

ANTI - BRIBERY and CORRUPTION POLICY

BARON OIL PLC

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1. Policy statement

- 1.1 It is our policy to conduct all of our business in an honest and ethical manner. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption and are committed to acting professionally, fairly and with integrity in all our business dealings and relationships wherever we operate and implementing and enforcing effective systems to counter bribery and corruption.
- 1.2 We will uphold all laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption in all the jurisdictions in which we operate. In particular, we will adhere to the laws of England, including the Bribery Act 2010, in respect of our conduct both in all jurisdictions in which we operate.
- 1.3 The purpose of this policy is to:
 - (a) set out our responsibilities, and of those working for us, in observing and upholding our position on anti-bribery and corruption; and
 - (b) provide information and guidance to those working for us on how to recognise and deal with bribery and corruption issues.
- 1.4 It is a criminal offence to offer, promise, give, request, or accept a bribe. Individuals found guilty can be punished by up to ten years' imprisonment and/or a fine. As an employer if we fail to prevent bribery we can face an unlimited fine, exclusion from tendering for public contracts, and damage to our reputation. We therefore take our legal responsibilities very seriously.
- 1.5 On an ongoing basis we shall identify areas of particular risks for our business in particular as we operate in and liaise with many high risk jurisdictions throughout the world. To address those risks we have:
 - (a) conducted a comprehensive Company-wide risk assessment.
 - (b) conducted an immediate review of anti-corruption policies and procedures, especially taking into consideration corporate hospitality, donations and facilitation payments.
 - (c) conducted due diligence on all "associated persons", especially third parties in high risk jurisdictions or sectors.
 - (d) appointed a compliance officer who is Geoff Barnes.
 - (e) adopted a robust anti-corruption stance at the highest level, including making a public statement of the Company's zero tolerance to corruption both internally and externally.
 - (f) made arrangements for training and monitoring of staff in key risk areas involving establishing disciplinary mechanisms.

1.6 In this policy, "**third party**" means any individual or organisation you come into contact with during the course of your work for us, and includes actual and potential clients, customers, suppliers, distributors, business contacts, agents, advisers, and government and public bodies, including their advisors, representatives and officials, politicians and political parties.

1.7 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

2. Who must comply with this policy?

This policy applies to all persons working for us or on our behalf in any capacity, including employees at all levels, directors, officers, agency workers, seconded workers, volunteers, interns, agents, contractors, external consultants, third-party representatives and business partners, sponsors, or any other person associated with us, or any of our subsidiaries or their employees wherever located .

3. Who is responsible for the policy?

3.1 The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy complies with our legal and ethical obligations, and that all those under our control comply with it.

3.2 The compliance officer has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this policy, monitoring its use and effectiveness, dealing with any queries about it, and auditing internal control systems and procedures to ensure they are effective in countering bribery and corruption.

3.3 Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them understand and comply with this policy and are given adequate and regular training on it.

4. What is bribery?

4.1 Bribery is offering, promising, giving or accepting any financial or other advantage, to induce the recipient or any other person to act improperly in the performance of their functions, or to reward them for acting improperly, or where the recipient would act improperly by accepting the advantage.

4.2 An "advantage" includes money, gifts, loans, fees, hospitality, services, discounts, the award of a contract or anything else of value.

Examples:

Offering a bribe

You offer a potential client tickets to a major sporting event, but only if they agree to do business with us.

This would be an offence as you are making the offer to gain a commercial and contractual advantage. We may also be found to have committed an offence because the offer has been made to obtain business for us. It may also be an offence for the potential client to accept your offer.

Receiving a bribe

A supplier gives your nephew a job, but makes it clear that in return they expect you to use your influence in our organisation to ensure we continue to do business with them.

It is an offence for a supplier to make such an offer. It would be an offence for you to accept the offer as you would be doing so to gain a personal advantage.

Bribing a foreign official

You arrange for the business to pay an additional "facilitation" payment to a foreign official to speed up an administrative process, such as clearing our goods through customs.

The offence of bribing a foreign public official is committed as soon as the offer is made. This is because it is made to gain a business advantage for us. We may also be found to have committed an offence.

