

**NATIONAL WAITING TIMES
CENTRE BOARD**

**STANDING FINANCIAL
INSTRUCTIONS**

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1 INTRODUCTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF

1.1 GENERAL

These Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs or Instructions) detail the financial responsibilities, policies and procedures to be adopted by NHS Golden Jubilee. They are designed to ensure that its financial transactions are carried out in accordance with the law and Government policy in order to achieve probity, accuracy, economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

These Instructions are issued in accordance with the National Health Service (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Regulations 1974, Regulation 4, together with the subsequent guidance and requirements contained in NHS Circular No. 1974 (GEN) 88 and annex, and MEL(1994) 80, for the regulation of the conduct of the Board, its members and officers, in relation to financial matters.

These SFIs identify the financial responsibilities that apply to everyone working for the Board. They do not provide detailed procedural advice. However, financial procedural notes will be prepared to reflect the requirement of these SFIs. These statements should therefore be read in conjunction with the relevant financial operating procedures.

The Director of Finance or his/her delegated deputy must approve all financial operating procedures.

Departmental heads with financial responsibilities will fulfil these responsibilities in a way that complies with the requirements of these Instructions, and will put in place, and maintain procedures that comply with the SFIs.

Failure to comply with SFI's / Operating procedures is a disciplinary matter which could result in dismissal.

Nothing in these SFIs shall be held to override any legal requirement or SGHSCD directive.

1.2 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF

The Code of Conduct under the Ethical Standards in Public Life (Scotland) Act 2000 is available to all Board Members on appointment and a condition of their appointment is acceptance of and compliance with the Code.

The Code of Conduct for Staff (the Code) incorporates the following documents:

- The Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff [NHS Circular MEL (1994) 48];
- The Whistleblowing Policy;
- The Fraud Policy.

The Code provides instruction and guidance on how staff should maintain strict ethical standards in the conduct of Board business. It forms part of the Board standard contract of employment and all staff are required to adhere to the Code.

Key principles underpinning the Code include the following:

The Board is committed to the three essential public values.

- **Accountability** - everything done by those who work in the organisation must be able to stand the tests of parliamentary scrutiny, public judgments on propriety and meet professional codes of conduct.
- **Probity** - Absolute honesty and integrity should be exercised in dealing with NHS patients, staff, assets, suppliers and customers.
- **Openness** - The Board's activities should be sufficiently public and transparent to promote confidence between the Board and its patients, its staff and the public.

To achieve and hold these values, the following key principles should be followed by staff in all their official business.

- Staff should ensure that the interests of patients remain paramount at all times.
- Staff should be impartial and honest in the conduct of their business and should remain beyond suspicion at all times. The Bribery Act 2010 makes it an offence to:
 - a) Offer, promise or give a bribe or
 - b) Request, agree to receive or accept a bribe in return for improperly performing a function or activity.
- Staff should use the public funds entrusted to them to the best advantage of the service, always ensuring value for money.
- Staff should not abuse their official position for personal gain or to benefit their family and/or friends; or seek to advantage or further their private business or other interests in the course of their official duties.

In the first instance, employees should contact their line manager or Head of Department or Director for advice on the application of the Code.

1.3 TERMINOLOGY

Any expression to which a meaning is given in the Health Service Acts or in the financial regulations made under the Acts shall have the same meaning in these Instructions; and

1. "NHS Golden Jubilee" (NHSGJ) is the common name used to define the entity/organisation whose legal name is the National Waiting Times Centre Board.
2. "Board" means the Board of Golden Jubilee, or such other Committee of the Board to which powers have been delegated.
3. "Budget" means an allocation of resources by the Board, Chief Executive or other officer with delegated authority expressed in financial terms, for the purposes of carrying out, over a specific period, a function or group of functions of the Board.

4. "Chief Officer" means any officer who is directly accountable to the Chief Executive i.e. Executive Directors, Directors of Divisions and some Heads of Department.
5. "Budget Holder" means the Chief Officer or employee with delegated authority to manage finances (income and expenditure) for a specific area of the organisation.
6. "SGHSCD" means Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates.
7. "Supervisory Body" means a committee established by the Board with delegated authority to discharge the Board's responsibilities under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES & DELEGATION

The Board shall exercise financial supervision and control by:

- formulating a financial strategy;
- requiring the submission and approval of budgets within approved allocation/overall income;
- approving SFIs;
- defining specific responsibilities placed on Directors and employees as indicated in the Scheme of Delegation.

All directors and employees have a general responsibility for the security of the property of the Board, for avoiding loss, for economy and efficiency in the use of resources and for complying with the requirements of these Instructions. Should any difficulty arise regarding their interpretation or application then the advice of the Director of Finance or authorised nominee must be sought before action is taken.

It is the duty of the Chief Executive, managers and heads of department, to ensure that existing staff and all new appointees are informed of their responsibilities within these Instructions. Breaches of these Instructions will be reported to the Director of Finance.

Within these SFIs it is acknowledged that the Chief Executive is personally responsible for the proper management of public funds and for ensuring the regularity, propriety and value for money in the management of the organisation. Accountability for this function is directly to the Scottish Parliament under section 15 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000.

The Chief Executive and Director of Finance will, as far as possible, delegate their detailed responsibilities but they will remain accountable to the Board for financial control.

Without prejudice to the functioning of any other officer of the Board, the Director of Finance will ensure:

1. the design, implementation and supervision of systems of financial control including the adoption of Standing Financial Instructions and the maintenance of effective internal audit arrangements;
2. the preparation, documentation, implementation and maintenance of the Board's financial policies, procedures and systems in support of a comprehensive control environment;

3. the co-ordination of any corrective action necessary to further these policies, procedures and systems;
4. the preparation and maintenance of such accounts, costs, estimates etc. for the purposes of carrying out the Board's duties and establishing with reasonable accuracy the Board's financial position;
5. the provision of financial advice to the Board and its officers;
6. the accurate and timely submission to the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates of Annual Accounts and such other reports, returns and monitoring information as may be required to allow the SGHSCD to discharge its responsibilities.

1.5 MODIFICATION AND INTERPRETATION

The Director of Finance may make minor changes to terminology contained in, or presentation of, these SFIs as required, without seeking approval. Any such changes will be reported to the NHS Board at the time of the biennial review of these Instructions.

Wherever the title of Chief Executive or Chief Officer is used in these Instructions, it will be deemed to include such other directors or employees who have been duly authorised to represent them.

Whenever the term "employee" is used it shall be deemed to include directors or employees of third parties contracted to the Board when acting on behalf of the Board.

All references in these Instructions to the singular form will be read as equally applicable to the plural.

The Board has adopted use of the non-gendered pronoun 'they' and this shall be read as being applicable and inclusive of all gender identities.

Any reference to any legislation, provision or guidance should be construed as applying equally to any amendment or later publication of that legislation, provision or guidance.

Any authorisation to sign documents granted to an officer of the Board shall terminate upon that person ceasing (for whatever reason) from being an employee of the Board without further intimation or action by the Board.

2 FINANCIAL PLANS AND FORECAST TRAJECTORIES

The Director of Finance shall, on behalf of the Chief Executive, compile and submit to the Board of Directors an annual financial plan, as part of the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) taking into account financial targets notified by Scottish Ministers and forecast limits of available resources.

The financial management team will reflect the workforce, activity and financial plan aims through budget setting discussions with managers and this will drive forward the final three-year planning cycle in the financial plan. This process will not only define budgets on a 3-year methodology but will also consider funding levels both via Scottish Government RRL support, Service Level agreement and other income streams in addition to considering all the significant financial pressures and service development issues modelled within the next three years. Therefore, the Boards efficiency savings target and identification of recurring schemes to support an overall balanced financial plan will mirror the 3-year cycle.

Detailed financial planning aims to support that best value for money is achieved at all times.

The Board will continue to complete financial templates setting out planned performance against the agreed key financial targets and outlining trajectories for financial performance and efficiency savings as set out by Scottish Government.

This information will continue to be published monthly, albeit frequency of formal submission to Scottish Government may align to a quarterly cycle. These templates are used as performance monitoring of Board financial trajectories and plans by Scottish Government and reported monthly to Board, Senior Management Team, Finance and Performance Committee in addition to Partnership Forum and workforce specific elements via the Workforce Planning and Transition Steering Group.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the production of an Annual Delivery Plan, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SGHSCD, taking into account financial targets and forecast limits of available resources.

The Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) will contain:

- a statement of the significant assumptions on which the plan is based;
- a description of how our objectives support National Outcomes, Quality Ambitions and quality outcomes
- details of major changes in workload, delivery of services or resources required to achieve the plan; including mutual aid delivered for urgent and priority patients
- Continued impact on workforce and costs on transitioning from the covid-19 pandemic to usual business activities,
- details of delivery targets to reduce energy based carbon emissions and continuing reduction in energy consumption as set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- details of any risks identified that may impact on the achievement of targets and how these risks will be managed.

This record of planned performance will be calculated against key performance measures which will be used to inform discussion about progress towards those targets. Progress against the targets will be the subject of regular local and national scrutiny.

The purpose of the ADP is to:

- enable the Health Board to set a clear direction and priorities which reflect the HEAT core set;
- to deliver our key objectives which are:
 - Health Improvement for the people of Scotland
 - Efficiency and Government Improvements
 - Access to Services
 - Treatment Appropriate to Individuals
- provide clear accountability from the Board to the Scottish Government on our performance.
- provide clear information on what we are trying to achieve and our performance;
- draw together a wide range of planning and implementation activity within a single document.

The Plan sets a strategic direction for a 3 year period and its content is a product of a whole range of different planning processes which include Local Authorities, NHS staff and other stakeholders.

The Director of Finance shall report to the Board of Directors any significant variance from the financial plan and shall advise the Board of Directors on action to be taken.

Performance assessment of the agreed financial plan will continue to be reported by the Board to the Scottish Government within the Financial Performance Return in line with agreed financial planning guidance.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the production of a structured National Workforce Planning and Framework that integrates National, Regional and local workforce planning initiatives.

The Workforce Plan will enable the Board to address workforce challenges in both the short and long term to meet changing services need and will encompass:

- the need to ensure that workforce planning projections are affordable and offer value for money and how this contributes to efficiency savings
- to ensure adequate sources of supply for the planned workforce, taking account of the labour market, skill mix, competition and inward recruitment;
- the need to ensure that the planned workforce is trained and supported, and plans fit with the service redesign; and
- involvement of key stakeholders both internally and externally.

The Director of Finance shall also compile and submit to the Board of Directors such financial estimates and forecasts, on both revenue and capital account, as may be required within financial planning guidance. As a consequence the Director of Finance shall have right of access to all budget holders on budgetary related matters.

Officers shall provide the Director of Finance with all financial, statistical and other relevant information as necessary for the compilation of such financial plans, estimates and forecasts.

3 SERVICE AGREEMENTS FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES

The Chief Executive shall be responsible for establishing proper arrangements for the Provision of services in accordance with approved budgets and annual activity plans underpinning the NHS GJ Annual Delivery Plan.

The purpose of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) is to secure the provision of services, with the appropriate transfer of funds for patients being transferred from their local Board to the Golden Jubilee National Hospital. NHS GJ will work with NHS Boards to deliver the national waiting time guarantees as laid out by Scottish Government statute and timeframes within which patient referral information has to be received by GJNH. The SLA will provide the structure and mechanism of engagement to ensure that this is achieved for those patients referred to NHS GJ in agreement with Scottish Government activity allocations.

The referring NHS Board has, on occasion, a combined responsibility for delivering waiting time targets. Collaborative working between NHS GJ and the referring NHS Board supports this.

A number of services are subject to a Service Level Agreement with the Board as the provider of the service. The GJNH will effectively plan and manage capacity by specialty and theatre utilisation to provide NHS Scotland with flexibility on allocation of spare capacity at GJNH to be used to respond to temporary or on-going pressures confronted by individual NHS Boards. The allocation of spare capacity will be agreed in conjunction with the Scottish Government and financial charges associated with the agreed marginal tariff for these SLA's will be aligned to any capacity movement between NHS Boards.

