

ERVIA/PD/84

ANTI-FRAUD POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Ervia's five values are collaboration, performance, customer service, safety and integrity. These values define the character of the organisation, guide our actions and decisions and provide a framework for how we interact with our colleagues, customers and stakeholders. We expect all personnel working on behalf of Ervia to maintain the highest ethical standards and to report any suspicions of wrongdoing. Ethical standards must underpin how we conduct our business on a daily basis. The far-reaching consequences of committing an act of bribery or corruption reinforce the need to have robust procedures in place.

This policy is core to help embed the integrity value in Ervia. It is one of a number of policies that has been put in place to help inform the ethical behaviour that Ervia expects from its staff and from contractors and agents who do business on behalf of Ervia. It should be read in conjunction with the policies set out in Appendix A, in particular the Code of Business Conduct (PD 16), the Protected Disclosures Policy (PD 9), the Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy (PD 100) and the Regulation of Lobbying Act (PD 4).


2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is:

- (a) to set out Ervia's position on fraud;
- (b) to provide guidance on recognising what constitutes fraud; and
- (c) to set out what is expected from those to whom the policy applies in relation to prevention and reporting of fraud.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Ervia does not tolerate fraudulent or attempted fraudulent activity. Ervia will continue to take steps to prevent and detect fraud, increase awareness of fraud amongst employees and other stakeholders, and create a culture where the reporting of suspicions of fraudulent activity is encouraged and expected.

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4. SCOPE

This Policy covers Ervia and its operating companies and businesses (Gas Networks Ireland, Irish Water and Aurora) and any of its subsidiaries in any geographic region. It applies to all Board members and employees of Ervia including consultants, contractors, volunteers, trainees, work experience students, interns, part-time, full-time, casual workers and agency workers and anyone with whom Ervia may deal directly or indirectly through supply chain activities.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

All parties to whom this policy applies have a responsibility to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud perpetrated against Ervia. This responsibility includes:

- operating and monitoring the systems of internal controls which promote the prevention and detection of fraud,
- the management of fraud risk; and
- reporting all suspicions of fraud and situations that could allow a fraud to be perpetrated.

The Group Chief Executive Officer and the Executive retain ultimate responsibility for the Anti-Fraud framework within the organisation.


Ervia has appointed the Group Head of Internal Audit, as the organisation's Anti-Fraud champion. The Anti-Fraud champion is the owner of the Anti-Fraud agenda on a day to day basis and is responsible for:

- driving the delivery of the Ervia Anti-Fraud strategy; and
- supporting the business as anti-fraud is embedded into Ervia business as usual operations.

The Anti-Fraud champion will be supported by the Ervia Executive who will lead Anti-Fraud initiatives within their division.

6. TRAINING

Employees must familiarise themselves with this Policy. All employees are required to participate in Anti-Fraud training, read communications, use resources and consult where necessary to stay informed about the laws, professional standards and policies that apply to their work. All new employees must receive specific training as part of their induction process.

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7. DEFINITION OF FRAUD

“Fraud” is defined as an intentional act of deceit to obtain or attempt to obtain an unjust/illegal advantage, for example to make a gain (financial or otherwise), to avoid an obligation or to cause loss to another party.


For the purposes of the fraud policy, the term “fraud” includes attempted fraud.

For the purposes of this policy, fraud includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

- Theft, misappropriation or unauthorised use of Ervia time, funds, property or other assets.
- Accepting or offering kickbacks or bribes for preferential treatment, for example in the supplier selection or work allocation processes.
- Deliberately creating or manipulating false or misleading financial and/or non-financial information or records. This includes forging or altering financial and/or non-financial information or records, or concealing material financial and/or non-financial facts (for example submission of a false CV).
- Knowingly submitting fraudulent or duplicate receipts or falsifying an expense report.
- Using or disclosing commercial or customer-related data without appropriate authorisation. This includes disclosing confidential information to external parties.
- Manipulation of customer or own employee accounts by Ervia employees (for example, inappropriate refunds, credits, discounts or other transactions to employee’s own account or accounts of family and friends, unbilled amounts for family and friends, unauthorised diversion of unmatched payment amounts).
- Deliberate approval by Ervia employees of payments for goods and services not actually received by Ervia.
- Purchasing items for personal use using Ervia funds, for example creating a purchase order and payment for non-business-related goods and services.
- Use of Ervia to defraud third parties (for example unauthorised individual holding self out to be acting in the capacity of an Ervia employee or contractor to gain personal benefit).
- Deliberately facilitating unauthorised access to Ervia assets or information

