



THE NEWCASTLE CHARTER

Part 5.1A - Nolan's Seven Principles of Public Life

Notes:-

This part sets out Nolan’s Seven Principles of Public Life. They underpin the ethical framework.

The Committee on Standards in Public Life is an independent committee which makes recommendations to the Prime Minister. It was set up in October 1994 under the chairmanship of Lord Nolan to examine concerns about standards of conduct in public office, and its remit was extended in November 1997 to cover the funding of political parties. The Committee is an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Cabinet Office.

Sources

The Committee’s website is at <http://www.public-standards.gov.uk/>

The principles of public life were restated in the Committee’s First Report in May 1995. The report can be read on the Committee’s website.

In 2013, the Committee amended the descriptions of the seven principles following its review “Standards matter – a review of best practice for promoting high standards in public life”.

The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles of public life apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder. This includes all those who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally, and all people appointed to work in the civil service, local government, the police, courts and probation services, NDPBs, and in the health, education, social and care services. All public office-holders are both servants of the public and stewards of public resources. The principles also have application to all those in other sectors delivering public services.

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.