Similarly other Service Level Agreements will exist where the Board purchases services from another authority. In these cases those budget holders who are the end user and purchaser of the service have no authority to use sources of supply/service out with the provider unless exceptional circumstances prevail and written approval is given by the Chief Executive or an officer delegated by the Chief Executive.

4 Budget Planning and Management

4.1 General

The Board has a responsibility to prepare and submit financial plans in accordance with the requirements of SGHSCD to ensure consistency and to aid meaningful comparisons across NHS Scotland Health Boards. Along with the Annual Delivery Plan (ADP), the financial plans are submitted for approval to the NHS GJ Board and to SGHSCD, ensuring that the NHS GJ budgets reflect and reconcile to such plans.

The Board will perform its functions within the total funds allocated by the Scottish Ministers and the agreed Core Revenue Resource Limit and through income from other Health Boards and from other income sources. All plans, budget setting principles, financial approvals and control systems will be designed to meet this obligation.

The Director of Finance shall, on behalf of the Chief Executive, prepare and submit budgets within the forecast limits of available resources and planning policies to the Board of Directors for its approval. Such budgets will:

- be in accordance with the aims and objectives set out in the ADP;
- accord with operational activity and workforce plans;
- be produced following discussion with appropriate budget holders;
- be prepared within the limits of available funds; and
- identify the assumptions used in their preparations, the board specific potential risks, risk levels and sensitivity assessment.

The Director of Finance is primarily responsible for the completeness, accuracy and security of the financial data of the Board and will devise and implement any necessary procedures to protect the Board and individuals from inappropriate use or misuse of any information and to provide monthly reports which facilitate efficient and effective management.

The Director of Finance will establish procedures to monitor financial performance against budget and ADP, periodically review them, and report to the Board of Directors Finance and Performance Committee and Executive Director Group.

The Director of Finance will be responsible for the compilation of financial forecasts, on both revenue and capital account, as are required by the Board. The Director of Finance will request, review and rely on information from budget holders to prepare the forecasts on behalf of the Chief Executive and will have the right of direct access to budget holders on budgetary related matters. All officers will be required to provide financial, statistical and other relevant information as is necessary for the compilation of such estimates and forecasts.

Budget holders will submit performance information on activity, finance and workforce through Integrated Performance reporting for review and action at Performance Review Groups aligned with financial plans.

The Director of Finance has a responsibility to ensure that adequate training is delivered on an on-going basis to budget holders to help them manage successfully.

4.2 Budgetary Control and Reporting

The Director of Finance shall devise and maintain systems of budgetary control and all officers, whom the Board of Directors may empower to engage staff or otherwise incur expenditure, or to collect or generate income, shall comply with the requirements of those systems. The systems of budgetary control shall incorporate the reporting of, and investigation into, financial workload, funding and income allocation or manpower variances from budget. The Heads of Operations will be responsible for providing budgetary information for their respective directorates enabling the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and other operational officers to carry out their budgetary responsibilities.

The Heads of Operations will be responsible for the preparation and submission of their budget, and associated efficiency plans within the limits of available funds and planning policies. The Director of Finance will ratify the final consolidated budget and present it to the Board for its approval.

Management of budgets will be in line with organisational structure and it will be the responsibility of the key budget holder, Heads of Operations and Senior Managers to delegate further within their individual structures to permit the monitoring and control of defined activities. The terms of delegation will include a clear definition of individual and group responsibilities for such control of expenditure allied with authorised signatory levels, exercise of virement and achievement of planned levels of service. Recognising SFI's as appropriate. Appointed budget holders will be individuals who actually initiate or authorise expenditure on items within their budget so that maximum effective delegation may be achieved.

In carrying out their duties:

- The Chief Executive shall not exceed the delegated limits approved by the Board of Directors.
- Budget holders have responsibility to manage expenditure and associated workforce and operational activities, under their control, within budgeted limits. Where overspends occur, or are predicted to occur in future periods, budget holders must clearly identify the cause of overspend, forecast the likely impact and identify remedial action. Budget holders shall not exceed the approved financial and workforce budgets unless patient care will be compromised. In these circumstances the Heads of Operations and the Director of Finance must be notified as soon as possible. Budget holders are required to communicate and highlight area of significant overspends to the Director of Finance. Continued expenditure may only continue or proceed after the authorisation of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance or their delegated officers.
- Budget holders should not incur expenditure for which no provision has been made in an approved budget nor subject to funding under delegated powers of virement.
- The Chief Executive may vary the budgetary limit of an officer within delegated limits.

Delegated budgets will be monitored to ensure that financial control is maintained and that the Board's plans and policies are implemented.

It will be the responsibility of the Heads of Operations and Senior Managers to highlight to the Director of Finance any substantial uncommitted funds that arise from failure or delay in the implementation of plans approved by the Board such that their integrity is maintained. The Director of Finance will report any such funds to the Board.

Except where otherwise approved by the Chief Executive or the Director of Finance, budgets shall be used only for the purpose for which they were provided.

The Director of Finance will, as informed where appropriate, by executive colleagues, specifically the Director of Quality, Innovation and People on staff and pay issues, keep the Chief Executive and the Board of Directors informed. This will be conducted on a regular basis around the financial consequences of changes in policy, pay awards, and other events and known developments trends affecting budgets and shall advise on the financial and economic aspects of future national and local plans and projects.

The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate Financial Performance Review monitoring forms are submitted to the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorate in accordance with current guidance.

4.3 Capital

The general rules applying to delegation and reporting shall also apply to capital expenditure including the requirement to stay within the Capital Resource Limit.

5 FUNDING AND INCOME

5.1 GENERAL

The Director of Finance will ensure that appropriate systems exist for the proper recording, invoicing and collection of all monies due, including income due under service agreements for the provision of services to other NHS organisations.

The Director of Finance shall ensure that the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorate guidance in setting charges for services is followed.

The Director of Finance is responsible for approving and regularly reviewing the level of all fees and charges other than those determined by the SGHSCD or by Statute. Independent professional advice on matters of valuation shall be taken as necessary.

All officers shall inform the Director of Finance of money due to the Health Board arising from transactions, which they initiate including all contracts, leases, tenancy agreements, non-NHS patient treatment and all other transactions. Responsibility for the regular review of rental and other charges shall rest upon the Director of Finance.

At the start of the financial year, the Director of Finance will inform the Board of the total estimated annual funding (Core Revenue Resource Limit) and income which the Health Board expects to generate.

Sources of income include:

- Service Level Agreements for National and regional healthcare service provision with Health Boards
- Funds for supporting medical and dental education and research and development
- Funds for education and training of other health care professionals, including the NHS Scotland Academy
- Income generation activities from non-NHS patient treatment or their insurance companies
- Catering and Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel Income

Officers shall notify the Director of Finance when overpayments are detected and recovery initiated.

5.2 INVOICING

After establishing the credit worthiness of the customer, pre-numbered invoices will be raised promptly for all relevant goods supplied or services rendered. Invoices for sums due to the Board must be raised by the Financial Accounting Services section. Other departments or divisions must not raise unofficial invoices. Sales invoice requests can be completed by both the financial management team and departments or divisions.

When calculating fees and charges for patient services, the charge should reflect the full cost of the service, no provision should be made for profit and there should be no cross-subsidisation. If charges are below full cost, marginal cost may be the appropriate means of recovering the additional costs incurred.

5.3 RECEIPTS

All cash received will be immediately recorded, officially receipted by the Financial Accounting Services staff and held securely for banking as quickly as possible (see Security of Cash, Cheques and Credit Income).

Receipts will be matched to invoices where appropriate and the financial ledger will be updated promptly when invoices are raised and cash received.

Procedures will be implemented to ensure that receipts are completely and accurately recorded and entered into the accounts of the Board.

Disbursements will not be made from cash received, except under arrangements approved by the Director of Finance.

The Director of Finance shall take appropriate recovery action on all outstanding debts; including write off action after all reasonable steps have been taken to secure payments.

The Director of Finance will be responsible for dealing with any debts not recovered in accordance with Losses and Special Payments Procedures (SFI 17).

5.4 Non-NHS Patients

It is essential that a patient's status and entitlement to NHS treatment be clearly identified at the outset. Private patient activity is not encouraged within then Board and can-not be supported within core capacity. In co-operation with the Board management, it is for the consultant with primary responsibility for a patient to ensure that his/her status, whether as an inpatient or outpatient (including day patients) is established in writing and notified to the Booking Office and the officer responsible for maintaining adequate control Instructions over Non-NHS activity.

For Non-NHS (overseas patients), charges should be calculated on the full cost of the service. If any patient activity was supported in a private capacity and out-with core hospital sessions, this group of patient's charges should be calculated on a commercial basis, provided it is not less than the standard service cost.

The Board must obtain from the patient a clear understanding to pay the requisite charges under both Section 57 and Section 58 of the NHS (Scotland) Act 1978. This must be done before admission or treatment as a private patient.

6 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

The Director of Finance, on behalf of the Board, will:

- a. keep, in such form as the Scottish Ministers may direct, account of all monies received or paid out by the Board;
- b. prepare financial returns in accordance with the guidance issued and regulations laid down by the Scottish Ministers, the Board's accounting policies and generally accepted accounting principles;
- c. prepare, certify and submit Accounts in respect of each financial year as required by Section 86 (3) of the NHS (Scotland) Act 1978;
- d. ensure that Accounts are prepared in a format which meets the requirements of the Scottish Governments Accounts Manual, recognise best accounting practice and such other legislation, directions and guidance as may be in force at the time;
- e. ensure that the Accounts are produced in accordance with the timetable set down by the SGHSCD and by the Auditor General; and
- f. ensure that there is evidence of compliance with the Board's Corporate Governance measures in accordance with extant guidance issued by the SGHSCD.

The Board's Annual Accounts must be audited by an independent External Auditor (External Audit is dealt with at greater length in Section 16 of these Instructions).

The audited Accounts must be presented to and approved by the Board at a public Board meeting.

7 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 GENERAL

The Director of Finance is responsible for managing the Board's banking arrangements and for advising the Board on the provision of banking services and the operation of accounts, including the levels of delegated authority.

7.2 BANKING PROCEDURES

All funds will be held in accounts in the name of National Waiting Times Centre Board and accounts may only be opened by the Director of Finance. Bank accounts should not be operated by members of staff in any capacity and should not be addressed to Board premises.

Only authorised signatories may draw on these accounts. The Director of Finance will approve and maintain a list of authorised signatories for this purpose.

All transactions relating to Board business must be reflected through these accounts.

The use of Board funds for making personal loans or for cashing personal cheques is not permitted.

The Director of Finance is responsible for:

1. establishing bank accounts;
2. establishing separate bank accounts for the Board's non-exchequer funds;
3. defining the use of each account; and
4. ensuring that payments made from bank accounts do not exceed the amount credited to the account except as detailed in section 7.3 below.

The Director of Finance will ensure that detailed written instructions on the operation of bank accounts will include:

1. the conditions under which each bank account is to be operated;
2. a list of those authorised to sign cheques or other orders drawn on the Board's accounts, including specimen signatures and the level of authority delegated to each signatory;
3. a list of those authorised to authenticate electronic payments.

The Director of Finance must advise the Board's bankers in writing of the conditions under which each bank account is to be operated. This will include a list of authorised signatories with specimen signatures and the level of authority delegated to each.

The Director of Finance will advise the Board's bankers of the conditions under which any on-line banking service to which the Board subscribes is to be operated, including lists of those authorised to approve transfers between accounts and BACS payments to other bodies, together with levels of authority.

7.3 BANK ACCOUNTS

The balances of accounts holding exchequer funds should not exceed any limits that may be set, from time to time, by the SGHSCD. All surplus funds must be maintained in accordance with the banking guidelines issued by SGHSCD.

Bank accounts will not be permitted to be overdrawn, pooling arrangements on bank accounts maintained in the same name and in the same right notwithstanding.

