

GWENT POLICE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY POLICY



1.0 Aims of Policy

The aim of this policy is to increase public confidence by ensuring that Gwent Police personnel do not accept gifts and hospitality, otherwise than in accordance with the principles detailed in the procedure (Gifts and Hospitality) to this policy.

This policy covers situations where staff may be offered gifts and/or hospitality. Staff who are properly meeting members of the community in the normal course of their work as members of Gwent Police may sometimes be offered 'gifts', a term which includes goods or payment and hospitality. To refuse such offers may cause offence or hinder working relationships. However to accept could equally be misinterpreted. It may lead to inaccurate expectations of favour or even constitute a criminal offence in some circumstances. There will also be occasions where specific advice is needed in the purchase of goods and service and the expenditure of public money.

The principle behind this policy is that members of Gwent Police staff should not accept gifts and hospitality, unless the principles outlined in the procedure to this document are complied with. These principles apply to each offer of gifts or hospitality received on a personal basis. The policy does not apply to donations to the body corporate. Procedures for such donations can be found in the Force Sponsorship Guidelines.

**PRINTED VERSIONS SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. THE MOST UP TO DATE
VERSION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTRANET POLICIES SITE.**

2.0 The Legal Basis

This policy is required by the organisation to ensure an efficient and effective police service in accordance with section 6, Police Act 1996.

The law generally relating to all of our staff is found in the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889 and the Prevention of Corruption Acts of 1906 and 1916. A specific framework for the conduct by police officers is also found in the Police Conduct Regulations, 2008 and for police staff in the Local Government Act, 1972.

Under the **Prevention of Corruption Act 1906** it is an offence corruptly to accept a gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or not doing anything in your official capacity; or showing favour (or disfavour) to anyone in your official capacity.

Under the **Prevention of Corruption Act 1916** any money, gift or consideration including hospitality, received from any person or organisation holding or seeking to obtain a contract with the Police may be deemed by the courts to have been received corruptly unless proved otherwise.

3.0 Human Rights Certificate of Compliance

The policy has been checked for compliance with the Human Rights Act; with particular reference to the legal basis of its precepts: the legitimacy of its aims; the justification and proportionality of the actions intended by it; that it is the least intrusive and damaging option necessary to achieve the aims; and that it defines the need to document the relevant decision making process's and outcomes of actions.

4.0 Compliance with The Welsh Language Scheme

This policy should aims to comply with the organisations Welsh language Scheme in terms of dealing with the Welsh speaking public, impact upon the public image of the organisation and the implementation of the language scheme.

5.0 Risk Assessment and health and safety Considerations

The Gwent Police Service Dynamic Assessment should be applied as necessary. A training package in the use of risk assessment will be provided to all police personnel if requested or required.

6.0 Identification Section

Policy Title: Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

Reference: 101-5 a issue 5

ACPO LEAD: DCC

Department Responsible: Professional Standards Department

Links to other Policies/Procedure: Gifts and Hospitality Procedure, Data Protection, Information Security, Fairness at Work, Professional Standards Reporting, Equal Opportunities, Freedom of Information,

Policy Implementation Date: 23 February 2005, STCG reviewed by PSG 7th December 2007 Reviewed April 2010

Policy Review Date: April 2012