Living our purpose and values PwC's code of conduct

December 2016





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Ad van Gils Chairman board of management



Ronald van Tongeren *Partner code of conduct*

PwC purpose:

To build trust in society and solve important problems

Foreword

Dear PwC colleagues,

For many companies and organisations, including PwC, it is becoming increasingly difficult to live up to the expectations of an ever changing society. PwC continues to adapt and develop because the opportunities and challenges we are facing are becoming ever greater and increasingly complex. When doing so, our purpose – which expresses why PwC is in business – forms the basis for everything we do. The same also applies to our values, which serve as a foundation for our community.

Our code of conduct is based on our purpose as well as our values. The code reflects major changes taking place in our world, the nature of our job and how we currently do business. With all these changes in mind, the code allows us to behave ethically while continuing to fulfil our role as 'trusted advisors'. It is a common framework that shapes our behaviour and helps us to do the right thing.

Knowing, understanding and implementing the code in practice is an important part of who we are as PwC professionals and what we stand for. Whether working with PwC colleagues or others, we expect from each other to always consider our ethical responsibilities. Although the code does not address every situation we may encounter, it serves as a guide for our day-to-day activities as professionals.

We must all promote and comply with the behaviour described in this code. But we do not have to do this alone. We can support one another, cooperate in every aspect of the job and help each other to behave accordingly. And we can also take appropriate measures if we encounter situations which are not in keeping with our code. We realise it takes courage to raise certain issues. That is why investigations into suspected misconduct are completed discretely and cautiously. If we have doubts about potential dilemmas, we should request help because our colleagues are there to assist us – both locally and within the community.

The success of PwC will be solely determined by how we focus on our purpose, values and code of conduct in everything we do, each and every day. We thus ask you to actively consider this when performing your activities.

Kind regards,

Ad van Gils and Ronald van Tongeren

Living our purpose and values

The PwC culture thrives supported by a framework of internal and external expectations and requirements. These help guide our behaviours and build trust:

- in how we do business
- · with each other
- in our communities
- in how we use information



When working with our clients and our colleagues to build trust in society and solve important problems, we



Act with integrity

- Speak up for what is right, especially when it feels difficult
- Expect and deliver the highest quality outcomes
- Make decisions and act as if our personal reputations were at stake



Make a difference

- Stay informed and ask questions about the future of the world we live in
- Create impact with our colleagues, our clients and society through our actions
- Respond with agility to the ever changing environment in which we operate



Care

- Make the effort to understand every individual and what matters to them
- Recognise the value that each person contributes
- Support others to grow and work in the ways that bring out their best



Work together

- Collaborate and share relationships, ideas and knowledge beyond boundaries
- Seek and integrate a diverse range of perspectives, people and ideas
- Give and ask for feedback to improve ourselves and others



Reimagine the possible

- Dare to challenge the status quo and try new things
- Innovate, test and learn from failure
- Have an open mind to the possibilities in every idea

The code in context

Our purpose and values are the foundation of our success. We exist to build trust and solve important problems, and our values help us deliver on that purpose.

This code underpins our ability to behave in a manner consistent with our values.

Our code is not meant to provide specific guidance on every situation where we might need to answer the question, "What is the right thing to do?" Instead, it is principle-based guidance that helps us think about difficult questions, promotes consultation, and encourages us to speak up if we have concerns. On page 20 of this code, you will find details on RADAR (Recognise, Assess, Decide, Agree, Report), which is our framework for helping us decide the right thing to do.

This code describes a common set of expectations for our conduct, a key element of which is that we abide by applicable laws and regulations. To the extent any local law or regulation is more restrictive than this code, local law or regulation governs. Network and local policies and supplemental guidance complement the principles embodied in this code and the **PwC Network Risk Management Policies**.

This code applies to all of us. When we say "we" "our" or "us" we are referring to all of us at PwC, individual partners/principals and staff, as well as the individual firms that together form the PwC network.