7.4 CASH

The Director of Finance shall be responsible for:

- Cash balances held on the Board's premises will be kept to the minimum required for the provision of adequate patient care and all petty cash issued will be recorded and monitored by management;
- All cheques, postal orders, cash etc., shall be banked intact. Disbursements shall not be made from cash received, except under arrangements approved by the Director of Finance or in emergency by another Executive Director and properly documented;
- Official money shall not under any circumstances be used for the encashment of private cheques;
- Adequate security and control procedures should be implemented to protect all cash balances; and
- The officer responsible for the custody of any cash balance will not be responsible for authorisation of payments or recording/preparation of the official accounts and the balance of cash will be checked regularly by the officer's line manager or his nominee. If there are exceptional circumstances, which do not allow this division of duties, the details must be recorded by the Director of Finance and the alternative/compensating controls noted (e.g. additional management review).

The Director of Finance shall be responsible for:

- approving the form of all receipt books, agreement forms, or other means of officially acknowledging or recording monies received or receivable;
- ordering and securely controlling any such stationery;
- the provision of adequate facilities and systems for employees whose duties include collecting and holding cash, including the provision of safes or lockable cash boxes, the procedures for keys, and for coin operated machines; and
- prescribing systems and procedures for handling cash and negotiable securities on behalf of the Board.

The holders of safe keys shall not accept unofficial funds for depositing in their safes unless such deposits are in special sealed envelopes or locked containers. It shall be made clear to the depositors that the Board is not to be held liable for any loss, and written indemnities must be obtained from the organisation or individuals absolving the Board from responsibility for any loss.

8. CAPITAL INVESTMENT

8.1 GENERAL

Capital Planning and Approval Processes were delegated to NHS Boards by HDL (2002)⁴⁰. These Instructions reflect the inherent responsibility of Boards to manage their capital needs from within available capital funds.

These Instructions should be read in conjunction with the Scottish Capital Investment Manual and the Scottish Government Construction Procurement Manual issued by the SGHSCD. For property transactions, the relevant guidance is contained in the NHS Property Transaction Handbook.

The Board's Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring compliance with mandatory policy and guidance.

8.2 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROCESS

The Scottish Government Health Directorate's (SGHD) CEL 35(2010) 'Property and Asset Management Policy' requires that all NHS Boards have a Property and Asset Management Strategy (PAMS) that reflect the following policy aims:

- To provide and maintain safe, secure and an appropriate quality of affordable health care facilities which complement and support the provision of quality health care; and
- To use property efficiently, coherently and strategically to support Scottish Government plans and clinical needs.

8.3 CAPITAL PLANNING

Capital planning will follow the Board's capital planning guidelines.

All bids for formula capital must be completed on a mini business case form. This will describe the need for capital and will include all revenue consequences before any bid will be considered by the Capital Group.

Where the proposed spend is greater than £250K it is necessary to also complete a detailed business case as per SGHSCD guidelines;

- capital schemes upto £1m require NWTC Board approval
- capital schemes > £1m require SGHSCD approval

However, for significant spend or revenue consequences these will be reviewed on a case by case basis and may be presented to the Board depending on strategic context.

It is essential that the allocation of formula capital is complete within agreed timescales to allow for procurement.

A rolling equipment replacement programme is in place covering a 5 year timeframe.

Production of a monthly report for the Capital Group that clearly describes the capital spend to date, the capital spend available along with carry forward schemes from prior years and estimated costs for outstanding projected forward in current year.

This is described for;

- formula capital
- equipment > £5K
- IT spend

For capital schemes where the contracts stipulate stage payments, the Director of Finance will ensure that the management of such schemes is in line with the recommendations of SCIM.

The Director of Finance shall issue procedures for the regular reporting of expenditure and commitment against authorised expenditure, including reporting to the Board of Directors.

The approval of a capital programme by the Board of Directors shall constitute approval for expenditure on any scheme. Further approval will be required for any variations that exceed the greater of £100,000 or 10% of approved expenditure of any scheme.

The Chief Executive shall ensure that capital investment management is in accordance with “SCIM” guidance and the Health Board’s Standing Orders.

The Director of Finance shall ensure that procedures governing the financial management, including variations to contract, of capital investment projects and valuation for accounting purposes are in accordance with “SCIM” guidance

An annual Capital Plan will be developed by the Capital Group. This will be submitted to the Board for review prior to submission to Scottish Government.

The Capital Plan is made up of input from the following groups:

- Medical Equipment Group – all medial equipment requests are reviewed and risk assed prior to being included in the Board Capital plan;
- The E-health Steering group – IMT requests are reviewed by the steering group to ensure that the requests are in line with the Digital strategy; and
- The PAMS group, all building related capital expenditure relates to the condition surveys undertaken as part of the PAMS work.

The Director of Finance will ensure that for every capital expenditure proposal, the Capital Group will be provided with assurance that the financial consequences, both capital and revenue, of the proposal have been fully identified, and are within the constraints of the Financial Plan.

All proposals for capital expenditure are supported by business cases the level of business case is detailed below:

- Mini Business Case – all expenditure upto £100k
- Enhanced mini business case – all expenditure between £101k and £250k

- Standard Business Case – all expenditure over £251k and the delegated Board authorisation level.
- Above £1m – process as defined in capital investment manual – require SGHSCD approval.

The approval of the mini business case will be by the Capital Group and the bidder may be requested to attend to present their case.

A fast track process will be put in place for emergency/priority expenditure.

For every capital expenditure proposal over £1m the Chief Executive shall ensure:

- that a business case (in line with the guidance contained within the Scottish Capital Investment Manual) is produced, for the approval of the Board of Directors, setting out:
- an option appraisal of potential benefits compared with known costs to determine the option with the highest ratio of benefits to costs; and
- appropriate project management and control arrangements; and
- that the Director of Finance has certified to the costs and revenue consequences detailed in the business case.

8.4 FORMULA CAPITAL

The Board receives a formula allocation each year the purpose of this is for minor work, equipment replacement and IM&T.

8.5 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL PROCESS

Where a capital expenditure proposal is approved and a capital scheme number is issued by the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting).

Procurement of all capital items will be undertaken in accordance with Section 12, Procurement, of these SFIs.

8.6 MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMMES

Where CIG approval is given for major capital schemes the Board may delegate authority for managing the approved allocation to a Project Board. The management of any such projects will be structured in accordance with the Scottish Government Construction Procurement Manual issued by the SGHSCD. The Project Director will provide progress reports to the Board on a regular basis.

9. ASSETS

9.1 ASSETS

Assets include all property of the Board including physical assets, such as buildings, equipment, vehicles, stores, cash, and intangibles such as intellectual property or goodwill. All staff have a duty to protect and safeguard the assets of the Board in the performance of their duties and it is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to ensure that there are adequate systems in place to maintain satisfactory control of fixed assets. All transactions involving property will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the NHS Property Transaction Handbook and SFI 8 Capital Investment.

9.2 ASSET REGISTERS

For the purposes of these Instructions, Fixed Assets will be defined in accordance with the guidance contained in the Capital Asset Accounting Manual produced by the SGHSCD.

The Director of Finance will ensure that an Asset Register is maintained, and that all Fixed Assets are accurately and timeously recorded in the Register in accordance with the guidance contained in the Capital Asset Accounting Manual.

The Finance department shall maintain an asset register recording fixed assets. The minimum data set to be held within these registers shall be as specified in the Scottish Capital Accounting Manual as issued by the SGHSCD.

The Director of Finance will ensure that procedural instructions are prepared and implemented to ensure that:

1. additions to the fixed asset register are clearly identified to an area and validated by reference to:
 - a. properly authorised and approved agreements, architect's certificates, supplier's invoices and other documentary evidence in respect of purchases from third parties;
 - b. stores, requisitions and wages records for own materials and labour including appropriate overheads; and
 - c. lease agreements in respect of capitalised assets;
2. where capital assets are sold, scrapped, lost or otherwise disposed of, their value is removed from the accounting records and each disposal validated by reference to authorisation documents and invoices (where appropriate);
3. balances on fixed assets accounts in ledgers are reconciled to balances on the fixed asset register;
4. the value of each asset is indexed to current values in accordance with methods as specified in the Capital Accounting Manual; and
5. the value of each asset is depreciated using methods and rates as specified in the Capital Accounting Manual and is consistent with the agreed depreciation policy of the Board.

9.3 SECURITY OF ASSETS

The Director of Finance will ensure that procedures for the control of assets are prepared and implemented. These procedures will make provision for the:

1. recording of managerial responsibility for each asset;
2. identification of additions and disposals;
3. identification of all repairs and maintenance expenses;
4. physical security of assets;
5. periodic verification of the existence of, condition of, and title to, assets recorded;
and
6. identification and reporting of all costs associated with the retention of an asset.

The Director of Finance will ensure all discrepancies revealed by verification of physical assets to the fixed asset register are investigated in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 21 of these Instructions.

Whilst each employee has a responsibility for the security of property of the Board, it is the responsibility of directors and senior employees in all disciplines to apply such appropriate routine security in relation to NHS property as may be determined by the Board. Any breach of agreed security practices must be reported in accordance with instructions.

Any damage to the Board's premises, vehicles and equipment, or any loss of equipment, stores or supplies must be reported by directors and employees in accordance with the procedure for reporting losses (Section 21 of these Instructions).

Where practical, assets should be marked as NHS Golden Jubilee property.

On the closure of any premises, a physical check will be carried out and a responsible officer designated by the Chief Executive will certify a list of items held showing their eventual disposal.

9.4 DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

All disposals of assets should secure maximum income for the Board (or minimise the cost where the disposal has no proceeds) other than when donated to a charitable organisation. Assets with an estimated value greater than £1,000 should be disposed of on the open market with arrangements commensurate with the value of the disposal. Under this level, the responsible manager must record and demonstrate that the best outcome for the Board has been obtained. Where the disposal incurs a cost to the Board, it should be dealt with in accordance with SFI 12.

Where a disposal is made to a related party (i.e. other than at "arms length") the circumstances should be reported to the Head of Procurement for approval and entry in the register of Waivers to Tender.

The above does not apply to the disposal of heritable property, which must be disposed of in accordance with the relevant guidance contained in the NHS Property Transaction Handbook.

All property disposals must be in accordance with the Board's clinical strategy and the approved Property Strategy.

9.5 TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Where a Board transfers an asset to another location/health board a standard Transfer Form should be used.

The Transfer Form should be approved by management prior to the transfer taking place.

The collecting officer should sign the Transfer Form and pass they copy received to the Finance Staff within the receiving Health Board.

9.6 LEASING REGISTERS

The register in place for accounting for leases held within the Board should be updated on the inception of the lease and updated on an ongoing basis. The information from this system should be used to inform the Boards Accounts.

10 PAYMENT OF STAFF

10.1 Remuneration

The Remuneration Committee of the Board shall approve any changes to the remuneration, allowances, conditions of service of the Chief Executive and other Directors in accordance with the Code of Corporate Governance.

The Committee will:

- agree all the terms and conditions of the Executive Directors
- ensure arrangements are in place to monitor and assess the performance of Senior Managers against pre-determined performance criteria
- monitor arrangement for the pay and conditions of service of other Senior Managers on Executive Pay arrangements in accordance with appropriate guidance.
- approve for all other terms and conditions of service issues not covered by Direction or Regulation such as Discretionary Points for Medical Staff

10.2 Staff Appointments, Changes and Terminations

Directors or employees authorised to do so may engage, re-engage or regrade/re-band employees, this must be in accordance with the Once for Scotland and NHSGJ Job Evaluation Policy, or hire agency staff, only within the limit of their approved budget and financial establishment.

All appointments must be in accordance with approved Human Resources and Staff Governance Policies. In order to comply with the Board's Code of Conduct staff members should take no part in the appointment of family and friends and should declare any such interests to their line manager.

All appointment forms should be sent to the Recruitment Team for processing on to e-ESS. Managers must ensure that terminations and changes are processed using the eESS Manager Self Service system. It is essential that a termination is processed immediately upon the effective date of an employee's resignation, retirement or termination being known. Where an employee fails to report for duty in circumstances that suggest that they have left without notice, the Payroll Department must be informed immediately.

Where contractors are used (as opposed to directly employed staff), any contract awarded must demonstrate value for money and comply with procurement procedure in respect of SFI's on Orders, Quotations and Tenders. For the avoidance of doubt, the value to be considered, in this respect, is the total value of payments over the duration of the contract.