8. REPORTING PROCEDURES

All employees have an obligation to report any fraud that is suspected or discovered without delay to their line manager. This also includes any conduct which may constitute an act of bribery or corruption. If there are circumstances where an employee cannot report this to their line manager, a report may be made to the Group Chief Legal Officer or Group Head of Internal Audit. Ervia is committed to ensuring that all parties to whom this policy applies can raise a concern relating to an act of bribery or corruption or suspicions thereof without fear of victimisation and that the strictest confidence will be maintained. For further information you should consult Ervia’s Protected Disclosures Policy (PD9).

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Discovery of a potential fraud incident Dos and Don'ts	
Do	Don't
Do report the incident.	Do not discuss the matter with your colleagues or other parties.
Do report all known facts.	Do not attempt to investigate the matter unless expressly asked to do so by the Ervia Group Chief Legal Officer and Group Head of Internal Audit
Do report your concern/the incident immediately.	Do not confront the individual(s).

9. INVESTIGATIONS AND RESULTING ACTION

Ervia commits to investigate all frauds that are discovered or suspected. Every case of attempted, suspected or proven fraud will be thoroughly investigated and dealt with appropriately without regard to the position held or length of service of the individual(s) concerned, or their relationship to Ervia.

The Anti-Fraud champion has the primary responsibility for the co-ordination of investigation of all suspected fraudulent acts as defined in the policy, unless the report of the suspected fraud has been raised under a Protected Disclosure. In that situation, the investigation will be executed using the protocol set out in the Protected Disclosures Policy. Otherwise, the investigation will be carried out by appropriately skilled person(s), in line with Ervia's Fraud Response Plan.


No person who suspects or discovers a fraud should attempt to conduct their own investigations, without the express permission of the Anti-Fraud champion and the Group Chief Legal Officer.

All investigations will be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, fair procedures and relevant collective agreements.

Ervia treats all information received confidentially. Investigation results will not be disclosed or discussed with anyone other than those who have a legitimate need to know. This is important in order to avoid damaging the reputations of persons suspected but subsequently found innocent of wrongful conduct and to protect Ervia from civil liability.

10. ENFORCEMENT

Any individual who is under investigation for suspected or discovered fraud may be suspended, pending the outcome of the investigation.

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Where the allegations are substantiated, disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment may be taken.

The employee's constitutional right to natural justice and fair procedure must be upheld in accordance with all relevant legislation. In this regard, the provision of appropriate representation, if requested, will be considered.

Where the allegations are substantiated and implicate third parties, to whom this policy applies, Ervia may terminate their contract and/or take appropriate action against the individual(s) concerned, including seeking legal redress.

11. IMPLICATIONS OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE POLICY

Non-compliance with the Anti-Fraud Policy by Ervia employees may be treated as a disciplinary matter.

Non-compliance with the Anti-Fraud Policy by any other party to whom it applies, may result in a recommendation to terminate their contract with Ervia or terminate the engagement of the individual(s), within that contracting entity, found to be in breach of the policy.

12. COMMUNICATING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING

This Policy is communicated directly to all new employees upon commencement of employment. A copy of this Policy can also be found on the Zone or by contacting Secretariat or HR directly.

The Policy is monitored by the Group Head of Internal Audit and reviewed annually.


The Policy is brought to the Ervia Board for review on a bi-annual basis.

13. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, or advice on any aspect of this policy, please contact either the Group Head of Internal Audit or the Chief Legal Officer:

Group Head of Internal Audit
Bridget O'Sullivan
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Group Chief Legal Officer
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Appendix A

The Anti-Fraud Policy should be read in conjunction with the following related policies, including but not limited to:

- Code of Business Conduct (PD16);
- Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy (PD100);
- Protected Disclosures Policy (PD9);
- Corporate Giving and Sponsorship Policy (PD83);
- Regulation of Lobbying Act Policy (PD4);
- Procurement Policy (PD2);
- Community Gain Policy; and
- Other procedures for investigating concerns are set out in our HR policies e.g. the Dignity at Work Policy, the Grievance Policy, the Disciplinary Policy and other policies as may be developed from time to time.

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