Speak up

Speaking up is crucial to our culture and our long term results—it is a living example of our values. Speaking up when something doesn't seem right demonstrates our integrity and that we have the courage to do the right thing. Speaking up helps to prevent mistakes and misconduct and foster innovation. Speaking up shows that we care about each other and our business. And speaking up to get things right or keep them on track helps us live up to our commitment to deliver high quality outcomes.

Something doesn't seem right? Facing a dilemma? Have a question that leads to more difficult questions? Need advice?

Consult. Pick up the phone. Send an email. Set up a meeting. Speak up.

Each of us, no matter what our level or role, is empowered to speak up when dealing with behaviour or facing a situation that doesn't seem right. Each of us has a responsibility to report and express our concerns, and to do so fairly, honestly, and professionally.

Do not ignore it. Do not stay silent.

Collaboration means we consult with our colleagues in matters large and small, and we know that our concerns are heard and addressed in an open and professional manner, including that an investigation will take place when warranted. We consult with our supervisors, coaches, partners/principals, ethics teams, Risk and Quality teams, Office of the General Counsel, Human Capital representatives, or others at PwC, particularly those in reporting lines. These people are responsible for addressing or escalating as necessary the issues brought to their attention. We raise issues using formal and informal methods as appropriate: in person, over the phone, and/or electronically.

We protect against retaliation. In being true to the values of integrity and care—if you report a concern, it will be handled with appropriate confidentiality and discussed with others only as needed or advisable under the circumstances. Exercising professional scepticism, applying common sense, and knowing and applying the code as well as the local supplementary guidance, will help each of us know when to speak up through whichever channel we are most comfortable.

As well as the resources listed here, each firm in the PwC network provides a mechanism to report issues. For further information, please visit Spark: code of conduct NL. There is also a confidential global *Contact Us* email option on pwc.com/codeofconduct.

Speak up. It's the right thing to do.
These are the moments that matter.

PwC is committed to protecting our people against retaliation. Retaliation is serious misconduct that will not be tolerated, and any PwC professional (including partners/principals or staff) who takes retaliatory action will be held accountable.

Q. What is retaliation?

A. Retaliation can be any form of reprisal, direct or subtle, for reporting in good faith actual or suspected issues.

We consult with our:

- Supervisors
- Coaches
- Partners/Principals
- Ethics teams

- Risk and Quality teams
- Office of the General Counsel
- Human Capital representatives
- Others at PwC

Build trust in how we do business



The quality and impact of our work is critical to who we are as PwC professionals, and as a network of firms. Our sustained performance is part of how we create and build trust with our clients, in each other, and in our communities.

We serve only clients that we're competent to serve, who value our service, and who meet appropriate standards of legitimacy and integrity. We provide only services we are professionally capable of delivering. We collaborate to bring the necessary skills and innovation to our work. We deliver on our commitments.

Our reputation is defined by trust, integrity, and achieving high quality sustainable value. Our continued success means upholding professional standards, adhering to applicable laws and regulations, and fulfilling ethical obligations while delivering high quality, innovative work.

Our business judgment is free from bias, conflicts of interest or undue influence of others. We follow processes and procedures to identify and address any actual or potential conflicts of interests.

We recognise that independence, including the appearance of **independence**, is at the heart of objectivity. We proactively avoid and address circumstances that create, or might be seen to create, threats to our independence of assurance clients.



We are willing to walk away from clients and engagements where our integrity, objectivity, or professionalism could be called into question if we continued.

Mary Waldron Global Chief Risk Officer

What if?



I'm new to PwC. I know we have independence requirements, which I understand. But can you just remind me how I can check if I am allowed to invest in a company?



The rules on investments are complex, so it is always good to double check. Contact your loca independence specialist or help desk and they will guide you.

Conflicts can take many forms. Consult when the following kinds of situations arise:

- There are PwC or personal interests, which could impact, or could be perceived as impacting, our objectivity in doing what is best for our client(s).
- When PwC and a client are on opposite sides of the same matter.
- When we are asked to do work for one client which may be seen to be against the interests of another client.