10.3 Processing of Payroll

The Director of Finance/Assistant Director of Finance for Governance and Financial Accounting is responsible for ensuring:

1. that appropriate payroll services are provided to meet Board's needs;

2. that there are appropriate operating policies and procedures in place to control all pay expenditure;
3. that appropriate authority to approve pay expenditure and changes is embedded within the eESS and SSTS systems; and
4. that only approved time records, pay sheets and other pay records and notifications are used.

Regardless of the arrangements for providing the payroll service, the Director of Finance/Assistant Director of Finance for Governance will ensure that the chosen method is supported by appropriate management arrangements, adequate internal controls and audit review procedures and that suitable arrangements are made for the collection of payroll deductions and payment of these to the appropriate bodies.

The Payroll department must within 7 days of notification process any deduction from earnings request. Requests may come from the following sources:

- a) Government Bodies - HMRC
- b) Court Orders
- c) The Employee - PAYE, Staff Lottery

The National Health Service Superannuation Scheme (Scotland) is administered by the Scottish Office Pensions Agency and superannuation contributions are deducted from employees who are members of the scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Procedure for Employing Authorities together with the amendments which are issued from time to time in the form of circulars by the Agency.

10.4 Travel, Subsistence and other Allowances

The Director of Finance/Assistant Director of Finance for Governance will ensure that all expenses claimed by employees of the Board or outside parties are reimbursed in line with the relevant regulations. Claim forms for expenses will be in an approved format, and will be completed and authorised by an officer approved by the Director of Finance. Such forms will be accompanied by supporting vouchers (or supporting vouchers will be forwarded where claims are submitted electronically). These will be submitted timeously and/or in accordance with the agreed timetable.

The Health Board recognises that, in certain instances, it is necessary to provide assistance with removal / relocation in an effort to attract employees, where it is difficult to recruit locally.

To that end, reference to removal / relocation assistance will be made in the job information pack which is sent out to applicants. The actual level of assistance to be offered will be discussed with candidates and determined before an offer is made.

The Director of Human Resources will exercise discretion as to which posts apply provide advice on the level of financial assistance which will be provided.

10.5 Authorisation

All payments to staff will be subject to authorisation by a budget holder or other officer with delegated authority to approve payroll expenditure in that area. Such authorisation should be based on adequate review and, where reliance is placed on the work of others to carry out this review, must, as a minimum, include a specific review of any entries relating to officers whose work is being relied on.

Wherever possible, officers should not compile their own payroll input. Where it is unavoidable that the compiler of the payroll input is included on that input, then the entry in respect of the compiler must be initialled by the authorising officer.

Under no circumstance should officers authorise/approve their own payroll input or expenses. In addition, conflict of interest must be avoided and staff members must not authorise payments, including overtime payments, for family and friends and should declare any such interests to their line manager.

Where overtime is to be paid, the authorising officer must ensure that it has been properly approved by the budget holder in advance and that they are satisfied that the additional time has been worked and is in addition to the staff member's normal duties.

Once authorised, all payroll documents should be submitted directly to the Payroll department by the authorising officer. If this task is delegated, then steps should be taken to ensure that there are no amendments made following authorisation.

10.6 Responsibilities of Employees

All staff have a responsibility to check their payslip/e-payslip in order to ensure that they are being paid correctly. If an employee believes that they are being paid incorrectly – either being underpaid or overpaid – they should report the matter to their line manager or alternatively to the Pay Department using the contact information contained on their payslip. A failure to check that salary is being paid correctly will not in itself provide an employee with justification for refusing to repay any amount overpaid.

In addition, all underpayments require to be approved by the Assistant Director of Finance for Governance and Financial Accounting and/or the Associate Director of HR.

10.7 Contract of Employment

The Director of Human Resources is responsible for:

1. ensuring that all employees are issued with a Contract of Employment in a form approved by the Board and which complies with employment legislation; and
2. ensuring that variations to, or termination of, contracts of employment are dealt with by the appropriate officer, in line with the procedure in place for such instances.

11 NON-PAY EXPENDITURE

11.1 INTRODUCTION

All non-pay expenditure will be authorised, purchased and paid in accordance with these Standing Financial Instructions and the Board's Scheme of Delegation, ensuring that the Board achieves financial balance, procures best value for money goods and services, meets commercial best practice and complies with European and UK competition legislation.

11.2 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director of Finance will ensure that:

1. all accounts and claims are properly paid;
2. the Board is advised on the setting of thresholds above which quotations (competitive or otherwise) or formal tenders must be obtained;
3. these thresholds are regularly reviewed; and

The Head of Procurement is responsible for ensuring the preparation, maintenance and issue of procedural instructions on the procurement of goods, works and services incorporating these thresholds.

All non medicine procurements will be administered by the Procurement Department unless specific delegated purchasing authority has been granted by the Chief Executive..

The Director of Pharmacy will be responsible for the ordering of, the safe storage and distribution of medicines in accordance with the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

There must normally be segregation of duties between the activities of requisitioning, order approval, receipting and paying of goods and services. Exceptions are where:-

- a requisitioner's access permissions within PECOS are restricted by value, or, to specific catalogue items or suppliers. In this case a purchase order will be automatically generated by the system;
- where an order is placed with the National Distribution Centre it is regarded as a stock issue with no requirement for separate receipting of the goods.

The Director of Finance and Head of Procurement will ensure that appropriate segregation is in place at all times.

All officers must comply with the Code of Conduct for Staff and register any personal interest. Where an officer has an interest which relates, directly or indirectly, to any proposed purchase or contract, they must not take part in any aspect of the purchasing and procurement processes for that purchase or contract.

Any officer who is involved in any part of the contracting or purchasing process is responsible, as far as they are able, for ensuring that the Board is only committed to contracts or purchases which are in accordance with the Board's policies and which

give the Board maximum value for money when compared with any known alternatives.

No staff should make a binding commitment on behalf of the Board unless they have the delegated authority to do so. Any authorised commitments must be in writing. Staff should be aware that the terms of the Requirements of Writing (Scotland) Act 1995 states that the Board can be bound by a verbal undertaking given by an officer of the Board in the course of business.

11.3 NON-PAY EXPENDITURE APPROVAL PROCESS

Budgetary Control

No order will be placed or contract let for goods or services where there is no budget provision, unless authorised by the Director of Finance or the Chief Executive.

Contracts or orders will not be placed in a manner devised to avoid the financial limits specified by the Board.

Tendering and Quotations

All contracts and purchases will be tendered in accordance with SF12 “Procurement”, with the objective of securing goods and/or services of the necessary quality and quantity in accordance with the Board's objectives and strategies at the most economic rates. All procurements must be carried out in accordance with all relevant National and EU regulations, directives and guidelines.

The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations are applicable to all public sector organisations. These regulations are prescriptive in their requirements for public sector organisations and these SFI's are designed to ensure the Board's full compliance.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (and any subsequent amendments) is applicable to public sector procurements where specific provisions and requirements with regard to disclosure of information apply and may override commercial sensitivities in some circumstances if deemed in the public interest. Given the potential for commercial prejudice therefore, and the risks to the Board associated with compliance or non-compliance with the FOI Act, a structured and disciplined tender and contract award process taking into account FOI requirements shall apply in most circumstances. These SFIs set out appropriate responsibilities for designated officers with external commitment authority, who in turn shall ensure that tender and contract award processes meet the provisions and requirements of this regulation.

The Equality Act 2010 outlaws any discrimination, including any potential discrimination through the provision of goods and services. All public authorities therefore have a duty to take equality into account when procuring goods, works, or services from external providers. These SFI's set out appropriate responsibilities for designated officers with external commitment authority, who in turn shall ensure that tender and contract award processes meet the legal provisions and requirements and that suppliers and contractors adhere to the equality and diversity legislation and principles.

Contracts

By definition a contract is any agreement between the Board and other party/parties that is enforceable by the law. Contracts can be formed orally, in writing or even by conduct.

Where national, regional or local contracts exist (including framework agreements) the overriding principle is that use of these contracts is mandatory. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the authority of the Head of Procurement or the Director of Finance shall goods or services be ordered out-with such contracts. The Head of Procurement will maintain a record of any contracts placed out-with such contracts.

All contracts will have a sound basis in law and appropriate commercial contract conditions must be chosen to minimise the risk of any adverse litigation. Where appropriate, National Standard Forms will be used and where contracts are not of a standard form, the Central Legal Office should be consulted. Note that prior approval will be required prior to consulting CLO.

All non standard form contracts shall be approved and issued only by the Head of Procurement unless specific delegated authority has been granted by the Chief Executive or the Board.

Purchase Indents

Prior to any Official Order being raised a purchase indent must be submitted and approved in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Authorisation

All indents and associated orders for the purchase of items must be properly authorised in accordance with these SFI's. The ordering/authorising officer is responsible for satisfying himself that the Board's contracting and ordering instructions have been properly complied with before they sign an order and that the order does not commit the Board to expenditure in excess of the budgeted amount. The Director of Finance has responsibility, acting on behalf of the Chief Executive, for the setting of financial limits as defined in the Scheme of Delegation.

Delegation of Authority

The Board will approve the level of non-pay expenditure on an annual basis and the Chief Executive will determine the level of delegation to budget managers. The Board will maintain a Scheme of Delegation and all employees must comply with the limits set in all aspects of non-pay expenditure. The Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting) will be responsible for ensuring that schemes are consistent. Delegated limits will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting).

Indents/Requisitions for supplies can only be authorised by the budget holder of the directorate or department where the expenditure is planned and covered by available funds. The Director of Finance will ensure that there is a list of authorised signatories maintained for this purpose. Such delegated authority will be embedded in any electronic purchasing systems.

Purchase Orders

Only the Board's authorised ordering officers, as approved by the Director of Finance, shall approve purchase orders.

No goods or services may be ordered without the use of the Board's official order form, including electronic versions. No officer of the Board is permitted to make commitments out-with the official indenting and ordering processes unless the goods or services being procured have been generally or specifically exempted from these processes by the Chief Executive or Director of Finance.

The Head of Procurement will be responsible for ensuring that suppliers are made aware of the official ordering process.

Construction Procurement

All construction procurement will be made in accordance with SGHSCD guidance.

Trial/Loan Products

Products e.g. medical equipment, shall not be taken on trial or loan from suppliers or contractors unless authorised in accordance with these SFI's and the Scheme of Delegation and/or approved by the appropriate procurement department to ensure any arrangements are consistent with purchasing policy and do not commit the Board to a future uncompetitive purchase. The Board's Code of Conduct should be followed in these instances.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Director of Finance will ensure that there are adequate systems and procedural instructions covering the procurement process and the procedures for the verification, recording and payment of accounts and claims payable. These procedures will ensure that:

1. properly authorised accounts and claims are paid promptly in accordance with the terms of the Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998 (and any subsequent amendments) and payment of contract invoices is in accordance with contract terms, or otherwise in accordance with national guidance;
2. payment shall only be made for goods and services that have a corresponding official purchase order; and
3. payment for goods and services is only made when goods and services are received and accepted (excepting exceptional circumstances).

Specifically the system will include checks that:

1. goods received are in accordance with those ordered and that prices are correct or within tolerances approved by the Director of Finance.
2. work done or services rendered have been carried out satisfactorily and are in accordance with the order and the agreed contract terms.
3. in the case of contracts for measured time, materials or expenses, time is verified, rates are in accordance with those quoted, and materials or expenses are verified for quantity, quality and price.
4. expenditure is in accordance with regulations and authorisations.
5. the account is arithmetically correct.
6. VAT and other taxation is recovered where permitted by legislation.
7. the account is in order for payment.

Payments should not normally be made in advance of need i.e. before the liability to pay has matured. However, there may be certain exceptional circumstances where it is in the Board's interests to make such a payment. Under no circumstances should any advance payment be made where there is a risk to public funds.

The approval of the Director of Finance is required in any instances where payment for goods or services in advance is deemed to be required.

Where a manager certifying accounts relies upon other managers to do preliminary checking, they shall ensure that those officers are competent to do so and, wherever possible, ensure that those who check delivery or execution of work act independently of those who have placed orders and negotiated prices and terms.

In the case of contracts for building or engineering works that require payment to be made on account during progress of the works, the Board will make payment based on receipt of a certificate from the appropriate technical consultant or manager. Certificates will be subject to such examination as may be considered necessary before authorisation by the appropriate Director or their nominated deputy.

