- (a) the list of managers who are authorised to place requisitions for the supply of goods and services; and
 - (b) the financial limits for requisitions and the system for authorisation above that level.
- 11.1.3 Budget managers may appoint nominees who must be approved by the Director of Finance. The budget manager remains responsible for the actions of nominees when they act in place of the budget manager.
- 11.1.4 The Chief Executive shall set out procedures on the seeking of professional advice regarding the supply of goods and services.
- 11.1.5 The advice of the Trust's procurement department shall be sought before seeking alternative professional advice regarding the supply of goods and services.

11.2 Choice, requisitioning, ordering, receipt and payment for goods and services

- 11.2.1 The requisitioner, in choosing the item to be supplied or the service to be performed, shall always obtain best value for money for the Trust. In so doing, the advice of the Trust's procurement department shall be sought. Where this advice is not acceptable to the requisitioner, the Director of Finance and/or the Chief Executive shall be consulted.
- 11.2.2 If the requisition is for a new medical device then an order can only be placed once approval is obtained from the Medical Devices Committee and funding has been agreed.
- 11.2.3 The Director of Finance is responsible for the prompt payment of accounts and claims. Payment of contract invoices shall be in accordance with contract terms. The Director of Finance must be provided with a copy of all contracts and service level agreements.

11.3 Director of Finance's role in non-pay expenditure

- 11.3.1 The Director of Finance will:
- (a) advise the Board of Directors regarding the setting of thresholds above which quotations (competitive or otherwise) or formal tenders must be

obtained; and once approved, the thresholds should be incorporated in these SFIs or the SoD (as appropriate) and regularly reviewed;

- (b) prepare detailed procedures for requisitioning, ordering, receipt and payment of goods, works and services incorporating the thresholds;
- (c) be responsible for the prompt payment of all properly authorised accounts and claims;
- (d) be responsible for designing and maintaining a system of verification, recording and payment of all amounts payable;
- (e) ensure a system for submission to the Director of Finance of accounts for payment; provision shall be made for the early submission of accounts subject to cash discounts or otherwise requiring early payment;
- (f) maintain a list of Officers, including specimens of their signatures, authorised to certify any type of payment. It is the responsibility of Budget Managers to inform the Director of Finance of changes to authorised Officers;
- (g) delegate responsibility for ensuring that payment for goods and services is only made once the goods/services are received, except where a prepayment is made; and
- (h) prepare and issue procedures regarding Value Added Tax..

11.4 Role of all Trust Officers

- 11.4.1 All Officers must comply fully with the procedures and limits specified by the Director of Finance, ensuring that:
- (a) contracts above specified thresholds are advertised and awarded in accordance with EU rules on public procurement;
 - (b) where consultancy advice is being obtained, the procurement of such advice must be in accordance with best practice;
 - (c) no order shall be issued for any item or items to any firm that has made an offer of gifts, reward or benefit to Directors or Officers, other than:
 - (i) isolated gifts of a trivial nature or inexpensive seasonal gifts, such as calendars; and/or
 - (ii) conventional hospitality, such as lunches in the course of working visits.
 - (d) no requisition/order (including the use of purchasing cards) is placed for any item/service for which there is no Budget provision unless authorised by the Director of Finance;
 - (e) all Officers shall adhere to the procedures regarding verbal orders developed by the Director of Finance. These shall be issued only in cases of emergency by the procurement department following receipt of a

properly completed requisition. The Trust's procurement department will place the verbal order and then issue an official order marked 'confirmation order' no later than the next working day. The Trust's procurement department shall maintain a register of emergency orders issued. Persistent use of this method of purchasing goods or services to circumvent the ordering procedures will result in their withdrawal from use and if the circumstances warrant, the instigation of disciplinary procedures;

- (f) orders are not split or otherwise placed in a manner devised so as to circumvent the financial thresholds; and
- (g) upon receipt of an invoice that has not been processed by the Trust's finance department, it is immediately passed to the Trust's finance department for processing.

11.5 Prepayments

11.5.1 Prepayments are only permitted where exceptional circumstances apply. In such instances:

- (a) the financial advantages must outweigh the disadvantages i.e. cash flows must be discounted to Net Present Value (NPV) and the intention is not to circumvent cash limits;
- (b) the appropriate Director must make a clear written request to the Director of Finance, which specifically addresses the risk of the supplier being unable to meet its commitments;
- (c) the Director of Finance will need to be satisfied with the proposed arrangements before contractual arrangement proceed (taking into account the relevant provisions of these SFIs and the EU public procurement rules where the contract is above a stipulated financial threshold); and
- (d) the Budget Manager is responsible for ensuring that all items due under a prepayment contract are received and they must immediately inform the Director of Finance if problems are encountered.

