



ETHICAL POLICY

Introduction

As part of its overall governance, the RCSLT has a responsibility to ensure that its business dealings with third parties follow current best practice and do not support organisations or activities that would damage the RCSLT's reputation as a professional body, or alienate its members.

Overall ethical policy guidelines

The RCSLT will not knowingly engage directly in business dealings with third parties whose primary income is derived from tobacco, alcohol, pornography, gambling or the manufacturing or sale of arms.

Investments

The way in which RCSLT funds are invested is an important aspect of the accountability of the trustees towards their members. In the context of charity investment, there is a risk that shareholdings in companies that members would view as being in conflict with the objectives of the RCSLT, could alienate members. The RCSLT will therefore seek to ensure that its dealings with its banking and investment facilities (processing, investment, bank accounts, lending/asset finance) do not compromise its own ethical standards. The RCSLT will seek to invest in funds which meet the above requirements whilst seeking to maximise the return on those funds and will foster banking relationships with organisations that have respect for and believe they comply with the ethical policy of the College.

Advertising in the RCSLT *Bulletin* and *Supplement*

The following points should be seen as a minimum quality threshold that must be reached before the RCSLT *Bulletin* and *Supplement* will consider examining an advertisement for publication. In all cases final approval will only be given after the editor has checked the advertisement.

- Advertisements will not be approved until either a colour paper proof or a colour pdf file has been supplied. Since approval is a pre-condition of publishing advertisements, agencies are advised to supply copy well in advance of publishing deadlines.
- The advertisement must meet all relevant UK and international codes, especially those from the Department of Health and World Health Organisation.
- All medical or scientific claims made in the advertisement must be fully referenced. This applies not only to claims for the product itself, but also statements connected with speech and language therapy development.

- References must be complete, independent and easily accessible. They must relate to recognised professional or academic journals or conferences. Thus, references along the lines of “data on file” and “available on request” are unacceptable.
- Apart from the literature, no gifts, special offers or offers of samples may be made on the advertisement.
- Language relevant to healthcare professionals must be used, ie “mother” not “mum”.
- Where explicit reference to a website is given as an integral part of the advertisement, then the RCSLT must be able to check the contents of the website for approval. Once approval is given for including the website reference then the relevant parts of the website must not be substantially altered for the lifetime of the advertisement.

Contracts

The RCSLT will not enter into contracts with any company that appears to breach any of RCSLT’s ethical guidelines. The Head of Performance and Contracts is responsible for due diligence in making enquiries of companies with whom RCSLT may become contractually involved to ensure that they comply as far as possible with our own guidelines.

Individual behaviour and relationships

Individuals, be they Trustees, Board members or staff members, have an individual responsibility to ensure that they remain aware of RCSLT’s ethical considerations in their business dealings on behalf of the College. Conflicts of interest, be they potential or actual, should be brought immediately to the attention of the Company Secretary.

General compliance

This ethical policy statement will be displayed on the RCSLT website. Third parties having business dealings with RCSLT will be asked to take note of it and to declare any conflict of interest before the business relationship is entered into. In the case of existing relationships, the policy will be drawn to the third parties’ attention, who will be invited to make the same declaration.

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