

# THE TAXATION DISCIPLINARY BOARD LTD

## Safeguarding Policy

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children and at-risk adults, from harm that may be caused due to their contact with the Taxation Disciplinary Board.

Children are defined as all those who are under 18 years of age. An at-risk or potentially vulnerable adult is one who is, or may be in need of care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of them self, or unable to protect them self against significant harm or exploitation either temporarily or permanently.

This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff, volunteers, members, students and contractors acting on behalf of the Taxation Disciplinary Board
- The design and implementation of The Taxation Disciplinary Board's programmes and activities

The policy lays out the commitments made by the Taxation Disciplinary Board and informs staff and the Taxation Disciplinary Board's members, volunteers, students, consultants and contractors (who are our associated personnel) of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

- Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by the Taxation Disciplinary Board or associated personnel
- Routine Health and Safety arrangements
- Members of the Taxation Disciplinary Board who are not acting on behalf of the Taxation Disciplinary Board

This policy will address both child safeguarding and adult safeguarding.

### 2. What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live in safety and free from harm, abuse and neglect. It is a preventative and precautionary approach to planning and the procedures needed to protect individuals from any potential harm.

In our organisation we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from contact with our staff and associated personnel, or activities.

### 3. Scope

This policy is concerned with actions and omissions by:

- All staff employed by the Taxation Disciplinary Board
- Associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to the Taxation Disciplinary Board, including but not limited to the following: consultants; volunteers; contractors, members and students.

It is appreciated that the level of direct control over the actions of those above will vary with the nature of the relationship that they have with the Taxation Disciplinary Board but nevertheless the Taxation Disciplinary Board will seek to either directly control, or to influence, the behaviour of those associated with it and acting on its behalf to achieve its safeguarding aims.

#### **4. Policy Statement**

The Taxation Disciplinary Board believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Taxation Disciplinary Board will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel.

The Taxation Disciplinary Board commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

#### **5. Prevention**

##### **5.1 Taxation Disciplinary Board responsibilities**

The Taxation Disciplinary Board will:

- Ensure all staff and associated personnel have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- Design and undertake all its activities in a way that protects people from the risk of harm that may arise from their contact with the Taxation Disciplinary Board. This includes the way in which information about individuals on our programmes and activities is gathered and communicated.
- Implement safeguarding procedures proportionate to the risk when recruiting, managing and deploying staff and associated personnel who will come into contact with children and /or potentially vulnerable adults
- Ensure staff and associated personnel receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organisation
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process
- Review policies and safeguarding practices for effectiveness annually

##### **5.2 Staff and associated personnel responsibilities**

###### **5.2.1 Child safeguarding**

The Taxation Disciplinary Board staff and associated personnel must not:

- Ignore safeguarding practices
- Subject anyone to physical, emotional, financial or psychological abuse or neglect
- Use Taxation Disciplinary Board sanctioned activities to develop unauthorised personal relationships with children
- Compromise child safety by the provision of alcohol/ drugs or by placing them in unsafe settings
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking

- Engage in sexual activity (paid or unpaid) or sexting (or pressuring others to do so) with anyone under the age of 18 if you are in a position of authority or trust over them as a result of your role for the Taxation Disciplinary Board.
- Engage in any sexual activity of any type, including sexting, with children under the age of 16.

### 5.2.2 Adult safeguarding

The Taxation Disciplinary Board staff and associated personnel must not:

- Ignore safeguarding practices
- Subject anyone to physical, emotional, financial or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Refuse to assess and possibly adapt processes to enable potentially vulnerable adults to participate
- Use Taxation Disciplinary Board activities to develop relationships with potentially vulnerable adults for personal gain
- Place potentially vulnerable adults in unsuitable or unsafe settings
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with potentially vulnerable adults including trafficking
- Sexually abuse or exploit at risk adults

Additionally, Taxation Disciplinary Board staff and associated personnel are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by a Taxation Disciplinary Board staff member or associated personnel to Peter Douglas, Executive Director of the Taxation Disciplinary Board.

## 6. Enabling reports and complaints

Taxation Disciplinary Board will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to staff and associated personnel including volunteers, members and members of the public.

The Taxation Disciplinary Board will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

### 6.1 How to report a safeguarding concern

#### 6.1.1 Employees and contractors

Staff members and associated personnel who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to Peter Douglas, Executive Director of the Taxation Disciplinary Board contact 01825 890668 or by email at [pdouglas@taxation-board.org.uk](mailto:pdouglas@taxation-board.org.uk)

#### 6.2 Members, Volunteers, Students and members of the public

May write to Peter Douglas, Executive Director, Taxation Disciplinary Board PO Box 224, Rushlake Green, Heathfield, TN21 1DQ or email [pdouglas@tax-board.org.uk](mailto:pdouglas@tax-board.org.uk)

## **7. Complaint Response**

The Taxation Disciplinary Board will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations. The Taxation Disciplinary Board will notify statutory authorities and cooperate with any investigation. The Taxation Disciplinary Board may collate information but will not attempt to investigate allegations or formally interview witnesses or complainants or take independent action so as to not hinder statutory body investigations unless permitted to do so.

The Taxation Disciplinary Board will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to staff and action may be taken against a member or any associated personnel who is found to be bringing the profession into professional disrepute.

The Taxation Disciplinary Board will offer appropriate support to enable complainants to engage with the complaints process and will consider how best to communicate with them in a way that meets their needs. Discussions and decisions regarding the nature of the support needed to enable participation will involve the complainant or survivor.

## **8. Confidentiality**

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only and should be kept secure at all times.

## **9. Safeguarding lead personnel and Associated policies**

### **9.1 Safeguarding lead personnel**

The Safeguarding Officer is Peter Douglas, Executive Director of the Taxation Disciplinary Board, PO Box 224, Rushlake Green, Heathfield, TN21 1DQ or email [pdouglas@tax-board.org.uk](mailto:pdouglas@tax-board.org.uk)

### **9.2 Associated Policies**

Code of Conduct for Panel Members and Assessors

Fundamental Principles as set out in the Professional Rules and Practice Guidelines

Complaints Policy

**20 January 2020**