



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK CODE OF ETHICS

1) The aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Watch movement are:

- To increase public participation in the prevention and detection of crime.
- To promote good citizenship and greater public awareness through Neighbourhood Watch groups.
- To help increase community safety and reduce the fear of crime.
- To improve police/community liaison.

To further these aims and objectives and to ensure continued public confidence in the Neighbourhood Watch Movement, it is appropriate that members of Neighbourhood Watch adhere to this Code of Ethics.

2) The Code

Members participating in Neighbourhood Watch activity should:

a. Equality and diversity

- Treat people fairly and with respect and ensure equality of opportunity regardless of: race; gender, including transgender, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership status; pregnancy, maternity or paternity; religion or belief; age or disability.
- Make reasonable adjustments to ensure Neighbourhood Watch activity is inclusive for all members of their local community.

b. Honesty and integrity respect and courtesy

- Deal with other members, the public and other organisations in an honest, fair and respectful manner.
- Not offer or accept gifts, hospitality or services which could imply an improper obligation.
- Avoid any situation where a conflict of professional or personal interests may exist between them, their employer, their business and/or other parties, and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Operate in a financially responsible and prudent manner, ensuring that adequate and correct records are kept of any expenses, fees, costs, gifts and gratuities and being open and transparent about financial matters relating to Neighbourhood Watch.

c. Confidentiality

- Respect other people's privacy, and treating all confidential information as such, ensuring that they use information from Neighbourhood Watch or any authorities in compliance with Data Protection legislation.

d. Conduct

- Conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring the Neighbourhood Watch Movement into disrepute or which might lead to such a situation.

e. Challenging and reporting improper behaviour

- Challenge and report unlawful or otherwise unfair discriminatory behaviour and practice or other breaches (or reasonable suspicions of breaches) of these Codes to the relevant recognised and constituted Neighbourhood Watch Force Association in their area.

3) Procedure in the event of an Allegation of a Breach of the Code

a. Members

- i. If an allegation is made that a member has breached any of these Codes, it is the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Watch Force Area Association to consider the matter.
- ii. The member or their authorised representative should be given the opportunity to be heard by the Force Area Association Executive Officers before a final decision is made.
- iii. If most the Force Area Association Executive Officers agree that the breach has occurred, they may impose appropriate and reasonable sanctions upon any member which may include:
 - Suspension or withdrawal of recognition as a member of Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Suspension or withdrawal of recognition as a holder of any position within Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Referral to a lawful authority.
- iv. The decision of the Force Area Association Executive Officers should be notified to the member in writing as soon as practicable after the decision has been made.
- v. If a member wishes to appeal against any sanctions this should be made in writing to the Community Engagement and Membership Director at Neighbourhood Watch Network who will investigate the matter.
- vi. The decision of Neighbourhood Watch Network will be notified in writing to both the member and the Force Area Association as soon as practicable on completion of the investigation.

- vii. Should either party wish to appeal against this decision then this should be made in writing as soon as practicable to the Neighbourhood Watch Network Chairperson.
- viii. The Board will review the previous investigation, consider any representations made by either party and come to a decision. The decision of the Board will be final.

b. Neighbourhood Watch Force Area Association Committee Members

- i. If an allegation is made that a committee member of the Neighbourhood Watch Force Area Association has breached any of these Codes, the matter should be referred to the Community Engagement and Membership Director at Neighbourhood Watch Network who will investigate the matter.
- ii. If, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees it is decided that the alleged breach, if proven, is so serious that it warrants it, the Force Area Association may be suspended whilst the investigation is completed.
- iii. The decision of Neighbourhood Watch Network will be notified in writing to the Force Area Association as soon as practicable on completion of the investigation.
- iv. If the Neighbourhood Watch Network determines that the breach has occurred, they may impose appropriate and reasonable sanctions upon any Neighbourhood Watch Force Area Association or a member which may include:
 - Suspension or withdrawal of recognition of an individual Force Area Association member as a holder of any position within Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Suspension or withdrawal of recognition of the Force Area Association as a recognised Neighbourhood Watch body.
 - Referral to a lawful authority.
- v. Should the Force Area Association or their member wish to appeal against this decision then this should be made in writing as soon as practicable to the Neighbourhood Watch Network Chairperson.
- vi. The Board will review the previous investigation, consider any representations made and come to a decision. The decision of the Board will be final.