

Bribery Training Case Studies

Examples of situations in which a conflict of interest might arise during voluntary activities, or where a volunteer might experience an attempt at bribery.

1. A member of the event organising committee for a Local Section has a relative who owns a hotel or conference venue that the committee normally use for events; this presents a conflict of interest.

*If there is a conflict of interest for any member of the committee this must be communicated to the rest of the committee before the event is organised and before committing to a contract booking with the venue. A best practice approach would also include obtaining **at least 3 different quotes** for products or services to present to the committee before a decision is made.*

2. A Local Section committee member is reviewing venues for an event and they are offered additional benefits over and above the product in the form of a free upgrade for committee members or personal benefits above what is being asked for (free stay, dinner, wine); this constitutes a bribe. It is different if the venue is trying to sell its product by offering tea and coffee or samples and offering discounts on the package that promotes their product (offering a certain amount of free/ discounted wine on numbers over 100), as this benefits all.

*The venue has committed the crime of offering a bribe to the Local Section committee member, even if that member refuses to accept the additional benefits. In the above case to ensure that members are not breaking the law they should refuse such additional benefits. A best practice approach would be for committee members to obtain **at least 3 different quotes** for products or services to present to the committee before a decision is made.*

3. A school teacher approaches a Local Section committee member about getting funding for a school trip to the Science Museum. The committee member is invited by the school teacher to join them for the trip if the funding is granted.

If a member of the Local Section committee has been offered a bribe this should be refused and also be communicated to the rest of the committee as soon as it occurs.

4. If a member of the Board of Trustees wants to admit family friend to RSC membership of a particular level who is perhaps not fully eligible, this is a conflict of interest.

The rest of the board should be alerted to the relationship of the board member to the applicant before the review process occurs. If a member of the board has been offered a bribe this should also be communicated to the board and the RSC as soon as it occurs.

5. An international member is coming to the UK for the Member Networks Conference; there will be a delay in their progress through immigration services despite having the correct paperwork, which would mean that the member would miss the opening ceremony. The delegate is offered the chance to by-pass the extended procedures for a payment of £100.

In this case the delegate should immediately refuse the offer and elect to miss the opening ceremony and should report the bribe to the RSC and the relevant immigration service.

6. Someone who works for a large energy company offers the Member Communities Board a cash incentive to promote their form of renewable energy internally within the RSC and externally to affect the RSC's policy position.

If a member or members of the board have been offered a bribe this should also be communicated to the rest of the committee and the corporate governance executive as soon as it occurs and immediately refused.

7. A member of the awards committee is offered the opportunity of a placement for one of their students in the exchange of support for a particular award nominee.

If a member of the board has been offered a bribe this should also be communicated to the rest of the committee as soon as it occurs and immediately refused.

8. A multinational bank approaches the Finance Board to encourage them to move the RSC's banking to their bank. To discuss this matter further the board member is invited to attend a meeting at a holiday home in Italy.

If a member of the board has been offered a bribe this should also be communicated to the rest of the committee as soon as it occurs and immediately refused.

9. A prestigious scientist has a paper refused from an RSC journal, he happens to be organising a high profile conference and offers to use the RSC logo and promote the RSC in exchange for his paper being published.

In this case the bribe should be refused and reported to the publishing board so they can decide how best to proceed with the matter.