

First Fortnight Board Conduct Policy

The First Fortnight Board of Management abides by the following Code of Conduct.

1. Selflessness

Board members of First Fortnight should take decisions solely in terms of the Charity's objects and in the Charity's interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

The express aim of First Fortnight is challenging mental health prejudice through the creative arts. We believe the arts allow us to create a space where people can talk about mental health issues in a non-scripted manner. Once that conversation has begun, we hope this will then help to change people's perceptions about an issue that affects us all with one in four of us set to experience a mental health problem at some point in our lives. With that in mind, we hope to make the First Fortnight of each year synonymous with mental health awareness, challenging prejudice and ending stigma.

Board Members will support the mission, values, aims, objectives and strategy of the organisation and will abide by the organisation's memorandum and articles of association, its policies and its procedures.

2. Integrity

First Fortnight Board Members should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their duties in relation to First Fortnight. Board Members should not accept gifts or hospitality in relation to their work with First Fortnight unless they are of trifling value or are within the normal standards of courtesy, hospitality or protocol. Board Members should not do anything that may damage the reputation of the organisation.

3. Objectivity

In carrying out any activities in relation to First Fortnight, including making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for reward or benefit, Board Members should make choices on merit.

4. Accountability

Board Members are accountable for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate. The Board Directors must ensure that the organisation complies with its own governing document, relevant laws, and the requirements of any regulatory bodies.

5. Openness

Board Members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider interest of First Fortnight clearly demands.

When speaking publicly as a Board Member of this organisation, comments will reflect current organisational policy even if this does not agree with the Board Member's personal views.

6. Honesty & Loyalty

Board Members have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their First Fortnight duties and to ensure that conflicts of interest are properly dealt with. A Board Member must declare any conflict of interest or any circumstance that might be viewed by others as a conflict of interest, as soon as it arises and submit to the judgment of the Board to do as it requires regarding potential conflicts of interest. Where a conflict of interest arises, a Board Member must absent from any discussion or vote taken on the matter by the other Board Members.

A corollary to this duty is that Board Members must not disclose confidential information which they obtain in their capacity as Board Members of First Fortnight, since this will generally not be in the best interests of the company. Board Members will respect organisational, board and individual confidentiality.

7. Leadership

Board Members of First Fortnight should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Should any behaviour be judged inappropriate under these Principles, it shall be raised at a meeting of the Board and if appropriate, the company may by ordinary resolution remove any Board Member before the expiration of his/her period of office and may appoint another person in his/her stead.

Should Board Members resign from the board, they will inform the Directors in advance in writing, stating their reasons for resigning.

Signature	Date