



**REHEAT**  
AERO

# Zero Tolerance Sexual Harassment Policy

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## SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

All members of staff are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect in our place of work. This means freedom from sexual harassment, feeling safe and supported, and having access to redress if such behaviour does arise.

Sexual harassment takes many forms but whatever form it takes, it is unlawful under the Equality Act 2010 as amended and Reheat Aero will not tolerate it.

The Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 requires employers to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment of their workers. This policy provides a detailed overview including definitions of sexual harassment and victimisation; clear reporting procedures for employees to make a complaint about sexual harassment or victimisation. If you have been sexually harassed, or you have witnessed sexual harassment, we encourage you to tell us so that we can deal with the matter swiftly.

The Managing Director has overall responsibility for the operation of this policy but may delegate elements of implementation or decision making to Line Managers. Our managers will maintain an open-door policy. All of our staff have a responsibility to behave in line with the requirements of this policy.

Instances of sexual harassment or victimisation may lead to disciplinary action including termination of employment.

This policy is reviewed regularly to ensure it remains up to date and in order to monitor its effectiveness. Any changes required will be implemented and communicated to our workforce.

### **1 SCOPE**

We deplore all forms of sexual harassment and seek to ensure that the working environment is safe and supportive to all those who work for us. This includes employees, agency workers and worker experience candidates in all areas of our Company.

#### DEFINITIONS

Sexual harassment is unwanted conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person. It also covers treating someone less favourably because they have submitted to or refused to submit to unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, or that is related to gender reassignment or sex.

Sexual harassment may be committed by a fellow worker, an agent of an organisation, or a third party. It does not need to occur in person. It can occur via digital means including social media sites or channels e.g. Whatsapp. Someone may be sexually harassed even if they were not the target of the behaviour. Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- sexual comments or jokes, which may be referred to as 'banter'
- displaying sexually graphic pictures, posters or photos
- suggestive looks, staring or leering
- propositions and sexual advances
- making promises in return for sexual favours
- sexual gestures
- intrusive questions about a person's private or sex life or a person discussing their own sex life
- sexual posts or contact in online communications including on social media
- spreading sexual rumours about a person
- sending sexually explicit emails, text messages or messages via other social media
- unwelcome touching, hugging, massaging or kissing
- Using words or terms specific to a gender or sexual orientation that are derogatory e.g. "bird" or "poof"

Victimisation is subjecting someone to detriment because they have done, are suspected of doing, or intend to do an act which is protected under discrimination and harassment laws. It is not necessary for the person to have done the protected act in order for detrimental treatment to be considered as victimisation.

The protected acts are:

- making a claim or complaint under the Equality Act 2010 (for example, for discrimination or harassment)
- helping someone else to make a claim by giving evidence or information in connection with proceedings under the Equality Act 2010
- making an allegation that someone has breached the Equality Act 2010, or
- doing anything else in connection with the Equality Act 2010

Examples of victimisation may include:

- Failing to consider someone for promotion because they have previously made a sexual harassment complaint
- Dismissing someone because they accompanied a colleague to a meeting about a sexual harassment complaint
- Excluding someone from work meetings because they gave evidence as a witness for another employee as part of an employment tribunal claim about harassment.

## **2 CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE COVERED**

This policy covers behaviour which occurs in the following situations:

- a work situation
- a situation occurring outside of the normal workplace or normal working hours which is related to work, for example, a working lunch, a business trip or social functions
- outside of a work situation but involving a colleague or other person connected to the Company, including on social media
- against anyone outside of a work situation where the incident is relevant to your suitability to carry out the role.

## **3 WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SUBJECT TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR VICTIMISATION**

We are committed to ensuring that there is no sexual harassment or victimisation in our workplace. Allegations of sexual harassment and victimisation will be treated as a disciplinary matter, although every situation will be considered on an individual basis and in accordance with the principles of our disciplinary procedures. See Staff Handbook.

We recognise that complaints of sexual harassment or victimisation can be of a sensitive or intimate nature and that it may not be appropriate for you to raise the issue through our normal grievance procedure. In these circumstances you are encouraged to raise such issues with Annmarie Avaiant or Steve Scandrett as a “Guiding Friend” (whether or not that person has direct supervisory responsibility for you) or a member of the senior leadership team of your choice. This person cannot be the same person who will be responsible for investigating the matter if it becomes a formal complaint.

### **3.1 Informal Complaint**

If you experience sexual harassment and you feel comfortable to do so, you should make it clear to the harasser on an informal basis that their behaviour is unwelcome and ask the harasser to stop. If you feel unable to do this verbally then you should hand a written request to the harasser, and your confidential helper can assist you in this.

In addition, you may also choose to raise concerns during your regular communication with your manager, for example, in a 1-2-1 meeting. Your manager will listen to you and take your concerns seriously if you do this, but may encourage you to follow the reporting procedures set out below.

### **3.2 Formal complaint**

Where the informal approach fails or you do not wish to use the informal procedure, you should bring the matter to the attention of the Managing Director as a formal written complaint and again your “Guiding Friend” can assist you in this. Your complaint should be emailed and you will be contacted within 1 working day.

Where possible, you should keep notes of what happened so that the written complaint can include:

the name of the alleged harasser;  
the nature of the alleged harassment;

the dates and times when the alleged harassment occurred;  
the names of any witnesses; and  
any action already taken by you to stop the alleged harassment.