11.6 Official orders

11.6.1 Official orders must:

- (a) be consecutively numbered;
- (b) be in a form approved by the Director of Finance;
- (c) state the Trust's terms and conditions of trade; and
- (d) only be issued to, and used by, those duly authorised by the Chief Executive.

11.6.2 All goods, services or works, including works and services executed in accordance with a contract, shall be ordered using an official order, raised following receipt by the procurement department of a properly authorised requisition via the i-Procurement system and contractors/suppliers shall be

notified that they should not accept orders unless on an official order form. The expenditure items listed below are excluded:

- (a) contract taxi services;
- (b) courses, conferences and lecture fees if approved via the Staff Development Centre;
- (c) rent of property or rooms;
- (d) services provided by high street opticians;
- (e) utility services – including all communication services; and
- (f) travel claims.

11.6.3 Goods and services for which Trust or national contracts are in place should be purchased within those contracts. Any purchasing request made outside such contracts must be referred, in the first instance, to the Head of Procurement for approval.

11.6.4 Goods must not be taken on trial or loan in circumstances that could commit the Trust to a future uncompetitive purchase.

11.6.5 The Chief Executive and Director of Finance shall ensure that the arrangements for financial control and financial audit of building and engineering contracts and property transactions comply with the guidance contained within Health Building Note 00-08. The technical audit of these contracts shall be the responsibility of the Director responsible for the Estates function.

11.7 Contracts with individuals

11.7.1 Directors and Officers have a responsibility to ensure that contracts with individuals or with individuals working through a limited company are appropriately authorised, provide value for money and do not expose the Trust or the individual to tax and HMRC compliance risks (for example if HMRC later deems the individual to be an employee rather than a contractor).

12 INVESTMENTS, EXTERNAL BORROWING, PUBLIC DIVIDEND CAPITAL AND MERGERS & AQUISITIONS

12.1 Investments

12.1.1 The Director of Finance will produce an investment policy in accordance with any guidance received from the Regulator, for approval by the Board of Directors. Investments may include investments made by forming or participating in forming, bodies corporate and/or otherwise acquiring membership of bodies corporate.

12.1.2 The policy will set out the Director of Finance's responsibilities for advising the Board of Directors concerning the performance of investments held.

12.1.3 The Director of Finance will prepare detailed procedural instructions on the operation of investment accounts and on the records to be maintained.

12.2 External borrowing and Public Dividend Capital

- 12.2.1 The Director of Finance will advise the Board of Directors concerning the Trust's ability to pay interest on, and repay the Public Dividend Capital (PDC) and any proposed commercial borrowing, within the limits set by the Trust's authorisation, which is reviewed annually by the Regulator (the Prudential Borrowing Code). The Director of Finance is also responsible for reporting periodically to the Board of Directors concerning the Public Dividend Capital and all loans and overdrafts.
- 12.2.2 Any application for a loan or overdraft will only be made by the Director of Finance or by an Officer acting on their behalf and in accordance with the SoD, as appropriate.
- 12.2.3 The Director of Finance must prepare detailed procedural instructions concerning applications for loans and overdrafts.
- 12.2.4 All short term borrowing should be kept to the minimum period of time possible, consistent with the overall cash flow position. Any short term borrowing requirement must be authorised by the Director of Finance.
- 12.2.5 All long term borrowing must be consistent with and outlined in the Trust's current annual plan.

12.3 Special purpose vehicles, joint ventures and mergers and acquisitions

- 12.3.1 The Board of Directors is responsible for the review and approval of special purpose vehicles, joint ventures with other entities, whether private, public or third sector.
- 12.3.2 The Board of Directors must approve any mergers or acquisitions. For all the above, advice should be sought from the Trust's finance and commerce teams prior to taking proposals for approval, and it is essential that current legislation, including procurement and competition law as well as the prevailing Health and Social Care Act 2012, is adhered to in the process.

13 CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND ASSETS

13.1 Responsibilities of the Chief Executive

- 13.1.1 Ensuring that there is an adequate appraisal and approval process in place for determining capital expenditure priorities and the effect of each proposal upon business plans.
- 13.1.2 Being responsible for the management of all stages of capital schemes and for ensuring that schemes are delivered on time and to planned cost.
- 13.1.3 Ensuring that the investment is not undertaken without confirmation, where appropriate, of responsible director's support and the availability of resources to finance all revenue consequences, including capital charges, depreciation and PDC dividend implications.

