

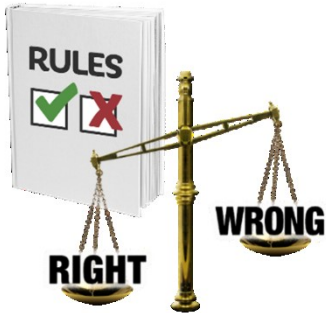
# About the Ethical Standards Commissioner



If you need this document in another format like large print, audio or Braille please contact us:

- call 0300 011 0550
- email: [info@ethicalstandards.org.uk](mailto:info@ethicalstandards.org.uk)
- or do it online at: [www.ethicalstandards.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.ethicalstandards.org.uk/contact-us)

# What does the Ethical Standards Commissioner do?



**Ethical standards** are the rules about what is right and wrong.

It means for example treating people the way you would like to be treated.



We check **complaints** about the conduct of:

- Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs)
- local councillors
- and **board members of public bodies.**



A **complaint** is when a person says or writes that they are not happy about something.



**Board members** look at the work an organisation is doing and check it is working well and following the rules.



**Public bodies** are organisations that work for the Government and give us public services. Examples of this include the police and health services.



We investigate **lobbyists** who have not put their name on a Government list.

A **lobbyist** is a person or group who tries to get an MSP to support a policy or campaign.



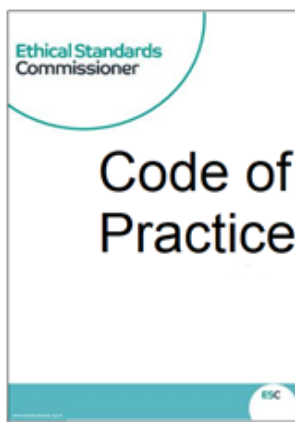
We investigate information from **whistle-blowers**.

A **whistle-blower** is a person who reports information about an organisation doing things that are against the law or are not safe.



We check how Scottish Ministers make **public appointments**.

A **public appointment** is when a Scottish Government Minister appoints someone to the board of a public body.



We make a **Code of Practice** for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies in Scotland.

The **Code of Practice** is a set of rules about how to appoint someone to the board of a public body in a fair way.



We give guidance and support to Scottish Ministers and boards to make sure they treat everyone who applies to be a board member fairly and boards are **diverse**.



**Diverse** means having a mix of different kinds of people:

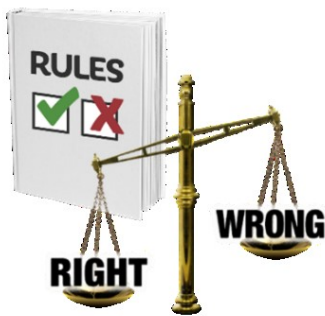
- men and women
- young and old people
- people of different ethnic backgrounds
- people from both poor and more wealthy backgrounds
- disabled and non-disabled people.



We investigate complaints when people or organisations have not followed the rules in the Code of Practice.

We tell the Scottish Parliament when this happens.

## What we believe in



We will do all our work in an ethical way following the rules of what is right and wrong.



We will spend money in a good way.



We will be honest and open about what we do.



We will treat every person and organisation that contacts us with kindness and respect so they can trust us. We will treat everyone fairly.



We will tell people when we get things wrong.

We will show what we have learned and make our work better.

## What we want to do



We will make sure we have the people, money and things to do our work.



We will have a good complaints **system** that:

- works well
- helps us to learn
- makes sure people who work in public service have high standards.

A **system** is a way of doing something that follows a set of rules.



We will tell people about our rules and how we do our work.



We will use the information they give us to make our work fairer and better.



We will help to make sure boards are diverse and look like the communities they work with.