- 4.3 A person acts "**improperly**" where they act illegally, unethically, or contrary to an expectation of good faith or impartiality, or where they abuse a position of trust. The improper acts may be in relation to any business or professional activities, public functions, acts in the course of employment, or other activities by or on behalf of any organisation of any kind. Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power or position for private gain.

5. Gifts, hospitality and expenses

- 5.1 This policy does not prohibit normal and appropriate hospitality (given and received) to or from third parties.
- 5.2 The giving or receipt of gifts is not prohibited, if the following requirements are met:
- (a) it is not made with the intention of influencing a third party to obtain or retain business or a business advantage, or to reward the provision or retention of

business or a business advantage, or in explicit or implicit exchange for favours or benefits;

- (b) it complies with local law;
- (c) it is given in our name, not in your name;
- (d) it does not include cash or a cash equivalent (such as gift certificates or vouchers);
- (e) it is appropriate in the circumstances. For example, in the UK it is customary for small gifts to be given at Christmas time;
- (f) taking into account the reason for the gift, it is of an appropriate type and value and given at an appropriate time;
- (g) it is given openly, not secretly; and
- (h) gifts should not be offered to, or accepted from, government officials or representatives, or politicians or political parties, without the prior approval of Geoff Barnes.

5.3 We appreciate that the practice of giving business gifts varies between countries and regions and what may be normal and acceptable in one region may not be in another. The test to be applied is whether in all the circumstances the gift or hospitality is reasonable and justifiable. The intention behind the gift should always be considered.

5.4 Reimbursing a third party's expenses, or accepting an offer to reimburse our expenses (for example, the costs of attending a business meeting) would not usually amount to bribery. However, a payment in excess of genuine and reasonable business expenses (such as the cost of an extended hotel stay) is not acceptable.

6. What is not acceptable?

It is not acceptable for you (or someone on your behalf) to:

- (a) give, promise to give, or offer, a payment, gift or hospitality with the expectation or hope that a business advantage will be received, or to reward a business advantage already given;
- (b) give or accept a gift or hospitality during any commercial negotiations or tender process, if this could be perceived as intended or likely to influence the outcome;
- (c) accept a payment, gift or hospitality from a third party that you know or suspect is offered with the expectation that it will provide a business advantage for them or anyone else in return;
- (d) accept a gift or hospitality from a third party if you know or suspect that it is offered or provided with an expectation that a business advantage will be provided by us in return;
- (e) offer or accept a gift to or from government officials or representatives, or politicians or political parties, without the prior approval of the compliance officer;

- (f) threaten or retaliate against another individual who has refused to commit a bribery offence or who has raised concerns under this policy; or
- (g) engage in any other activity that might lead to a breach of this policy.

7. Facilitation payments and kickbacks

- 7.1 We do not make, and will not accept, facilitation payments or "kickbacks" of any kind. Facilitation payments are typically small, unofficial payments made to secure or expedite a routine or necessary action (for example by a government official). They are not common in the UK, but are common in some other jurisdictions in which we operate.
- 7.2 Kickbacks are typically payments made in return for a business favour or advantage. You should avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, that a facilitation payment or kickback will be made or accepted by us.
- 7.3 If you are asked to make a payment on our behalf, you should always be mindful of what the payment is for and whether the amount requested is proportionate to the goods or services provided. You should always ask for a receipt which details the reason for the payment. If you have any suspicions, concerns or queries regarding a payment, you should raise these with the compliance officer.

8. Donations

Save with the written approval of the Board of Directors, we do not make contributions to political parties. Similarly we do not make charitable donations without the written approval of the Board of Directors. No donation must be offered or made without the prior approval of the compliance officer.

9. Your responsibilities

- 9.1 You must ensure that you read, understand and comply with this policy.
- 9.2 The prevention, detection and reporting of bribery and other forms of corruption are the responsibility of all those working for us or under our control. You are required to avoid any activity that might lead to, or suggest, a breach of this policy.
- 9.3 You must notify the compliance officer as soon as possible if you believe or suspect that a conflict with this policy has occurred, or may occur in the future. For example, if a client or potential client offers you something to gain a business advantage with us, or indicates to you that a gift or payment is required to secure their business. Further "red flags" that may indicate bribery or corruption are set out in the schedule.