13.2 Responsibilities of the Director of Finance

- 13.2.1 The Director of Finance, in conjunction with other member of the Board of Directors as appropriate, shall be responsible for preparing detailed procedural

guides for the financial management and control of expenditure on capital assets, including the maintenance of an asset register in accordance with the minimum data set as specified in Treasury guidance.

- 13.2.2 The Director of Finance shall implement procedures to comply with guidance on valuation contained within the Treasury's guidance, including rules on indexation, depreciation and revaluation.
- 13.2.3 The Director of Finance, in conjunction with other members of the Board of Directors as appropriate, shall establish procedures covering the identification and recording of capital additions. The financial cost of capital additions, including expenditure on assets under construction, must be clearly identified to the appropriate budget manager and be validated by reference to appropriate supporting documentation.
- 13.2.4 The Director of Finance shall also develop procedures covering the physical verification of assets on a periodic basis.
- 13.2.5 The Director of Finance, in conjunction with other members of the Board of Directors as appropriate, shall develop policies and procedures for the management and documentation of asset disposals, whether by sale, part exchange, scrap, theft or other loss. Such procedures shall include the rules on evidence and supporting documentation, the application of sales proceeds and the amendment of financial records including the asset register.

14 STORES AND RECEIPTS OF GOODS

14.1 Control of stores

- 14.1.1 Subject to the responsibility of the Director of Finance for the systems of control, overall responsibility for the control of stocks and stores shall be delegated to an Officer by the Chief Executive. The day-to-day responsibility may be delegated by him to departmental Officers, subject to such delegation being within the SOD and being entered in a record available to the Director of Finance.
- 14.1.2 Stores should be:
 - (a) Kept to a minimum
 - (b) subject to a stocktake annually as a minimum
 - (c) Valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value
- 14.1.3 The control of any pharmaceutical stocks shall be the responsibility of the designated pharmaceutical Officer.
- 14.1.4 The responsibility for security arrangements and the custody of keys for any stores and locations shall be clearly defined in writing by the designated manager or pharmaceutical Officer. Wherever practicable, stocks should be marked Trust property.
- 14.1.5 The Director of Finance shall set out procedures and systems to regulate the stores including records for receipt of goods, issues and returns to stores, and losses.

- 14.1.6 Stocktaking arrangements shall be agreed with the Director of Finance and there shall be a physical check covering all items in store at least once a year.
- 14.1.7 Where a complete system of stores control is not justified, alternative arrangements shall require the approval of the Director of Finance.

14.2 Goods supplied by NHS Supply Chain (NHSSC)

- 14.2.1 For goods supplied via the NHS Supply Chain, the Chief Executive shall identify those Officers authorised to requisition and accept goods from NHSSC. The authorised Officers shall check receipt against the delivery note before forwarding this to the Procurement Department. The Finance Department shall satisfy themselves that the goods have been received before accepting the recharge.

15 DISPOSALS AND CONDEMNATIONS, LOSSES AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

15.1 Procedures

- 15.1.1 The Director of Finance must prepare detailed procedures for the disposal of assets including condemnations, and ensure that these are notified to members of the Board of Directors and relevant Officers.
- 15.1.2 When it is decided to dispose of a Trust asset, the head of department or authorised deputy will determine and advise the Director of Finance of the estimated market value of the item, taking into account professional advice where appropriate.

15.2 Disposal of unserviceable articles

- 15.2.1 All unserviceable articles shall be:
- (a) condemned or otherwise disposed of by an Officer authorised for that purpose by the Director of Finance;
 - (b) recorded by the condemning Officer in a form approved by the Director of Finance which will indicate whether the articles are to be converted, destroyed or otherwise disposed of.
- 15.2.2 All entries shall be confirmed by the countersignature of a second Officer authorised for the purpose by the Director of Finance.
- 15.2.3 The condemning Officer shall satisfy himself as to whether or not there is evidence of negligence in use and shall report any such evidence to the Director of Finance who will take appropriate action.

15.3 Losses and special payments

- 15.3.1 The Director of Finance must prepare procedural instructions on the recording of and accounting for condemnations, losses and special payments.
- 15.3.2 Any Officer discovering or suspecting a loss of any kind must immediately inform their manager, who must immediately inform the Chief Executive and Director of Finance.