These situations do not necessarily mean that we can't do the work, but that we need to consider how to manage the potential conflict or any perceived client sensitivities.



We demonstrate our integrity by:

Negotiating and securing **contracts** lawfully and honourably with our clients, suppliers, and other parties. We meet our contractual obligations, and adhere to the agreed terms and conditions.

Being transparent in disclosing the basis on which we charge for our services. We record our time and expenses accurately.

Competing fairly. We do not enter into any agreements with our competitors, formally or informally, to unlawfully restrict competition, set prices, or allocate clients, markets, people, or services.

Respecting our competitors' confidential information. We collect information about competitors only if it's available publicly, or doing so doesn't breach legal or contractual obligations.

What if?



My supervisor has implied that I should reduce the number of hours I've recorded on my timesheet. I know I've been

working more than the budgeted hours but I feel like I've worked as efficiently as possible. What should I do?



You must record your hours accurately as incurred. You should not reduce or inflate hours, and you should not sacrifice quality just to ge the job done in the allotted hours.

You should immediately discuss your concern with your supervisor. If your supervisor ignores your concern, you should discuss with other appropriate resources. Remember that RADAR is a resource as well.



I attended a meeting with a partner and several competitors to discuss technical accounting issues. At the gathering afterwards, a peer (from a

competitor) mentioned that he is excited about a new pricing structure he and his group are putting in place. He suspects all the other firms will adopt the same structure and offered to share it with me in the interests of "being competitive" if I would share our team's pricing structure with him. What should I do?



You should make it clear you do not want to receive it, and will not share any such information. Immediately report the matter to OGC.

Exchanging pricing information in this manner is prohibited.



We demonstrate our integrity by:

Never engaging in **bribery or corrupt** practices. This is vital to maintaining the trust of our colleagues, clients, and others we work with. We do not solicit, accept, offer, promise, or pay bribes, including facilitation payments—whether directly or through a third party.

Knowing the **identity** of our clients and others with whom we do business, and adhering to applicable standards on **anti-money laundering**. Where we suspect criminal behaviour, we take appropriate action. We do not conduct any activities in breach of applicable economic sanctions or undertake services which assist clients in breaching applicable sanctions laws.

"Facilitation payments" are payments of small value provided (in cash or kind) to government officials to perform routine functions that they are otherwise obligated to perform (such as to expedite obtaining permits, licenses, visas, mail, or utilities). Facilitation payments do not include legitimate administrative fees and legitimate payments for fast track services that are paid to an organisation (not to an individual), and where a receipt may be issued on request.

What if?



In my culture, it is typical to give and receive holiday gifts from clients. But the code indicates there are circumstances where the

gifts may be considered inappropriate.
What should I do?



It depends on a number of factors. Local customs/laws/regulations and PwC policies, and the policies of our clients, vary. We need to be particularly careful when dealing