The Director of Finance may authorise advances on an imprest system for petty cash and other purposes as required. Individual payments must be restricted to the amounts authorised by the Director of Finance and must only be used for purposes where it is not appropriate to use the normal payment systems.

12 PROCUREMENT

Contracting and Purchasing

12.1 General

These Standing Financial Instructions define the arrangements for tendering or receipt of quotations and contracting requirements. They apply for procuring or ordering goods or services for which no applicable public sector contract or framework agreement currently exists. NSS National Procurement shall undertake procurement activity on a national basis on behalf of all NHS boards, and The Health Board shall implement these nationally negotiated contracts in accordance with CEL 05 (2012).

The Health Board shall comply with The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (and any subsequent relevant legislation) and the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (and any subsequent relevant legislation) for any procurement it undertakes directly.

The Director of Finance will set out:

- the list of managers who are authorised to place requisitions for the supply of goods and services; and
- the maximum level of each requisition and the system for authorisation above that level.
- procedures on the seeking of professional advice regarding the supply of goods and services:
- advise the Board of Directors regarding the setting of thresholds above which quotations (competitive or otherwise) or formal tenders must be obtained; and
- prepare comprehensive procedural instructions on the obtaining of goods, services and works, incorporating the thresholds set by the Board of Directors;

The requisitioner, in choosing the item to be supplied (or the service to be performed) shall always use contracts negotiated nationally by National Procurement for goods, services and equipment. Where these do not apply they will seek to obtain the best value for money for the Health Board through the application of these SFI's and of all relevant Financial Operating Procedures. In so doing, the advice of the Health Board's Head of Procurement or their team shall be sought.

12.2 Budget Provision

No order shall be issued or contract let for goods or services where there is no budget provision, unless authorised by the Director of Finance on behalf of the Chief Executive.

12.3 Official Orders

No request for any goods, services or works, shall be ordered without an official purchase order and suppliers shall be advised that they should not accept orders unless requested on an official purchase order. Verbal orders shall be issued only by an officer designated by the Chief Executive and only in cases of emergency or urgent necessity. These shall be confirmed by an official order issued no later than the next working day and clearly marked "Confirmation Order".

Orders shall not be placed in a manner devised to avoid the financial thresholds specified by the Board of Directors.

Goods, e.g. medical equipment, shall not be taken on trial or loan in circumstances that could commit the Health Board to a future uncompetitive purchase.

Official orders shall be issued by NHSGJ Procurement Department in a form approved by the Director of Finance and shall include such information concerning prices or costs as they may require. The orders shall be consecutively numbered and incorporate an obligation on the contractor to comply with the conditions printed thereon as regards delivery, carriage, documentation, variations, etc.

Orders shall only be issued following the authorisation of the relevant officer(s) described in the Scheme of Delegation or officers with the necessary delegated authority on the authorised signatories database.. Lists of authorised officers shall be maintained by the Finance Department and a copy of each list supplied to the Director of Finance and Head of Procurement.

The Health Board will not make payments in advance of need. However payment in advance of receipt of goods or services are permitted in circumstances approved by the Director of Finance. Examples of such instances are:

- Items such as conferences, courses and travel, where payment is to be made at the time of booking;
- Where payment in advance of complete delivery is a legal or contractual requirement, e.g. maintenance contracts, utilities, rates; and
- Where payment of in advance is necessary to support the provision of services /delivery of a project by external providers.

Changes to the list of Directors/employees authorised to certify invoices shall be notified to, and agreed with the Director of Finance

12.4 Competitive Tendering

The Health Board shall ensure that competitive tenders are invited for the supply of goods, materials and manufactured articles and for the rendering of all services and disposals unless:

Standing Order 9.1 Suspension of Standing Orders is applied.

- The supply has been arranged under a Framework Agreement
- The supply value is not greater than £10,000 (including vat)

- The supply value is greater than £10,000 (including vat) and the Director of Finance has approved a decision to waive the requirement to tender (see below)

The thresholds for the purchasing/ordering of all goods, services and works are as follows:

Contract value < £10,000	Achievement of value for money should be demonstrated
Contract value > £10,000 and < £50,000 (except public works) Public Works <£2m	Three competitive quotations sought via Quick Quote Portal on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) Website.
Contract value £50,000 or more over its lifetime (4 years maximum) (except public works) Public Works £2m or greater	Regulated Tender via Public Contracts Scotland Website and Find a Tender if greater than £138,760 (including vat)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised bi-annually

Formal quotations are required when the expected expenditure exceeds, or is reasonably expected to exceed, £10,000. All quotations will be advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland Portal (PCS) and issued to at least three suppliers.

Single Tender

Where only one tender is received the procurement department must ensure, as far as is practicable, that the price paid is fair and unreasonable. The reason for accepting a single tender should be documented.

Waiving of Tender/Quotation Procedure

Tendering procedures may be waived with the approval of the Chief Executive or Director of Finance (or nominee) where:

- a) The timescale genuinely precludes competitive tendering. Failure to plan the work properly is not a justification for single tender; or
- b) Specialist expertise is required and is available from only one source; or
- c) The task is essential to complete the project, and arises as a consequence of a recently completed assignment and engaging different consultants for the new task would be inappropriate; or
- d) There is clear benefit to be gained from maintaining continuity with an earlier project. However in such cases the benefits of such continuity must outweigh any potential financial advantage to be gained by competitive tendering; or
- e) Where provided for in the "SCIM".

The limited application of the single tender rules should not be used to avoid competition or for administrative convenience or to award further work to a consultant originally appointed through a competitive procedure.

Where it is decided that competitive tendering is not applicable and should be waived by virtue of the above, the fact of the waiver and the reasons should be documented and approved either by the Chief Executive, Director of Finance or nominee and the record retained by Procurement Department

12.5 Contracts

The Board may only enter into contracts within its statutory powers and shall comply with:

- Standing Orders
- Standing Financial Instructions
- EU Directives and other statutory provisions and any subsequent relevant legislation
- any relevant directions including the Scottish Capital Investment Manual and guidance on the Use of Management Consultants
- such of the NHS Standard Contract Conditions as are applicable

Where appropriate, Contracts shall be in or embody the same terms and conditions of contract as was the basis on which tenders or quotations were invited.

All contracts entered into by the Health Board shall contain clauses, empowering the Health Board to:

- cancel the contract and recover all losses in full where a company or their representative has offered, given or agreed to give, any inducement to Health Board officers.
- recover all losses in full or enforce specific performance where good or services are not delivered in line with contract terms.

The Health Board shall comply as far as is practicable with the Scottish Capital Investment Manual.

Contracts involving Funds held on Health Board shall do so individually to a specific named fund. Such contract involving charitable funds shall comply with the requirements of the Charities Acts.

Where consultancy advice is being obtained, the procurement of such advice must be in accordance with guidance issued by the Scottish Government Health Directorate - MEL (94) 4 which advises NHS Boards of the results of a review of the use of Management Consultants and sets out a course of action to be adopted. Management Consultants should only be used when documentary evidence of a benefit to the Board has been prepared.

All contracts, leases, tenancy agreements and other commitments which may result in a liability shall be notified to the Director of Finance in advance of any commitment being made.

The Director of Finance shall ensure that the arrangements for financial control and financial audit of building and engineering contracts and property transactions comply with the guidance contained within SCIM. The technical audit of these contracts shall be the responsibility of the Director of Finance.

12.6 Grants and similar payments

Any grants or similar payments to local authorities and voluntary organisations or other bodies shall comply with procedures laid down by the Director of Finance which shall be in accordance with the relevant Acts.

The financial limits for officers' approval of grants or similar payments are set out in the Scheme of Delegation.

12.7 In-House services

The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that best value for money can be demonstrated for all services provided under contract or in-house. The Board of Directors may also determine from time to time in-house services should be benchmarked. Where the Board of Directors determines that such in-house benchmarking should take place, this will be undertaken in conjunction with the Partnership Forum.

In all cases where the Health Board determines that in-house services should be subject to competitive tendering the following groups shall be set up:

- Specification group, comprising the Chief Executive or nominated officer(s) and specialist(s);
- In-house tender group, comprising representatives of the in-house team, a nominee of the Chief Executive and technical support;
- Evaluation group, comprising normally a specialist officer, a supplies' officer and a Director of Finance representative. For services having a likely annual expenditure exceeding £1m, a non Executive Director should be a member of the evaluation team.

All groups should work independently of each other but individual officers may be a member of more than one group. No member of the in-house tender group may, however, participate in the evaluation of tenders.

The evaluation group shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Chief Executive shall nominate an officer to oversee and manage the contract.

12.8 Agency Staff – Other Than Medical and Nursing

No agency should be contacted directly by employees other than department managers. If a need for agency staff is identified for a post that has been vacated temporarily then the following order of events should be observed by the appropriate line manager.

Assess all alternatives and evaluate cost effectiveness alongside service provision (i.e. overtime, secondment of staff, reallocation of duties, etc.) in deciding if there is a need to approach an agency.

Obtain and complete a 'Vacancy Approval Request' form. These forms can be obtained from the Recruitment section of the Human Resources Department.

Obtain authorisation from the relevant Services Manager or Head of Department to verify the need for agency staff and seconded by a Finance Manager to verify that the post is funded.

The complete form should be passed to the recruitment section or relevant department manager to initiate the supply of a suitable agency worker. Agency staff must be used for as short a period as possible, this period should not exceed six weeks. If agency cover is required for longer, the department must submit a statement of case to the Head of Department.

12.9 Agency Nurses

No agency should be contacted directly by staff other than Nurse Managers during working hours. If a need is identified out with working hours then only national contracted agencies should be approached, according to guidelines within the HDL (2006) 39 - Use of National Contracts for Agency Labour Purchase.

If agency staff have been obtained out with working hours then authorisation should be obtained retrospectively.

Before any agency is approached with a request to supply staff, authorisation must be obtained from the appropriate Nurse Manager,

12.10 Management Consultants (excluding Medical Staff)

The decision to engage the services of Consultants will be documented as the conclusion of an option appraisal.

Written agreement must be obtained from an Executive Director of the Board prior to commencing the recruitment of Consultants.

Appointment of Consultants must be carried out following a due process of competition for the business to be awarded. Wherever possible this should be by competitive tender. Competitive offer / tender analysis should be done by completing a score sheet for the key objectives and criteria of all pertinent points for the project under consideration.

References should be obtained from potential Consultants and validated to ensure they are capable of carrying out the assignment.

Where it is not initially possible to provide potential Consultants with a detailed brief of the assignment the competitive process will be by written presentations, with outline / indicative costings, submitted to an Executive Director.

Where there is a probability of successive assignments these must be identified at the commencement and tendered as a package or be individually subject to competition as they arise.

When these may be follow on assignments, a tender exercise must be conducted to provide a call off arrangement with all basic fees and expenses fully detailed in the tender submission.

The Boards standard conditions of contract for consultancy services will apply to all appointments of consultants. Any variations from the standard conditions that arise subject to negotiations must be agreed in writing by an Executive Director of the Board.

The level of expenses payable must be agreed prior to the appointment of Consultants. The expenses payable should not exceed 5% of the Consultancy Fee and where possible should be defined amounts. Any public travel costs or car mileage payments will not exceed the rate payable to the Boards own staff. (Mileage rates for standard users).

A performance review will be conducted before final payment to the Consultants to ensure that the remit and terms of reference have been fulfilled in total and that the outcome report represents value for money.

If the Performance Review results in a negative assessment, in whole or in part, then the defective or deficient work will require to be performed again by the Consultants without additional charge, or a reduced final fee paid.

12.11 Register of Interest

Acceptance of Financial Assistance, Gifts and Hospitality and Declaration of Interest

The principles relating to the acceptance by Health Service staff of financial assistance, gifts and hospitality from commercial sources and declaration of interest are stated in NHS MEL(1994)48 "Standard of Business Conduct for NHS Staff" with regard to acceptance of financial assistance, gifts and hospitality and declaration of interest. https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/GEN1989_32.pdf.

This should be read as part of these Standing Financial Instructions. In addition the Board Conflicts of Interest Policy should be read in line with this instruction.

