



Doctors' Support Network

Trustees' Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of trustees to:

- Act within the **Doctors' Support Network** (DSN)'s constitution and the law – being aware of the contents of the constitution and the law as it applies to DSN.
- Act in the best interest of DSN as a whole – considering what is best for the organisation and its beneficiaries and avoiding bringing DSN into disrepute.
- Not make public comments about the organisation unless authorised to do so. Any public comments made about DSN should be considered and in line with organisational policy, whether speaking as an individual or as a trustee.
- Manage conflicts of interest effectively – registering, declaring and resolving conflicts of interest. Not gaining materially or financially unless specifically authorised to do so. (See DSN's [Conflict of Interest policy](#))
- Respect confidentiality – understanding what confidentiality means in practice for DSN, its committee and the individuals involved with it.
- Have a sound and up-to-date knowledge of DSN and its environment – understanding how DSN works and the environment within which it operates.
- Attend meetings and other appointments or give apologies – considering other ways of engaging with the organisation if regularly unable to attend trustee meetings.
- Prepare fully for meetings and all work for DSN – reading papers, querying anything you don't understand and thinking through issues in good time before meetings.
- Actively engage in discussion, debate and voting in meetings – contributing positively, listening carefully, challenging sensitively and avoiding conflict.
- Act jointly and accept a majority decision – making decisions collectively, standing by them and not acting individually unless specifically authorised to do so.
- Work considerately and respectfully with all – respecting diversity, different roles and boundaries, and avoiding giving offence.

Trustees are expected to honour the content and spirit of this code.

Leaving the board:

- I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in procedures being put in motion that may result in my being asked to resign from the DSN committee.
- Should this happen I will be given the opportunity to be heard. In the event that I am asked to resign from the DSN committee I will accept the majority decision of the board in this matter and resign at the earliest opportunity.
- If I wish to cease being a trustee of DSN at any time, I will inform the chair, in advance, in writing, stating my reasons for leaving.

This code of conduct will be updated when necessary.

Signed

Name

Date

Source: modified from the [Small Charities](#) website

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Author: DSN committee