

Corporate Governance Policy Statement

Reviewed: August 2026



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE POLICY STATEMENT

Aim

This Policy Statement sets out our approach to corporate governance and compliance with legislation in the conduct of our business. This Policy Statement sets out the broad principles and values by which we operate and should be read along with the related guidelines, procedures and protocols referred to below.

Scope

This Policy Statement applies to all staff, students and members of Court.

Principles

Our [UWS values](#) of Integrity, Respect, Inclusivity and Accountability guide the way we work to achieve our goals and purpose. Our corporate governance arrangements are essential in supporting this, ensuring that our procedures and processes are ethical, transparent and robust.

The University is fully committed to ensuring that our corporate governance arrangements:

- are efficient and effective;
- are open, inclusive and transparent;
- meet all relevant legal requirements and obligations;
- provide for proper accountability; and
- promote integrity and impartiality in the conduct of our business.

As part of our commitment, we:-

- take a zero tolerance approach towards bribery, applying a risk-based approach aligned with the six principles set out in Bribery Act 2010 for preventing bribery. This includes giving clear guidance to our staff on gifts and hospitality acceptance and what process they should follow if they do accept a gift. *This is important because* acting with integrity and accountability ensures our decisions cannot be improperly influenced and that staff understand their responsibilities will ensure the proper use of our funds, supported by clear procedures to prevent, detect and investigate fraud. *This is important because* accountability for public and institutional resources is fundamental to good governance.
- are committed to acting in line with our responsibilities and the principles set out in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 so that we are accountable for our actions when we process personal data, including that of our staff, students and alumni. *This is important because* showing respect for individuals' privacy and acting with integrity builds confidence in how we handle information.
- maintain robust and transparent processes when accepting donations to ensure our decisions align with our values and responsibilities. *This is important because* accountability and integrity safeguard the University from undue influence or reputational risk.

- protect the integrity of our academic awards, resources and reputation by conducting comprehensive due diligence on partners and collaborating bodies that we intend to enter into a academic agreement or contractual relationship with for the delivery of academic provision. *This is important because* integrity is fundamental to academic standards and fair educational outcomes.
- are committed to conducting business openly and transparently, in line with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. *This is important because* transparency about what we do and how we do it strengthens accountability and trust.
- will ensure we have an effective framework in place for managing our response to major incidents and business continuity management to minimise disruption. This is important because protecting our community demonstrates respect and accountability.
- are committed to creating a safe environment, where all members of the University (members of Court, staff and students) feel confident about raising concerns about possible malpractice or wrongdoing within the University. This includes making sure that we have a fair and transparent process in place for reviewing any concerns that are raised and treating those involved with dignity and respect. This is important because fostering respect, inclusivity and accountability ensures everyone feels able to speak up without fear.
- are committed to managing our records effectively to support our core functions, to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations and to contribute to the effective management of the University. *This is important because* reliable information management supports integrity and accountability.
- will make sure we have effective arrangements in place to manage risk across the University. *This is important because* proactively managing risk strengthens accountability and decision-making.
- will make sure we have appropriate processes in place to address the health, safety and risk implications of all business travel. *This is important because* we demonstrate respect for the wellbeing of our staff and accountability for the decisions we make.
- will make sure we have processes in place to identify and deal with any conflicts of interest that arise for staff and make sure any conflicts are appropriately resolved. *This is important because* clear, fair processes protect integrity and maintain confidence in our decision-making.
- meet our responsibilities under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 through clear and proportionate risk assessment processes for events. *This is important because* acting responsibly shows accountability and ensures a safe, inclusive environment. are committed to safeguarding the welfare of our community by making sure we have clear, written procedures explaining the duties of our staff who come into contact with children or vulnerable adults. This is important because we demonstrate respect, inclusivity and integrity by protecting those at risk from harm.

Responsibilities

The endorsement and upholding of the principles of this Policy Statement are the responsibility of the Court. The Vice Principal (Strategy) and University Secretary is responsible for leading the activities within the University which fall under this Policy Statement.

Approval

This Policy Statement was approved by the University Resources and People Committee on 3 June 2026.

Monitoring and Review

This Policy Statement will be reviewed annually or as needed due to changes in legislation, standards or sector good practice or where a reorganisation changes ownership, responsibility or accountability. All related Guidelines, Procedures and Protocols will be reviewed annually in line with the University's Annual Compliance Monitoring Statement.

Equality Impact Assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on 19 March 2026.

Related Codes of Practice, Guidelines, Procedures and Protocols

Anti-bribery Protocol
Business Continuity Framework
Business Travel Risk Management Procedure
University Business Travel Procedure
Conflict of Interest Procedure
Data Protection Code of Practice
Donations Procedure
Due Diligence Procedure
Fraud Prevention Procedure
Freedom of Information Procedure
Gifts and Hospitality Protocol
International Business Travel Risk Management Procedure
Prevent Duty – Prevent Referral Procedure
Prevent Duty - Process for Risk Assessing and Managing Events
Procedure for the Annual Statement of Assurance
Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Procedure
Records Management Protocol
Risk Management Framework
Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Procedure