



Accountability of stakeholders for combating fraud and bribery in the National Health Service in Great Britain



Public Procurement Principle: **Accountability**



Procurement Stage: **Post-award**



Audience: **Policy makers, Procuring entity, Private sector**

Description

The National Health Service England (NHS England) has established a comprehensive strategy to combat financial crime, including fraud and bribery. This programme, called NHS Protect, supports the NHS in meeting its commitments as set out in its statutes.

In order to implement these objectives, the programme provides for the introduction of measures to ensure better local accountability and defines the role of the various stakeholders in the fight against fraud and bribery to establish a strategic analysis of these risks.

In support of this programme, the NHS developed an internal policy in 2016 with the following objectives:

- to explain how the NHS intends to combat financial crime
- to provide guidelines for the entire network
- to ensure that the entire system is able to identify financial crimes and understand reporting requirements.

This policy applies to the entire health care system in the United Kingdom including both NHS employees and all those acting in the name and on behalf of the NHS, such as contractors and suppliers.

In July 2018, the NHS Counter Fraud Authority, a body answering directly to the Department of Health and independent of other NHS entities, developed a guide to detecting invoice payment fraud.

Recognising that the practices of the different NHS entities differed substantially in managing contract performance, the guide details the basic principles applicable to invoice processing and sets out the minimum requirements for identifying and preventing fraud risks.

Source: OECD (2020), [Integrity Review of Public Procurement in Quebec, Canada: A Strategic Approach to Corruption Risks](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