[The register covering acceptance of financial assistance, gifts and hospitality is maintained by the Finance Department.](#)

In any circumstances where a staff member or representative of the Board has an interest, pecuniary or otherwise, in the outcome of a tender or quotation, the officer concerned must declare his/her interest, and withdraw from all contracting/purchasing arrangements concerning that item.

No order shall be issued for any item or items for which an offer of gifts, (other than low cost items, e.g. calendars/diaries/pens, etc), or hospitality has been received from the person interested in supplying goods and services. This should be in accordance with the Standards of Business Conduct for Staff. If staff is in any doubt about the application of these Procedures, they should consult their Head of Department/Unit Manager before agreeing to or accepting an offer. Visits at supplier's expense to inspect equipment etc must not be undertaken unless in accordance with the Standards of Business Conduct and approved by the Chief Executive.

13 STORES AND RECEIPT OF GOODS

Stores levels should be kept to a minimum consistent with operational efficiency.

Those stores designated by the Director of Finance as comprising more than 10 days of normal use should be:

- subjected to continuous or periodic, at least annual stocktake
- valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, for this purpose, cost will be ascertained on either the basis of weighted average cost
- A regular review of stock products should be made to ensure efficient stock turnover levels are maintained.

Subject to the responsibility of the Director of Finance for the system of control, the overall control of stores shall be the responsibility of officers delegated by the Chief Executive. The day-to-day management may be delegated to departmental officers and Stores Managers/Keepers, subject to such delegation being entered in a record available to the Director of Finance.

The control of Pharmaceutical stocks shall be the responsibility of a designated pharmaceutical officer; the control of fuel, oil and coal of a designated estates manager. Wherever practicable, stocks will be marked as Board property.

The appropriate manager or Head of Department will have the responsibility for security arrangements and the custody of keys for all stores locations.

The Director of Finance shall set out procedures and systems to regulate the stores including records for receipt of goods, issues, and returns to stores, and losses.

Stocktaking arrangements will be agreed with the Director of Finance and there will be a physical check covering all items in store at least once a year or, where approved by the Director of Finance, "Continuous Stock Checking". The stocktaking records will be numerically controlled and signed by the officers undertaking this check. Any surpluses or deficiencies revealed on stocktaking will be reported to the Director of Finance immediately and investigated as necessary. Known losses of items not on stores control will be reported to the Director of Finance.

Where a complete system of stores control is not justified, alternative arrangements shall require the approval of the Director of Finance.

The designated manager/pharmaceutical officer shall be responsible for a system approved by the Director of Finance for a review of slow moving and obsolete items and for condemnation, disposal, and replacement of all unserviceable articles. The designated officer shall report to the Director of Finance any evidence of significant overstocking and of any negligence or malpractice (see also SFI 18, Disposals, Condemnations, Losses and Special Payments). Procedures for the disposal of obsolete stock shall follow the procedures set out for disposal of all surplus and obsolete goods.

Stocks, which have deteriorated, or are not usable for any other reason for their intended purposes, or may become obsolete, will be written down to their net realisable value. The write down must be approved by the Director of Finance or other approved delegate and recorded.

14 PATIENTS' PROPERTY

The Health Board has a responsibility to provide safe custody for money and other personal property (hereafter referred to as "property") handed in by patients, in the possession of unconscious or confused patients, or found in the possession of patients dying in hospital or dead on arrival.

The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that patients or their guardians, as appropriate, are informed by:

- Notices or information booklets
- Hospitals admission documentation and property records
- The oral advice of administrative or nursing staff responsible for admissions,

that Board will not accept responsibility or liability for patients' property brought into Board premises, unless it is handed in for safe custody and a receipt is obtained acknowledging property handed over.

The Director of Finance will ensure that there are detailed written instructions on the collection, custody, recording, safekeeping, and disposal of patients' property (including instructions on the disposal of property of deceased patients and patients transferred to other premises) for all staff whose duty it is to administer, in any way, the property of patients. These instructions will incorporate the guidance on this subject issued from time to time by the SGHSCD. The Director of Finance will also have procedures in place to deal with the loss of patients' property.

Any money or property handed over for safekeeping will be evidenced by the issue of an official receipt. Staff should be informed, on appointment, by the appropriate departmental or senior manager of their responsibilities and duties for the administration of the property of patients

Records of patients' property shall be completed by a member of the hospital staff in the presence of a second member of staff and in the presence of the patient or the personal representative, where practicable. It should be signed by the member of staff and by the patient, except where the latter is restricted by physical or mental incapacity, in which case it should be witnessed by the signature of a second staff member.

In all cases where property, including cash and valuables, of a deceased patient is of a total value of more than £36,000 (or such other amount as may be prescribed by legislation and advised by the SGHSCD), production of a Confirmation of Estate will be required before any of the property is released. Where the total value of the property is less than £36,000 forms of indemnity will be obtained (although confirmation of estate should still be obtained in instances where dispute is likely).

In respect of a deceased patient's property, if there is no will and no lawful kin, the property vests in the Crown, and particulars will, therefore, be notified to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.

Staff should be informed on appointment, by the appropriate departmental or senior manager, of their responsibilities and duties for the administration of the property of patients.

Staff should not benefit directly or indirectly from the management of patients' private funds or property. Where it could be perceived that a member of staff may benefit, directly or indirectly (e.g. through accompanying a patient on holiday), then the expenditure and activity should be approved by the Multi-disciplinary Review Team.

The Board is not authorised to hold funds or valuables on behalf of patients in a community setting. Staff should decline requests to do so otherwise they could become personally liable in the event of loss.

The Director of Finance will ensure completion of SFR 19.0 Patients Private Funds, for inclusion within the Statutory Annual Accounts, and that proper arrangements are in place for the annual audit of Private Patients Funds by a separately appointed external Auditor.

15. FINANCIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

15.1 CODE OF PRACTICE ON OPENNESS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Code of Practice on Openness was originally produced by the NHS in Scotland Management Executive and sets out the basic principles underlying public access to information about the NHS in Scotland. All staff have a duty to comply with the Code.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) places an obligation on public bodies to provide information, subject to certain exemptions (such as personal information etc.), to anyone who asks for it. Any request for information in permanent form (i.e. non verbal) is a FOISA request and must be responded to, within 20 working days. A number of officers throughout NHSGGC have been trained in the requirements of FOISA. Anyone receiving a formal request for information should immediately pass it to one of the FOISA trained officers or, alternatively, the Head of Corporate Governance and Administration. Staff should continue to respond timeously to general requests for information, where it has been customary to do so, without reference to FOISA officers.

15.2 CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

All employees have a responsibility to treat as confidential information which may be available to them, obtained by them or derived by them whilst employed by NHS Golden Jubilee. They should not breach this duty of confidence by disclosing confidential information, using it in an unauthorised manner, or providing access to such information to unauthorised individuals or organisations.

Executive Directors and Heads of Department are responsible for the security and accuracy of data relating to their area of responsibility. In particular, the Director of Finance is responsible for the security of NHS Golden Jubilee data processed and stored by information systems designed or procured under his responsibility. They are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and security of NHS Golden Jubilee's financial data, including that held on and processed by computer.

In discharging these responsibilities, Directors should follow the guidelines contained in NHS DL (2015) 17 Information Governance and Security Improvement Measures 2015-2017.

These instructions should be read in conjunction with:-

1. the Computer Misuse Act 1990 (as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015);
2. the Data Protection Regulations;
3. NHS CEL (2011) 25 – Safeguarding the Confidentiality of Personal Data Processed by Third Party Contractors;
4. NHS CEL (2012) 25 – NHS Scotland Mobile Data Protection Standard; and
5. NHS Scotland Code of Practice - Protecting Patient Confidentiality

15.3 CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Under the terms of NHS MEL (1999) 19 and subsequent guidance issued by the SGHSCD, NHS Golden Jubilee has nominated the Medical Director as the Caldicott Guardian to “safeguard and govern the uses made within NHS Golden Jubilee of patient identifiable information including both clinical and non clinical information.”

15.4 RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT

The Director of Finance or the Medical Director must be consulted in the event of a conflict arising between NHS Golden Jubilee's obligations under the Code of Practice on Openness/FOISA and the need to maintain confidentiality.

15.5 COMPUTERISED FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

The Director of Finance, who is responsible for the accuracy and security of the computerised financial data of NHS Golden Jubilee, will ensure that:

1. procedures are devised and implemented to ensure adequate protection of NHS Golden Jubilee's data, programs and computer hardware, for which he is responsible, from accidental or intentional disclosure to unauthorised persons, deletion or modification, theft or damage, having due regard for the Data Protection Regulations;
2. adequate controls exist over data entry, processing, storage, transmission and output, to ensure security, privacy, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the data, as well as the efficient and effective operation of the system;
3. adequate controls exist such that the computer operation is separated from systems development, maintenance and amendment;
4. an adequate audit trail exists through the computerised system and that such computer audit reviews as they may consider necessary are being carried out.
5. The Director of Finance will ensure that new financial systems and amendments to current financial systems are developed in a controlled manner and thoroughly tested prior to implementation. Where this is undertaken by another organisation, assurances of adequacy will be obtained from them prior to implementation.
6. The Director of Finance will ensure that contracts for computer services for financial applications with another health organisation, other agency or external supplier shall clearly define the responsibility of all parties for the security, privacy, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of data during processing, transmission and storage. The contract will also ensure the rights of access for audit purposes and the Director of Finance will periodically seek assurances that adequate controls are in operation.

Where computer systems have an impact on corporate financial systems, the Director of Finance must be satisfied that:

1. the acquisition, development and maintenance of such systems are in line with corporate policies including NHS Golden Jubilee's Digital Strategy;

2. data produced for use with financial systems is adequate, accurate, complete and timely, and that a management audit trail exists;
3. finance staff have access to such data; and
4. such computer audit reviews as are considered necessary are being carried out.

15.6 RETENTION OF RECORDS

The Scottish Government Records Management NHS Code of Practice version 2.1 January 2012 provides guidance on the required standards of practice in the management of records for those who work within or under contract to NHS Golden Jubilee. It is based on legal requirements and professional best practice.

The Code of Practice encompasses the requirements of:

- Public Records (Scotland) Act 1937; as amended by the
- Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011;
- Data Protection Regulations;
- Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002;
- NHS Scotland Code of Practice on Protecting Patient Confidentiality; and
- Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004;

Any other relevant laws or regulations and subsequent instructions/guidance issued by the SGHSCD must also be complied with when considering retention of records.

The Director of Digital and eHealth will issue guidance on this matter as required and in cases of doubt their advice should be obtained.

16. AUDIT

16.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

In accordance with Standing Orders and as set out in guidance issued under NHS MEL (1994) 80, the Board has established an Audit Committee. This is known as the Audit and Risk Committee.

The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist the Board to deliver its responsibilities for the conduct of public business, and the stewardship of funds under its control. In particular, the Committee will seek to provide assurance to the Board that an appropriate system of internal control and risk management is in place to ensure that:

1. business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards governing the NHS and its interface with partner organisations;
2. public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for;
3. financial statements are prepared timeously, and give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board for the period in question; and
4. reasonable steps are taken to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Audit and Risk Committee will support the Board and the Accountable Officer by reviewing the comprehensiveness, reliability and integrity of assurances provided to meet the assurance needs of the Board and Accountable Officer. In this context, assurance is defined as an evaluated opinion, based on evidence gained from review, on the organisation's governance, risk management and internal control framework.

The Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee will be reviewed and approved annually by the Board.

Where the Audit and Risk Committee suspects there is evidence of ultra vires transactions, evidence of improper acts, or if there are other important matters that the Committee wish to raise, the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee should raise the matter at a full meeting of the Board. Exceptionally, the matter may need to be referred to the SGHSCD.

The Director of Finance will be responsible for ensuring that an adequate internal audit service is provided. The Audit and Risk committee has a key role in ensuring the effectiveness of the internal audit functions including:

- Overseeing the selection process for new internal auditors.
- Reviewing and agreeing the annual internal audit work plan.
- Ensuring recommendations are actioned by the Executive Leadership Team.
- Disseminating audit reports to the relevant Board Committees.
- Encouraging the use of audit reports as improvement tools.
- Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the audit team.
- Awarding and termination of the contract for internal audit services.
- Accounting Policies,
- Annual accounts.
- Standing Financial Instructions.