- 15.3.3 Where a criminal offence is suspected, the Director of Finance must immediately inform the police if theft or arson is involved.
- 15.3.4 In cases of fraud or corruption, the Director of Finance must inform the Trust's local counter fraud specialist and NHS Counter Fraud Authority.
- 15.3.5 The Director of Finance must notify the Audit Committee, the Trust's local counter fraud specialist and the external auditors of all frauds.
- 15.3.6 For losses apparently caused by theft, arson, or neglect of duty, except if trivial, or gross carelessness, the Director of Finance must immediately notify:
- (a) the Board of Directors;
 - (b) the external auditor; and
 - (c) the Audit Committee, at the earliest opportunity.
- 15.3.7 The Board of Directors shall delegate its responsibility to approve the writing-off of losses and to authorise special payments in accordance with the 'Reservation of Powers to the Board of Directors' and SoD.
- 15.3.8 The Director of Finance shall:
- (a) be authorised to take any necessary steps to safeguard the Trust's interest in bankruptcies and company liquidations;
 - (b) consider whether any insurance claim can be made for any losses incurred by the Trust;
- 15.3.9 The Director of Finance shall maintain a Losses and Special Payments Register in which write-off action is recorded. The Director of Finance shall report losses and special payments to the Audit Committee on a regular basis.
- 15.3.10 No special payment exceeding delegated limits shall be made without the prior approval of the Board of Directors, or contrary to any guidance or best practice advice issued by the Regulator or the Secretary of State.

16 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

16.1 Role of the Director of Finance in relation to information technology

- 16.1.1 The Director of Finance, who is responsible for the accuracy and security of the computerised financial data of the Trust, shall:
- (a) devise and implement any necessary procedures to ensure adequate and reasonable protection of the Trust's data, programmes and computer hardware for which the Director of Finance is responsible from accidental or intentional disclosure to unauthorised persons, deletion or modification, theft or damage, having due regard for the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any other relevant legislation;
 - (b) ensure that adequate and reasonable controls exist over data entry, processing, storage, transmission and output to ensure security, privacy,

accuracy, completeness and timeliness of the data, as well as the efficient and effective operation of the system;

- (c) ensure that adequate controls exist such that computer operation is separated from development, maintenance and amendment;
- (d) ensure that an adequate audit trail exists through the computerised system and that such computer audit reviews as the Director of Finance may consider necessary, are being carried out;
- (e) ensure that new financial systems and amendments to current financial systems are developed in a controlled manner and thoroughly tested prior to implementation. Where this is undertaken by another organisation, the Director of Finance must obtain from that organisation assurances of adequacy prior to implementation; and
- (f) publish and maintain a Freedom of Information (FOI) Publication Scheme, which is a complete guide to the information routinely published and describes the classes or types of information about the Trust which are publicly available.

16.2 Contracts for computer services with other health service body or other agency

- 16.2.1 The Director of Finance shall ensure that contracts for computer services for financial applications with another Health Service Body or other agency shall clearly define the responsibility of all parties for the security, privacy, accuracy, completeness and timeliness of data during processing, transmission and storage. The contract should also ensure rights of access for audit purposes.
- 16.2.2 Where another Health Service Body or any other agency provides a computer service for financial applications, the Director of Finance shall periodically seek assurances that adequate controls are in operation.

16.3 Risk Assessments

- 16.3.1 The Director of Finance shall ensure that risks to the Trust arising from the use of information technology are effectively identified and considered and appropriate action is taken to mitigate or control risk. This shall include the preparation of and testing of, appropriate disaster recovery plans.

16.4 Requirements for computer systems which have an impact on the Trust's corporate financial systems

- 16.4.1 Where computer systems have an impact on the Trust's corporate financial systems, the Director of Finance shall need to be satisfied that:
 - (a) systems acquisition, development and maintenance are in line with the Trust's policies, including but not limited to the Trust's information technology strategy;
 - (b) data produced for use with financial systems is adequate, accurate, complete and timely and that an audit trail exists;
 - (c) Trust's finance Officers have access to such data; and

- (d) Such computer audit reviews are carried out as necessary.

