

ITEM: 09/065
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MEETING: Trust Board 15th April 2009

TITLE: Code of conduct and Accountability in the NHS : Hospitality

SUMMARY: The Code of Conduct and Accountability in the NHS directs that:-

Board directors should set an example to their organisation in the use of public funds and the need for good value in incurring public expenditure. The use of NHS monies for hospital and entertainment, including hospitality at conferences or seminars, should be carefully considered. All expenditure on these items should be capable of justification as reasonable in the light of the general practice in the public sector. NHS boards should be aware that expenditure on hospitality or entertainment is the responsibility of management and is open to be challenged by the internal and external auditors and that ill-considered actions can damage respect for the NHS in the eyes of the community.

All hospitality above a value of £50 accepted by staff and Board members must be declared in accordance with the Trust's hospitality policy. The board is asked to note that during 2008/9 1 member of staff accepted hospitality on 2 occasions to the value of £300; and 1 member of staff accepted hospitality on 1 occasion to the value of £50.

ACTION: To note requirement to declare hospitality

REPORT FROM: *Susan Sorensen, Corporate Secretary*

SPONSORED BY: *David Sloman, Chief Executive*