The Director of Finance will be responsible for arranging the resources required to carry out any review or investigation which is commissioned directly by the Audit and Risk Committee under its Terms of Reference.

16.2 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Board's Accounts must be audited by auditors appointed by the Scottish Ministers. Under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000, the Auditor General for Scotland will secure the audit of the Board's Accounts on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

The audit will be carried out in accordance with the Audit Scotland Code of Audit Practice and such other relevant legislation, directions and guidance as may be in force at the time.

The external auditor as appointed by the Audit Scotland, on behalf of the SGHSCD has a general duty to satisfy himself that:

- the Health Board's accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with directions given under Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000;
- proper accounting practices have been observed in the preparation of the accounts; and
- the Health Board has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

In addition to these responsibilities, the Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice requires the appointed auditor to consider:

- whether the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Health Board;
- the arrangements in place at the Health Board for the prevention and detection of fraud and corruption;
- aspects of the performance of particular services and activities; and
- the Health Board's management arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

The Director of Finance will ensure that:

1. the external auditors receive full co-operation in the conduct of the audit;
2. the Final Report to Board Members together with the audited Accounts are presented timeously to the Board for noting and adoption, and the adopted Accounts are subsequently forwarded to the SGHSCD; and
3. action is taken in respect of all recommendations contained in the external auditor's reports and letters in accordance with the timetable agreed with the external auditor.

The Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Board's relations with the external auditors including reviewing the scope of the annual audit plan. The external auditor will normally be expected to attend Audit and Risk Committee meetings and has a right of access to the Chair of the Board, all Audit and Risk Committee Members and other Members of the Board. The external auditor will meet on at least one occasion each year with the Audit and Risk

Committee without the Director of Finance, other Executive Directors or Board staff being present.

16.3 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Director of Finance is responsible for:

1. ensuring that there are arrangements to review, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of internal financial control by the establishment of an internal audit function headed by a Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager of sufficient status;
2. ensuring that the internal audit service is adequate and meets NHS mandatory standards;
3. ensuring that responses to internal audit reports are provided timeously and that internal audit recommendations are implemented as agreed; and
4. ensuring that, in cases of fraud, the NHS Counter Fraud Service is notified without delay, in accordance with the Partnership Agreement with NHS Counter Fraud Services.

The Director of Finance will ensure that cases of fraud, misappropriation or other irregularities are investigated in accordance with the Fraud Policy approved by the Board.

The Director of Finance will ensure that there is adequate communication between the external and internal auditors to avoid unnecessary overlapping of work.

16.4 INTERNAL AUDIT

The role of internal audit will be based upon the guidance contained in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAs). These standards are mandatory and specifically it will be the responsibility of the Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager to effectively manage the internal audit activity to ensure it adds value to the organisation.

The role of the internal audit team should include:

1. Reviewing accounting and internal control systems;
2. Reviewing the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of operations;
3. Assisting with the identification of significant risks;
4. Examining financial and operating information;
5. Special investigations;
6. Reviewing compliance with legislation and other external regulations.

The Director of Finance or other officers, such as the Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager, Fraud Liaison Officer or NHS Counter Fraud Staff acting on the Director of Finance's behalf [including staff of third parties if the internal audit service is outsourced] will be entitled, without necessarily giving prior notice, to require and receive:

1. access to all records, documents and correspondence relating to any financial or other relevant transactions, including documents of a confidential nature (in which case there will be a duty to safeguard that confidentiality);

2. access at all reasonable times to any premises or land of the Board;
3. the production or identification by any employee of any Board cash, stores, or other property under the employee's control; and
4. explanations concerning any matter under investigation.

The Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager will report directly to the Director of Finance, and copy all reports to him. The Director of Finance will ensure that appropriate responses are provided and action is taken in respect of all internal audit reports.

1. the timetable for completion of reports and provision of responses will be as agreed between the Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager and the Director of Finance.
2. where, in exceptional circumstances, the use of normal reporting channels would be seen as a possible limitation of the objectivity of the audit, the Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager will seek the advice of the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee or Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board.
3. failure to take any necessary remedial action within a reasonable period will be reported to the Chief Executive.

The Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager will normally attend Audit and Risk Committee meetings and has a right of access to the Chairman of the Board, all Audit and Risk Committee Members and other Members of the Board. The internal auditor will meet on at least one occasion each year with the Audit and Risk Committee without the Director of Finance, other Executive Directors or Board staff being present.

The Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager will prepare an annual audit report for consideration of the Audit and Risk Committee. The report must cover:

1. a statement on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Board's internal controls based on the audit work undertaken during the year;
2. major internal control weaknesses identified;
3. progress on the implementation of internal audit recommendations; and
4. progress against the internal audit annual plan over the previous year.

The Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager will prepare a strategic audit plan for consideration and approval of the Audit and Risk Committee. The plan will normally cover a period of three years and will be based on an assessment of the risks facing the Board. Each year the Chief Internal Auditor/Audit Manager should update the plan and re-present it to the Audit and Risk Committee for approval.

The Strategic Audit Plan will be translated into an agreed Annual Plan which identifies the specific subjects to be audited in the coming year including any provision for contingencies and ad hoc work.

17 CONDEMNATIONS, LOSSES AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

17.1 INTRODUCTION

The Director of Finance is responsible for ensuring that effective controls are developed and maintained to prevent fraud and to ensure that if it does occur it will be detected promptly.

Any officer discovering or suspecting a loss of any kind will immediately inform his supervisor who will advise the Director of Finance or his authorised representative forthwith.

Where a criminal offence is suspected, the Health Board's Fraud Policy and Investigation Procedure will be implemented (SFI21).

The Board of Directors shall approve the writing-off of losses. The Board of Directors shall delegate its responsibility for the approval of write-off and authorisation of special payments in accordance with the approved Scheme of Delegation in Standing Orders.

17.2 CATEGORIES OF LOSS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

The Board's powers to write off losses and authorise special payments are divided into seven main categories:

Losses

- a) cash losses (due to theft, fraud, overpayment, etc)
- b) claims abandoned
- c) losses of furniture and equipment, bedding and linen in circulation
- d) stores losses

Special Payments

- e) compensation payments (made under legal obligation)
- f) ex-gratia payments
- g) damage to buildings and fixtures

The Director of Finance shall notify the Scottish Government Health Directorate of all frauds in accordance with Health Board Manual for Accounts (SFR 18).

For losses apparently caused by theft, frauds, arson, neglect of duty or gross carelessness, except if trivial and where fraud is not suspected, the Director of Finance shall immediately notify:

- the Board of Directors
- the Statutory Auditor
- Counter Fraud Services

17.3 CONDEMNED ARTICLES

All articles surplus to requirements or unserviceable will be condemned and appropriately disposed of by an officer authorised for that purpose by management.

The condemning officer will satisfy himself as to whether or not there is evidence of negligence in use and will report any such evidence to management who will take appropriate action. Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a criminal offence has been committed, action will proceed as in section 21.

17.4 RECORDING AND AUTHORISATION OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS

The Director of Finance shall prepare procedural instructions on the recording of and accounting for condemnations, losses, and special payments.

Management will maintain Losses and Special Payments Registers in which details of all losses and special payments will be recorded, as they are known. A summary of information contained in these registers will be sent annually to the SGHSCD.

For any loss, the Director of Finance should consider whether any insurance claim could be made.

No special payments exceeding delegated limits determined by the Board of Directors shall be made.

17.5 BANKRUPTICES AND LIQUIDATIONS

The Director of Finance shall be authorised to take any necessary steps to safeguard the Health Board's interest in bankruptcies and company liquidations.

17.6 INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Director of Finance will make arrangements for insurance in relation to the Board's assets and activities in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the SGHSCD. Arrangements will be made to report losses regularly to the Board's Insurer.

This instruction should be read in line with the Endowments Operating Procedure and Charter which cover the operation of endowment funds.

18 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

18.1 GENERAL

Endowment funds are defined as money or property donated to the Board and held on trust for such purposes relating to services provided under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 or in relation to hospitals, or to the functions of the Board with respect to research, as the Board may think fit. The Board is appointed as a corporate trustee to hold the funds and property attributable to the endowment funds and Board members are appointed as Trustees of the endowment funds.

The endowments are constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. As the NHSGGC Endowment Funds are registered with the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) the Trustees must also comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The legally registered name of the charity is the National Waiting Times Centre Board Endowment Funds. "NHS Golden Jubilee Endowment Funds" is the common name used to define the entity/organisation whose legal name is National Waiting Times Centre Board Endowment Funds.

The endowment Trustees are all the members of the Board. They are responsible for the general control and management of the charity in accordance with the National Waiting Times Centre Board Endowment Funds Charter and operating policies and procedures. Fundholders must comply with the Endowment Operating Instructions which are available on the Intranet.

18.2 RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH RECEIVING CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The purpose of the Board's endowment funds is the advancement of health through;

- (a) improvement in the physical and mental health of the local population;
- (b) the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness;
- (c) the provision of services and facilities in connection to the above; and
- (d) the research into any matters relating to the causation, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness, or into such other matters relating to the health service as the Trustees see fit.
- (e) education and development in connection to the above.

Charitable donations should only be accepted by the Trustees where they are consistent with this purpose.

The receipt of a charitable donation can attract substantial media interest, particularly where it represents a considerable amount of money. The Trustees must consider whether there are reasons why a donation might be inappropriate and should therefore be refused. While the following list is not exhaustive, it sets out circumstances where a donation should be refused.

- It specifies further requirements that the Board cannot meet.
- It specifies conditions which are incompatible with the purpose of the Board's endowments.
- Onerous conditions are attached to the donation, which are not acceptable or cannot be met. For example, where the donation is for the provision of particular equipment or facilities, and the running of which would not be cost-effective or would be unaffordable.
- The acceptance of a donation places the Board under any inappropriate obligation. For example to provide any preferential NHS treatment to parties specified by the donor.
- It would be wrong to accept the donation on ethical grounds. Acceptance of a gift from a particular source may be incompatible with the ethos of the Health Service, or be likely to alienate beneficiaries or other potential donors.
- The acceptance of the donation could result in unacceptable controversy or adverse publicity. For example, the charitable donation should not benefit the person or organisation making the charitable donation at the expense of NHS patients as a whole.
- The donation is made payable to individual members of staff.

Rather than having to refuse a potential donation, it may be possible to discuss with the donor or their legal adviser in the case of a draft will, a change to the terms of the proposal. The Board should, however, encourage people to make a general donation for Health Service purposes as this gives the greatest flexibility in the application of donations.

18.3 ACCEPTANCE OF NON-CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Donations should only be accepted where they are compatible with the "advancement of health" as this is the purpose applicable to the Board's endowment funds. Other donations should not be accepted by Endowments. Commercial Research funds or any income received in payment for services provided by the Board should be treated as exchequer rather than endowment income and administered by the Board. This guidance does not cover patients' monies or staff funds.

18.4 APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE

Expenditure from Endowment Funds is restricted to the purpose(s) of the appropriate Fund and can only be made with the approval of the Trustees. Such approval will be delegated to the Director of Finance to authorise expenditure from the General Funds.

Designated fundholders will be responsible for authorising/controlling expenditure incurred on those accounts for which they have designated fundholder responsibilities. They will be able to approve individual items of expenditure of up to £10,000 or such other amount as the Trustees may agree from time to time. For individual expenditure items in excess of £10,000 (or other agreed amount) up to a ceiling of £50,000, it will be necessary to obtain additional authorisation from two of the following:

- Chief Executive

- Director of Finance,
- Director of Operations

Individual expenditure items in excess of £50,000 must be authorised by the Trustees.

Any expenditure incurred from Endowment Funds must comply with SFI 10 – Procurement.

18.5 CUSTODY AND SECURITY OF ASSETS

All gifts must be held in the Boards name in bank accounts specified for Endowments and withdrawals may only be sanctioned by authorised signatories.

The Trustees can only accept gifts for purposes relating to the advancement of health. In cases of doubt, the Director of Finance should be consulted.