17 PATIENTS' PROPERTY

- 17.1 The Trust has a responsibility to provide safe custody for money and other personal property handed in by patients (hereafter referred to as "property"), in the possession of unconscious or confused patients, or found in the possession of patients dying in hospital or dead on arrival.
- 17.2 Subject to paragraph 17.1 above, the Trust will not accept responsibility or liability for patients' property brought into the Trust's premises, unless it is handed in for safe custody and a copy of an official patients' property record is obtained as a receipt.
- 17.3 The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that patients or their guardians, as appropriate, are informed before or at admission by:
 - 17.3.1 notices and information booklets;
 - 17.3.2 hospital admission documentation and property records;
 - 17.3.3 the oral advice of administrative and nursing staff responsible for admissions,that the Trust will not accept responsibility or liability for patients' property.
- 17.4 The Director of Finance must provide detailed written instructions on the collection, custody, investment, recording, safekeeping and disposal of patients' property (including instructions on the disposal of the property of deceased patients and of patients transferred to other premises) for all Officers whose duty is to administer, in any way, the property of patients. Due care should be exercised in the management of a patient's money in order to maximise the benefits to the patient.
- 17.5 Officers should be informed, on appointment, by the appropriate departmental or senior manager of their responsibilities and duties for the administration of the property of patients.
- 17.6 In all cases where property of a deceased patient is of a total value in excess of £5,000 (or such other amount as may be prescribed by any amendment to the Administration of Estates, Small Payments, Act 1965), the production of probate or letters of administration shall be required before any of the property is released. Where the total value of property is £5,000 or less, forms of indemnity shall be obtained.

18 RETENTION OF RECORDS

- 18.1 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for maintaining archives for all documents required to be retained in accordance with the regulator and/or Secretary of State guidelines.
- 18.2 The Chief Executive will produce a records lifecycle policy, detailing the secure storage, retention periods and destruction of records to be retained. The documents held in archives shall be capable of retrieval by authorised persons.
- 18.3 Records and information held in accordance with latest the Regulator and/or Secretary of State guidance shall only be destroyed before the specified guidance limits at the express authority of the Chief Executive. Proper details shall be maintained of records and information so destroyed.

19 RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE

- 19.1 The Chief Executive shall ensure that the Trust has a programme of risk management, in accordance with NHS guidelines, which shall be approved and monitored by the Board of Directors.
- 19.2 The programme of risk management shall include:
- 19.2.1 a process for identifying and quantifying risks and potential liabilities;
 - 19.2.2 engendering amongst all levels of Officers a positive attitude towards the control and management of risk;
 - 19.2.3 management processes to ensure all significant risks and potential liabilities are addressed including effective systems of internal control, cost effective insurance cover and decisions on the acceptable level of retained risk;
 - 19.2.4 contingency plans to offset the impact of adverse events;
 - 19.2.5 audit arrangements including; Internal Audit, clinical audit, health and safety review;
 - 19.2.6 decisions on which risks shall be included in the NHSLA risk pooling schemes; and
 - 19.2.7 arrangements to review the Trust's risk management programme.
- 19.3 The Chief Executive will be responsible for ensuring that the existence, integration and evaluation of the above elements will provide a basis to make a statement on the effectiveness of internal financial control within the annual report and annual accounts.
- 19.4 The Director of Finance shall ensure that insurance arrangements exist in accordance with the Trust's risk management policy.

20 FUNDS HELD ON TRUST (CHARITABLE FUNDS)

- 20.1 The Standing Orders state the Trust's responsibilities as a corporate trustee for the management of funds it holds on trust and define how those responsibilities are to be discharged. They explain that although the management processes may overlap with those of the organisation of the Trust, the trustee responsibilities must be discharged separately and full recognition given to its accountabilities to the Charity Commission for charitable funds held on trust and to the Secretary of State for all Funds Held on Trust.
- 20.2 The reserved powers of the Board and the SoD make clear where decisions regarding the exercise of dispositive discretion are to be taken and by whom. Members of the Board of Directors and Officers must take account of that guidance before taking action. These SFIs are intended to provide guidance to persons who have been delegated to act on behalf of the corporate trustee.
- 20.3 As management processes overlap most of the sections of these SFIs will apply to the management of Funds Held on Trust.
- 20.4 The over-riding principle is that the integrity of each trust must be maintained and statutory and trust obligations met. Materiality must be assessed separately from exchequer activities and funds.

- 20.5 The Director of Finance has primary responsibility to the Board of Directors for ensuring that Funds Held on Trust (charitable funds) are administered in line with statutory provisions, the Trust's governance documents and Charity Commission guidance. The Director of Finance will prepare procedural guidance in relation to the management and administration, disposition, investment, banking, reporting, accounting and audit of Funds Held on Trust (charitable funds) for the discharge of the Board of Directors responsibilities as the Corporate Trustee.