



PCRS Code of Conduct

Organisational values

As a trustee, committee member, staff member or regular paid contractor, I promise to abide by the fundamental values that underpin all the activity of PCRS. These are:

Accountability

Everything PCRS does will be able to stand the test of scrutiny by the public, the media, charity regulators, members, stakeholders, funders, Parliament and the courts.

Integrity and honesty

These will be the hallmarks of all conduct when dealing with colleagues within PCRS and equally when dealing with individuals and institutions outside it.

Transparency

PCRS strives to maintain an atmosphere of openness throughout the organisation to promote confidence of the public, stakeholders, staff, charity regulators and Parliament.

Additionally, I agree to the following points:

Law, mission, policies

- I will not break the law or go against charity regulations* in any aspect of my role of trustee, member of staff, contractor.
- I will support the mission and consider myself its guardian.
- I will abide by organisational policies.

Conflicts of interest

- I will always strive to act in the best interests of the organisation.
- I will declare any conflict of interest, or any circumstance that might be viewed by others as a conflict of interest, as soon as it arises.
- I will submit to the judgment of the board and do as required regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Person to person

- I will not break the law, go against charity regulations* or act in disregard of organisational policies in my relationships with fellow trustees, staff, committee members, members, contractors or anyone I come into contact with in my role as trustee.
- I will strive to establish respectful, collegial and courteous relationships with all I come into contact with in my role in PCRS.

Protecting the organisation's reputation

- I will not speak as a trustee or representative of the PCRS to the media or in a public forum without the prior knowledge and approval of the Executive Director, PCRS Executive Chair or Chair Trustees.
- When prior consent has not been obtained, I will inform the Chair Trustees, PCRS Executive Chair or Executive Director at once when I have spoken as a trustee or representative of the PCRS to the media or in a public forum.
- When I am speaking as a trustee or representative of the PCRS, my comments will reflect current organisational policy even when these do not agree with my personal views.
- When speaking as a private citizen or health professional I will strive to uphold the reputation of the PCRS and those who work in it.
- I will respect organisational, board and individual confidentiality.
- I will take an active interest in the PCRS's public image, noting news articles, books, television programmes and the like about the organisation, about similar organisations or about important issues for the organisation.

Personal gain

- I will not personally gain materially or financially from my role as trustee, nor will I permit others to do so as a result of my actions or negligence. As a staff or Committee member, or paid contractor I will only personally gain financially in accordance with signed employment or service agreements.
- I will document expenses and seek reimbursement according to procedure.
- I will not accept substantial gifts or hospitality in relation to my role for PCRS.
- I will use organisational resources responsibly, when authorised, in accordance with procedure.

In Trustee or Committee Meetings

- I will strive to embody the principles of leadership in all my actions and live up to the trust placed in me by PCRS.
- I will abide by board governance procedures and practices.
- I will strive to attend all Trustee or Committee meetings, giving apologies ahead of time to the Chair if unable to attend.
- I will study the agenda and other information sent to me in good time prior to the meeting and be prepared to debate and vote on agenda items during the meeting.
- I will honour the authority of the Chair and respect his or her role as meeting leader.
- I will engage in debate and voting in meetings according to procedure, maintaining a respectful attitude toward the opinions of others while making my voice heard.
- I will accept a majority board vote on an issue as decisive and final.
- I will maintain confidentiality about what goes on in the meeting unless authorised by the Chair or board to speak of it.

Enhancing governance and organizational effectiveness

- I will participate in induction, training and development activities for trustees, committee and/or staff members.
- I will continually seek ways as a Trustee to improve board governance practice.
- I will strive to identify good candidates for trusteeship and / or committee membership and recommend new trustees or Committee members on the basis of merit.
- I will support the Chair in their efforts to improve his / her leadership skills.
- I will support the Executive Director in their executive role and, with my fellow Trustees, seek development opportunities for them.
- I will respond to requests for information, input or decisions from PCRS staff / contractors in a timely fashion and will notify PCRS of any extended absence.

Leaving the board or Committee

- I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in my removal from the trustee board or Committee.
- Should I resign from the board or Committee, I will inform the Chair in advance in writing, stating my reasons for resigning. Additionally (trustees only), I will participate in an exit interview.

Reviewed by PCRS Executive: 12th June 2023

Approved by PCRS Trustees: 30th November 2023

Date of next review: November 2026

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We are grateful to our [corporate supporters](#) for their financial support which supports the core activities of the Charity and allows us to make our services either freely available or at greatly reduced rates to members. [PCRS statement on pharmaceutical funding](#)