The name of your “Guiding Friend” or the senior leadership team member you may have discussed the alleged incident(s) with.

On receipt of a formal complaint, we will take action to separate you from the alleged harasser to enable an uninterrupted investigation to take place. This may involve a temporary transfer of the alleged harasser to another work area or suspension with contractual pay with contractual pay for up to 10 days or until the matter has been resolved. Suspension of this kind is not a disciplinary penalty and does not imply any decision has been made about the allegations.

The person dealing with the complaint will invite you to attend a meeting, at a reasonable time and location, to discuss the matter and carry out a thorough investigation. The meeting will normally be held within five working days of receipt of your complaint. You have the right to be accompanied at such a meeting by a “Guiding Friend” or another work colleague of your choice and you must take all reasonable steps to attend. Those involved in the investigation will be expected to act in confidence and any breach of confidence may be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure.

On conclusion of the investigation, which will normally be within ten working days of the meeting with you, the decision of the investigator, detailing the findings, will be sent in writing to you. The outcome of the investigation may take longer due to complexity of allegations and availability for witnesses to attend meetings.

You have the right to appeal against the findings of the investigator. If you wish to appeal you must inform Managing Director within five working days of receipt of the findings. This will be acknowledged within 1 working day of being received. You will then be invited to a further meeting. As far as reasonably practicable, the Company will be represented by a more Senior Manager than attended the first meeting (unless the most Senior Manager attended that meeting).

The appeal meeting will be arranged within a reasonable period, normally within 5 days of receiving an appeal notice in writing and not longer than 10 working days from receiving an appeal notice in writing.

Following the appeal meeting, you will be informed of the final decision, normally within ten working days, which will be confirmed in writing.

Regardless of the outcome of the procedure, we are committed to providing the support you may need. This may involve mediation between you and the other party or some other measure to manage the ongoing working relationship.

You will not be victimised for having brought a complaint.

#### **4 WHAT TO DO IF YOU WITNESS SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR VICTIMISATION**

If you witness sexual harassment or victimisation, you are encouraged to take appropriate action to address it. You should not take any action that may put you at risk of sexual harassment or other harm. If you feel able, you should intervene to prevent the matter continuing. If you are not able to do this, your action may include offering support to the person who has been sexually harassed and encouraging them to report the incident or reporting the incident yourself.

If reporting the incident, you should bring the matter to the attention of the Managing Director in writing by email.

Your concerns will be handled by the Managing Director who will sensitively talk to the person subject to sexual harassment to determine how they want the matter to be handled.

#### **5 THIRD-PARTY SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Third-party sexual harassment occurs when one of our workforce is subjected to sexual harassment by someone who is not part of our workforce but who is encountered in connection with work. This includes our clients, suppliers, friends and family of colleagues, delegates at a conference and exhibitions audiences, self-employed contractors etc).

Third-party sexual harassment of our workforce is unlawful and will not be tolerated. The law requires employers to take steps to prevent sexual harassment by third parties.

The law does not provide a mechanism for individuals to bring a claim of third-party harassment alone. However, failure for an employer to take reasonable steps to prevent third-party sexual harassment may result in legal liability in other types of claim.

In order to prevent third-party sexual harassment from occurring, we will:

- attach signage to the walls of the areas within the workplace where clients, 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers are present to warn that sexual harassment of our staff is not acceptable
- inform third-parties i.e. suppliers of our zero-tolerance sexual harassment policy through a notice in reception where they sign in.
- Communicate our policy and provide a copy on the corporate website which is visible to clients, suppliers and contractors.
- Remove suppliers and contractors as service providers if they breach the firm's sexual harassment policy.
- Operate a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment by any third party and a process which encourages workers to raise complaints promptly.
- Act promptly in communicating with a client representative if a complaint is raised about a client.

If you have been subjected to third-party sexual harassment, you are encouraged to report this as soon as possible to the Managing Director or member of the senior management team in person or by email.

Should a client sexually harass a member of our workforce, we will warn the client about their behaviour and any criminal acts will be reported to the police.

We will not tolerate sexual harassment by any member of our workforce against a third party. Instances of sexual harassment of this kind may lead to disciplinary action including termination of employment

## **6 DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

If the decision is that the allegation of sexual harassment or victimisation is well founded, the harasser/victimiser will be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with our disciplinary procedure up to and including summary dismissal. An employee who receives a formal warning or who is dismissed for sexual harassment/victimisation may appeal by using our disciplinary appeal procedure.

When deciding on the level of disciplinary sanction to be applied, we will take into consideration any aggravating factors affecting the case. One example of aggravating factors is an abuse of power over a more junior colleague.

If, due to the investigation, it is concluded that your complaint is both untrue and has been brought with malicious intent, disciplinary action will be taken against you.

## **7 TRAINING**

We provide training to all our staff on sexual harassment to ensure there is a clear understanding of, amongst other things, what sexual harassment is and how it may occur, that it will not be tolerated, expected levels of behaviour, how they can report any incidents of having been sexually harassed or having witnessed it and that acts of harassment will be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure potentially resulting in dismissal.

We ensure that all levels of management are trained on implementing this policy including preventing and managing sexual harassment in the workplace, and the procedure to follow if an allegation is reported.

We will review the effectiveness of our training and provide refresher training as appropriate.

