CODE ON PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE

The University Court is committed to ensuring that the University conducts its affairs in a reasonable and transparent way and conforms with those standards in public life enunciated in the reports of Lord Nolan and others.

Consequently, the Court makes it possible for any University former or current employee or student who is concerned about possible malpractices within the University during her/his membership of the University to bring that concern immediately to the attention of the Clerk. Such a disclosure should contain information relating to some danger, fraud, or other illegal or unethical conduct connected with the University. In such circumstances, the Court guarantees that the instigator of an investigation shall not consequently be disadvantaged or discriminated against in any way, provided (s)he is reasonably believed to have acted lawfully, without malice, and in the University or public interest.

The Clerk, having obtained external legal advice as necessary, shall then consult with the Senior Governor. The latter shall ensure - unless the complaint either can be more appropriately dealt with under an alternative University procedure or is referred to the Police or other relevant Authority - that the matter is fully investigated and determined as (s)he thinks fit. The Senior Governor will report the outcome of the investigation both to the original complainer and to the University Court. (The Clerk may advise that the matter complained of should properly be dealt with under other available internal University procedures viz. either via senior officers or under the following codes: Academic Appeals; Discipline; Grievance; Sexual and Racial Harassment. If the Senior Governor accepts such advice, the complainer and the Court will be informed accordingly.)

If the Clerk considers that the matter so reported involves the Senior Governor personally in any way, (s)he will consult rather with the Convener of the University's Audit Committee and the latter shall take appropriate action.

This Code may not be invoked by a person who has earlier chosen to reveal her/his concern to the Press or to the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council or to the National Audit Office or to any other similar body or organisation.

Notes

1. In the preparation of this Code, due account has been taken of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

2. Because the University must protect its ability to make an appropriate response to any complaint made to one or more external agencies prior to the completion of any investigation conducted in accordance with the above Code, the University cannot guarantee a person's right to invoke the Code in such circumstances. It is, however, committed to responding to any such complaint in just and reasonable fashion.

3. Any member of the public who has a concern about the University may so communicate to the Secretary and Registrar who will consider this as necessary in consultation with the Senior Governor. If such a concern cannot be resolved informally, the member of the public will be advised to refer the matter to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.