10. Record-keeping

- 10.1 We must keep financial records and have appropriate internal controls in place which will evidence the business reason for making payments to third parties.
- 10.2 You must declare and keep a written record of all hospitality or gifts given or received, which will be subject to managerial review.
- 10.3 You must ensure all expenses claims relating to hospitality, gifts or payments to third parties are submitted in accordance with our expenses policy and record the reason for expenditure.
- 10.4 All accounts, invoices, and other records relating to dealings with third parties including suppliers and customers should be prepared with strict accuracy and completeness. Accounts must not be kept "off-book" to facilitate or conceal improper payments.

11. How to raise a concern

You are encouraged to raise concerns about any issue or suspicion of malpractice at the earliest possible stage. If you are unsure about whether a particular act constitutes bribery or corruption, or if you have any other queries, these should be raised with the compliance officer.

12. What to do if you are a victim of bribery or corruption

It is important that you tell the compliance manager as soon as possible if you are offered a bribe by a third party, are asked to make one, suspect that this may happen in the future, or believe that you are a victim of another form of unlawful activity.

13. Protection

- 13.1 Individuals who refuse to accept or offer a bribe, or who raise concerns or report another's wrongdoing, are sometimes worried about possible repercussions. We aim to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.
- 13.2 We are committed to ensuring no one suffers any detrimental treatment as a result of refusing to take part in bribery or corruption, or because of reporting in good faith their suspicion that an actual or potential bribery or other corruption offence has taken place, or may take place in the future. Detrimental treatment includes dismissal, disciplinary action, threats or other unfavourable treatment connected with raising a concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform the compliance manager immediately. If the matter is not remedied, and you are an employee, you should raise it formally using our Grievance Procedure.

14. Training and communication

- 14.1 Training on this policy forms part of the induction process for all individuals who work for us, and regular training will be provided as necessary.
- 14.2 Our zero-tolerance approach to bribery and corruption must be communicated to all suppliers, contractors and business partners at the outset of our business relationship with them and as appropriate thereafter.

15. Monitoring and review

- 15.1 The compliance officer will monitor the effectiveness and review the implementation of this policy, regularly considering its suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. Any improvements identified will be made as soon as possible. Internal control systems and procedures will be subject to regular audits to provide assurance that they are effective in countering bribery and corruption.
- 15.2 You are responsible for the success of this policy and should ensure they use it to disclose any suspected danger or wrongdoing.
- 15.3 You are invited to comment on this policy and suggest ways in which it might be improved. Comments, suggestions and queries should be addressed to the compliance officer.
- 15.4 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and it may be amended at any time.

SCHEDULE: Potential risk scenarios: "red flags"

The following is a list of possible red flags that may arise during the course of you working for us and which may raise concerns under various anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws. The list is not intended to be exhaustive and is for illustrative purposes only.

If you encounter any of these red flags while working for us, you must report them promptly to the compliance officer using the procedure set out in the Whistleblowing Policy:

- (a) you become aware that a third party engages in, or has been accused of engaging in, improper business practices;
- (b) you learn that a third party has a reputation for paying bribes, or requiring that bribes are paid to them, or has a reputation for having a "special relationship" with foreign government officials;
- (c) a third party insists on receiving a commission or fee payment before committing to sign up to a contract with us, or carrying out a government function or process for us;
- (d) a third party requests payment in cash and/or refuses to sign a formal commission or fee agreement, or to provide an invoice or receipt for a payment made;
- (e) a third party requests that payment is made to a country or geographic location different from where the third party resides or conducts business;
- (f) a third party requests an unexpected additional fee or commission to "facilitate" a service;
- (g) a third party demands lavish entertainment or gifts before commencing or continuing contractual negotiations or provision of services;
- (h) a third party requests that a payment is made to "overlook" potential legal violations;
- (i) a third party requests that you provide employment or some other advantage to a friend or relative;
- (j) you receive an invoice from a third party that appears to be non-standard or customised;
- (k) a third party insists on the use of side letters or refuses to put terms agreed in writing;
- (l) you notice that we have been invoiced for a commission or fee payment that appears large given the service stated to have been provided;
- (m) a third party requests or requires the use of an agent, intermediary, consultant, distributor or supplier that is not typically used by or known to us; or
- (n) you are offered an unusually generous gift or offered lavish hospitality by a third party.