Assets in the ownership of, or used by, the Board as corporate trustee shall be maintained along with the general estate and inventory of assets of the Board.

18.6 INVESTMENT

Endowment Funds will be invested by the investment managers appointed by the Trustees of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde who manage the investment on behalf of the Board Endowment Fund. The investment managers will have full discretionary powers but subject to any restrictions that the Trustees may impose from time to time.

18.7 CONTROL OF ENDOWMENT FUNDS

The Director of Finance will prepare and issue procedures in respect of Board funds. These procedures should cover the following matters:

1. governing instruments for every fund;
2. controls and authorisation to open new funds;
3. treatment of offers of new funds;
4. legacies and bequests;
5. controls over and authorisation of expenditure including lists of authorised signatories;
6. the accounts and records necessary to account for all transactions;
7. fund-raising;
8. trading income;
9. investment income; and
10. periodic reporting of balances.

The Director of Finance must ensure that:

1. the Trustees are advised on banking arrangements and with Board approval, securing the appropriate banking services;
2. the Trustees receive reports on receipt of funds, investment and any other matters agreed by the Board of Trustees;
3. annual accounts are prepared in the required manner within the agreed time-scales;

4. internal and external audit services are in place;
5. the Trustees receive reports on the outcome of the annual audit;
6. the Funds' liability to taxation and excise duty is managed appropriately; and
7. legal advice is obtained where necessary.

19 RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

19.1 GENERAL

The Chief Executive shall ensure that the Health Board has a strategy of risk management, which will be approved and monitored by the Board of Directors.

The Clinical Governance Manager will be responsible for the management of claims and in this capacity will liaise closely with the Central Legal Office to ensure that all Clinical and Non-Clinical claims are appropriately investigated and processed. The Assistant Director of Finance is responsible for managing the financial elements of claims and liaises with the Director of Finance with regard to this.

The strategy of risk management shall include, inter alia:

- a process for identifying and quantifying risks and potential liabilities;
- engendering among all levels of staff a positive attitude towards the control of risk;
- management processes to ensure all significant risks and potential liabilities are addressed including effective systems of internal control, cost effective insurance cover, and decisions on the acceptable level of retained risk;
- maintenance of an organisation wide risk register
- contingency plans to offset the impact of adverse events;
- audit arrangements including; internal audit, clinical audit, health and safety review; and
- arrangements to review the risk management strategy.
- a clear indication of which risks are/shall be insured

The existence, integration and evaluation of the above elements will assist in providing a basis to make a statement on the effectiveness of risk management arrangement in the organisation as required by current guidance on the Governance statement within the annual accounts.

19.2 SCHEME OF FINANCIAL DELEGATION

The Director of Finance is the nominated officer for agreeing settlements with the Central Legal Office. Where financial settlements have been negotiated the scheme of delegation is as follows:

- The Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting) may agree claim settlements up to £10,000
- The Medical Director in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Chief Executive Officer may agree settlement up to £100,000
- The Director of Finance will refer settlement in any case where the principal sum is expected to be over £100,000 to the Medical Director, the Nurse Director, the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting) and the Head of Clinical Governance.
- For settlements above £100,000 there is a requirement to seek the approval of SGHSCD.

The Clinical Governance Manager and the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting) will ensure that the Chief Executive, the Medical Director and the Director of Finance are made aware of all claim settlements on a quarterly basis.

For Procedural Guidelines, please refer to the Claims Policy.

19.3 CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE AND OTHER RISKS (CNORIS)

The management of the Board's financial risk arising from Clinical Negligence, and, selected aspects of Non-clinical Risk, is by CNORIS an insurance based approach managed by NSS on behalf of the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorate. NSS are responsible for processing claims, for the database and production of the next quarterly report thereafter. All claims in relation to CNORIS are submitted to and processed by NSS.

The scheme consists of a single pool of funds to meet claims. The SGHSCD fund all large losses during each financial year. At the end of the financial year, they collect funds from the members to pay back the deficit accrued in-year by SGHSCD. In eliminating the need to forecast losses, or to reserve funds within the scheme, members contribute to losses only during the period in which they have settled.

The Board shall decide if all insurance either through CNORIS/commercial insurance or self-insurance covers NWT CB for the risk areas (clinical, property and employers/third party liability).

There are occasions where commercial insurance arrangement will be required e.g. motor vehicles owned by the Board.

The Director of Finance shall ensure that insurance arrangements exist in accordance with the risk management strategy.

19.4 AUTHORISATION OF LEGAL FEES

A list of Board employees authorised to access the CLO has been agreed and established and is held by the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting). Any additions / deletions to this list must be authorised by the relevant Executive Director and advised to the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting).

A copy of this list is held by the Central Legal Office and they have been instructed to deal only with those named on the list. The Board will only accept invoices from the CLO which relate to the authorised officers.

It is the duty of each Authorised Officer to advise their staff of the procedure, and to ensure that no unauthorised persons approach the Central Legal Office.

Authorising officers have a responsibility to ensure compliance with controls put in place to minimise the possibility of the advice or service that is being requested duplicating legal work previously carried out for the Board.

Where possible the requesting of CLO services should be established through electronic mail. This represents the most effective and cost efficient means of communication and its use is strongly supported by the CLO.

20 FRAUD, LOSSES AND LEGAL CLAIMS

20.1 FRAUD, OTHER CRIMINAL OFFENCES AND FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES

The Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, is responsible for ensuring that all suspected fraud, theft, bribery, corruption and other financial irregularities are investigated and appropriate action taken. Operational responsibility for this is delegated to the Director of Finance and/or NHS Golden Jubilee's Fraud Liaison Officer, who will take/instruct the necessary action and keep the Chief Executive informed of any salient issues, or where controversy may arise. NHS Golden Jubilee has a formal Fraud Policy, which sets out the Board's policy and individuals' responsibilities. The Policy is supported by a formal Partnership Agreement with NHS Counter Fraud Service which details the action to be taken when fraud, theft, corruption or other financial irregularities are suspected (ensuring compliance with circular DL(2019)04. The following paragraphs provide an outline of the requirements but the Fraud Policy should be referred to for further detail.

The definitions of fraud, corruption and embezzlement (generally referred to as "fraud") and the related activity of theft are contained in the Fraud Policy, and are as follows:-

Fraud: the use of deception with the intention of obtaining an advantage, avoiding an obligation or causing loss to another party.

Bribery or Corruption: the offering, giving, soliciting or acceptance of an inducement or reward which may influence the action of any person.

Embezzlement: the felonious appropriation of property by a person to which it has been entrusted.

Theft: the dishonest appropriation of property without the consent of the rightful owner or other lawful authority.

The Board will take appropriate legal and/or disciplinary action against any employee, director, contractor or other third party if any of the above offences are found to be proven. In instances where there is sufficient evidence to support a criminal prosecution there is a presumption that a referral will be made to the Procurator Fiscal for consideration.

Every officer has a duty to report, without delay, any instances of fraud, corruption, embezzlement, theft or other financial irregularities that they discover. This also includes any reasonably held suspicions that such circumstances have occurred (or are about to occur). This should normally be reported to the officer's line manager, in the first instance, but may be directly to the Fraud Liaison Officer if there are concerns about reporting to the line manager. NHS Golden Jubilee encourages anyone having reasonably held suspicions of fraud, or other irregularity, to report it. Individuals should have no fear of reporting such matters unless they know their allegations to be groundless and/or raised maliciously.

In cases where fraud, bribery, corruption or embezzlement is suspected, all investigations must be carried out by staff from NHS Counter Fraud Service. Line managers must therefore immediately contact the Fraud Liaison Officer who will arrange preliminary discussions with NHS Counter Fraud Service. No action should

be taken, that may prejudice the outcome of any potential criminal prosecution, prior to consultation with the Fraud Liaison Officer and NHS Counter Fraud Service. This does not however prevent immediate action being taken where there are issues regarding safety and/or suspicions that evidence may be destroyed. Further guidance is available from the Fraud Liaison Officer.

In cases of theft, line managers should contact the appropriate Director who will contact the police. Local managers in collaboration with the relevant Director should assume that they have delegated authority to investigate minor thefts (subject to the approval of their service head) but should still contact the Fraud Liaison Officer in cases of doubt and where they may require specialist assistance. Any major thefts, a series of thefts or theft involving some form of deception should be discussed immediately with the Fraud Liaison Officer as these may require investigation by NHS Counter Fraud Service. There is a presumption that all thefts should be reported to the police and that the crime reference should be entered on Datix. Managers must submit a copy of their formal investigation report to NHS Golden Jubilee's Fraud Liaison Officer.

NHS Golden Jubilee is not authorised to carry out any form of covert surveillance. If any manager considers that such a measure is necessary to detect or prevent a crime then they should contact the Fraud Liaison Officer to arrange assistance from the NHS Counter Fraud Service.

It is possible that any instance of fraud or other financial irregularity, may attract enquiries from the media or other outside sources. Staff should not make statements to the media regarding any financial irregularity, as this could prejudice the outcome of any criminal enquiry or proceedings. Any enquiries from the media or third parties should, in line with normal NHS Golden Jubilee policy, be referred to NHS Golden Jubilee's Communications Office, which will provide an appropriate response after consultation with the NHS Counter Fraud Service and/or the Fraud Liaison Officer.

20.2 COMPLIANCE WITH BRIBERY ACT 2010

The Board will uphold all laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption, including the Bribery Act 2010. This commitment applies to every aspect of the Board's activity, including dealing with public and private sector organisations and the delivery of care to patients. The Board operates a zero tolerance approach to bribery committed by any person working for or providing services to the Board.

The Act recognises a number of offences including the following:-

- The offering, promising or giving of a bribe (active bribery)
- The requesting, agreeing to receive or accepting a bribe (passive bribery)

Any employee who commits active or passive bribery will be subject to disciplinary action. In addition, the matter will be referred to the relevant authorities for criminal investigation. The maximum sentence for any individual convicted of bribery is 10 years.

The Act also refers to a further offence of corporate liability for failing to prevent bribery on behalf of a commercial organisation. (For the purposes of the Act, NHS Bodies are considered commercial organisations.) The Board has put in place a range of measures intended to prevent bribery and these are subject to formal and regular review to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

20.3 LOSSES AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

Director of Finance will ensure that procedural instructions on the recording of, and accounting for, condemnations, losses and special payments are prepared and issued.

Any officer discovering or suspecting a loss of any kind will immediately inform their local manager. The manager will complete a loss form which will be signed by a budget holder and submitted to the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting). Losses in excess of the Budget Holder's delegated authority to write off losses should also be authorised by the appropriate Chief Officer. Where the loss is due to fraud or theft, the manager will immediately act as detailed at section 21.1 above.

The Director of Finance will ensure that a losses register in which details of all losses and compensations will be recorded as they are known is maintained.

The Board will approve the writing off of losses, within the limits delegated to it from time to time by the SGHSCD, except that delegated responsibility may be given by the Board to the Chief Executive or other officers. Any significant losses written off under this delegated authority will be reported to the Audit Committee of NHS Golden Jubilee. Details of the delegated levels of authority are given in the Scheme of Delegation.

No losses or special payments that exceed the limits delegated to NHS Golden Jubilee by the SGHSCD will be made without their prior approval.

The Director of Finance is authorised to take any necessary steps to safeguard NHS Golden Jubilee's interest in bankruptcies and company liquidations.

For any loss, the Director of Finance will consider whether

1. any insurance claim can be made against insurers; or
2. legal action can be taken to recover all or part of the amount of the loss.

All changes to securities will require the approval of the Director of Finance since they affect the Board's financial exposure and risk of bad debts

20.4 CLAIMS FOR MEDICAL/CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

The Head of Clinical Governance will hold a register of claims for medical and clinical negligence including details of payments made.

20.5 OTHER LEGAL CLAIMS

The Director of Finance will arrange for the Assistant Director of Finance (Governance and Financial Accounting) to hold a register of other legal claims e.g. under Health and Safety legislation.

20.6 DISPOSALS AND CONDEMNATIONS

The procedures for the disposal of assets are set out in these instructions. The Director of Finance will ensure that procedures for the recording and condemnation of all unserviceable items are prepared and issued.

20.7 REPORTING

Results of this work will be reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.