

Good Practice Guide Appendices Appendix 1

Nolan Principles

The 'Nolan principles' of public life, published in 1995, should be adhered to by anyone who holds a position in public life. These core principles represent the 'spirit' of good governance and some of the most notable governance and organisational failures can be linked to a failure to adopt these principles.

Nolan Principles

Committee on Standards in Public Life (1995)

- Selflessness – to act solely in terms of the public interest, not to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
- Integrity - not be placed under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- Objectivity in carrying out public business, including making appointments, awarding contracts, recommending individuals for rewards and benefits. Holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- Accountability for decisions and actions to the public and submit to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to the office.
- Openness – to be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions taken. Give reasons for decisions made and restrict information only when demanded by the wider public interest.
- Honesty - the duty to declare any private interests relating to public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- Leadership - promote and support these principles by leadership and example.