



# THE ALAN NUTTALL PARTNERSHIP LTD

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## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

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## 1. Policy statement

- 1.1 The Alan Nuttall Partnership Ltd is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all Partnership members and job applicants. We aim to create a working environment in which all individuals are able to make best use of their skills, free from discrimination or harassment, and in which all decisions are based on merit.
- 1.2 We do not discriminate against Partnership members on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (protected characteristics).
- 1.3 The principles of non-discrimination and equality of opportunity also apply to the way in which Partnership members treat visitors, clients, customers, suppliers and former Partnership members.
- 1.4 All Partnership members have a duty to act in accordance with this policy and treat other Partnership members with dignity at all times, and not to discriminate against or harass other Partnership members, regardless of their status.
- 1.5 This policy does not form part of any Partnership members contract of employment and may be amended at any time.

## 2. Who is covered by the policy?

This policy covers all Partnership members working at all levels and grades, and also including for non-Partnership members such as consultants, contractors, volunteers, and agency staff. To provide for clarity in this policy, the above will collectively be referred to as “staff”.

## 3. Who is responsible for this policy?

- 3.1 The Board of Directors have overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy. Day-to-day application and use of this policy is the responsibility of the HR Director who will advise the Company Secretary and the Board of Directors for annual review.
- 3.2 All Managers must set an appropriate standard of behaviour and leading by example to ensure that those they manage adhere to the policy and promote our aims and objectives with regard to equal opportunities. Managers will be given appropriate training on equal opportunities awareness and equal opportunities recruitment and selection best practice.

## 4. Scope and purpose of the policy

- 4.1 This policy applies to all aspects of our relationship with Partnership members and to relations between Partnership members at all levels. This includes job advertisements, recruitment and selection, training and development, opportunities for promotion, conditions of service, pay and benefits, conduct at work, disciplinary and grievance procedures, and termination of employment.
- 4.2 We will take appropriate steps to accommodate the requirements of different religions, cultures, and domestic responsibilities.

## 5. Forms of discrimination

- 5.1 Discrimination by or against a Partnership member is generally prohibited unless there is a specific legal exemption. Discrimination may be direct or indirect and it may occur intentionally or unintentionally.

- 5.2 Direct discrimination occurs where someone is treated less favourably because of one or more of the protected characteristics set out above. For example, rejecting an applicant on the grounds of their race because they would not "fit in" would be direct discrimination.
- 5.3 Indirect discrimination occurs where someone is disadvantaged by an unjustified provision, criterion or practice that also puts other people with the same protected characteristic at a particular disadvantage. For example, a requirement to work full time puts women at a particular disadvantage because they generally have greater childcare commitments than men. Such a requirement will need to be objectively justified.
- 5.4 Harassment related to any of the protected characteristics is prohibited. Harassment is unwanted conduct that has the purpose or effect of violating someone's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them. Harassment is dealt with further in our Anti-harassment and Bullying Policy.
- 5.5 Victimisation is also prohibited. This is less favourable treatment of someone who has complained or given information about discrimination or harassment, or supported someone else's complaint.
6. **Recruitment and selection**
- 6.1 We aim to ensure that no job applicant suffers discrimination because of any of the protected characteristics above. Our recruitment procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure that individuals are treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. Job selection criteria are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are relevant to the job and are not disproportionate. Shortlisting of applicants should be done by more than one person wherever possible.
- 6.2 Job advertisements should avoid stereotyping or using wording that may discourage groups with a particular protected characteristic from applying.
- 6.3 Applicants should not be asked about health or disability before a job offer is made. There are limited exceptions which should only be used with Human Resources approval. For example:
- a) Questions necessary to establish if an applicant can perform an intrinsic part of the job (subject to any reasonable adjustments).
  - b) Questions to establish if an applicant is fit to attend an assessment or any reasonable adjustments that may be needed at interview or assessment.
  - c) Positive action to recruit disabled persons.
  - d) Equal opportunities monitoring (which will not form part of the decision-making process).
- 6.4 Applicants should not be asked about past or current pregnancy or future intentions related to pregnancy. Applicants should not be asked about matters concerning age, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, or gender reassignment without the approval of Human Resources (who should first consider whether such matters are relevant and may lawfully be taken into account).
- 6.5 We are required by law to ensure that all Partnership members are entitled to work in the UK. Assumptions about immigration status should not be made based on appearance or apparent nationality. All prospective employees, regardless of nationality, must be able to produce original documents (such as a passport) before employment starts, to satisfy current immigration legislation. The list of acceptable documents is available from Human Resources.

## **7. Staff training and promotion and conditions of service**

- 7.1 Staff training needs will be identified through regular Performance and Development reviews. All staff will be given appropriate access to training to enable them to progress within the organisation and all promotion decisions will be made on the basis of merit.
- 7.2 Our conditions of service, benefits and facilities are reviewed regularly to ensure that they are available to all staff and provide access to them and ensure that there are no unlawful obstacles to accessing them.

## **8. Termination of employment**

- 8.1 We will ensure that redundancy criteria and procedures are fair and objective and are not directly or indirectly discriminatory.
- 8.2 We will also ensure that disciplinary procedures and penalties are applied without discrimination, whether they result in disciplinary warnings, dismissal or other disciplinary action.

## **9. Disability discrimination**

- 9.1 If you are disabled or become disabled, we encourage you to tell us about your condition so that we can support you as appropriate.
- 9.2 If you experience difficulties at work because of your disability, you may wish to contact your Line Manager or the Human Resources Department to discuss any reasonable adjustments that would help overcome or minimise the difficulty. Your Line Manager or The Human Resources Department may wish to consult with you and your medical adviser(s) about possible adjustments. We will consider the matter carefully and try to accommodate your needs within reason. If we consider a particular adjustment would not be reasonable we will explain our reasons and try to find an alternative solution where possible.
- 9.3 We will monitor the physical features of our premises to consider whether they place disabled workers, job applicants or service users at a substantial disadvantage compared to other staff. Where reasonable, we will take steps to improve access for disabled staff and service users.

## **10. Fixed-term Partnership members and agency workers**

We monitor our use of fixed-term Partnership members and agency workers, and their conditions of service, to ensure that they are being offered appropriate access to benefits, training, promotion and permanent employment opportunities.

## **11. Part-time work**

We monitor the conditions of service of part-time Partnership members and their progression to ensure that they are being offered appropriate access to benefits and training and promotion opportunities. We will ensure requests to alter working hours are dealt with appropriately under our Flexible Working Policy.

## 12. Breaches of this policy

- 12.1 If you believe that you may have been discriminated against you are encouraged to raise the matter through our Grievance Procedure. If you believe that you may have been subject to harassment you are encouraged to raise the matter through our Anti-harassment Policy. If you are uncertain which applies or need advice on how to proceed you should speak to the HR Department.
- 12.2 Allegations regarding potential breaches of this policy will be treated in confidence and investigated in accordance with the relevant procedure. Staff who make such allegations in good faith will not be victimised or treated less favourably as a result. False allegations which are found to have been made in bad faith will, however, be dealt with under our Disciplinary Procedure.
- 12.3 Any member of staff who is found to have committed an act of discrimination or harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. Such behaviour may constitute gross misconduct and, as such, may result in summary dismissal. We take a strict approach to serious breaches of this policy.

## 13. Monitoring and review of the policy

This policy is reviewed annually by the Company Secretary and the Board of Directors. Recommendations for change should be reported to the HR Department for tabling to the Board.

### On Behalf of the Board of Directors as a collective



**Darren Emms**  
Secretary

**The Alan Nuttall Partnership Ltd**  
Effective from June, 2015