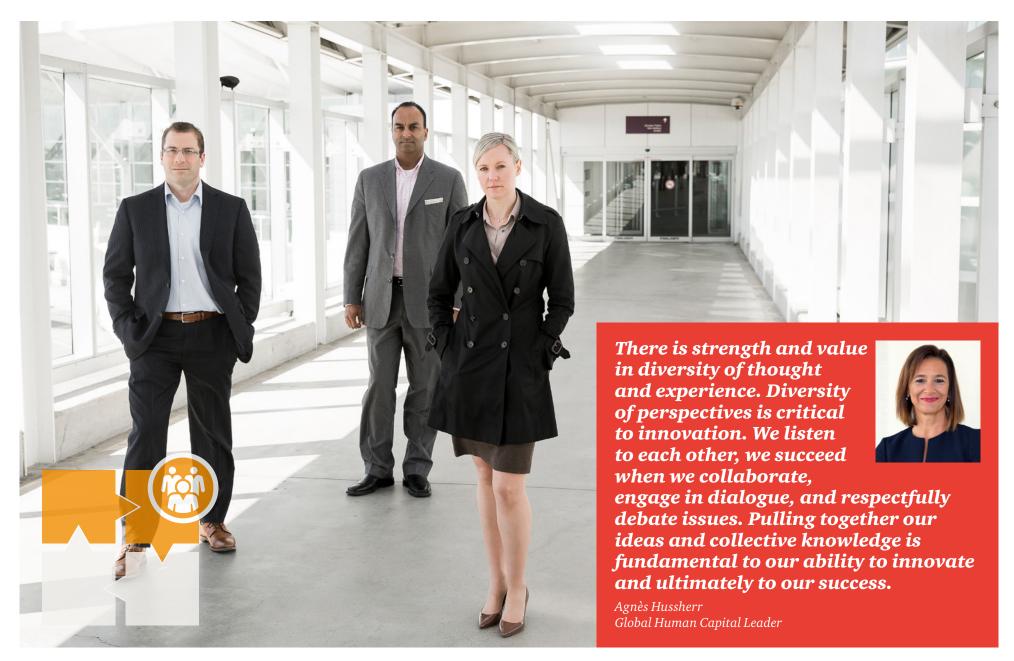
with public sector, including government, clients. Check your firm's supplemental guidance and policy for specific restrictions, or you should consult with appropriate resources such as HR or your local OGC. Remember that RADAR is a resource as well.

A bribe is not only payment or receipt of cash. A bribe can be anything of value and can take many other forms, including:

- Consultancy fees and commissions to parties not actually performing services;
- Payments in-kind including any non-cash items of value such as travel, hospitality, entertainment, employment opportunities, and gifts;
- Employment of family members of government officials outside the normal hiring process; and
- Sponsorships/donations.



Build trust with each other



We encourage collaboration **across territories** and around the **PwC network**. Trust is key to this collaboration, as it helps us to more effectively work with our colleagues and serve clients. Trust begins with each of us treating each other with care, courtesy, dignity, fairness, and respect.

We take appropriate measures to protect the safety of PwC people. We provide a safe working environment free of abusive, violent, threatening or other disruptive behaviour.

We do not tolerate harassment, discrimination, bullying, or disrespectful behaviour.* These behaviours undermine the integrity of our relationships.

We respect and encourage open dialogue, to create a climate for frank and honest discussions.

What if?



After work, I attended a gathering with the rest of my team. One of my managers made several unwelcome advances towards me. What should I do?



Unwelcome advances are never acceptable. If you are comfortable doing so, professionally and respectfully address the situation with the manager, and know that

going forward, you can always do so in the moment. You should also speak up and consult with the appropriate resources, such as Human Capital, or the ethics teams so that additional steps may be taken consistent with established firm processes. Remember that RADAR is a resource as well.



Whenever I ask my manager a question, she publicly mocks me and questions my qualifications. What do I do?



This behaviour may be considered bullying, and at a minimum is disrespectful and inconsistent with our code. Speak up. You can talk to your Human Capital contact, ethic

teams, or other resources you're comfortable with. RADAR can help guide your thinking.

*This applies whether based on an individual's race, ethnicity, colour, age, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, political beliefs, citizenship, national origin, language, religion, disability, parental status, economic/class status, veteran status, or other inappropriate basis.



We value the diversity of our workforce as a competitive advantage that we nurture and expand.

We promote a culture that cares about and fosters innovation, professional growth, career development, workplace flexibility and work/life balance.

We invest in our people and their career growth by encouraging continual learning, and by creating opportunities to support both near-term development and long-term career progression. Continuously learning, and being open minded, is key to our ability to innovate and solve important problems.

We speak up for ourselves, and each other, when faced with the inappropriate behaviours of others, including clients.

What if?



I was in the lunch room with my colleagues, just having a casual conversation, and one of them made a comment about another

colleague that I found offensive. How do I handle this situation?



- If you experience or witness something that does not feel right, voice your concerns. Reach out to appropriate resources. It is safe to speak up.
- We protect our people against retaliation for reporting concerns in good faith. Retaliation is itself a form of serious misconduct that PwC does not tolerate. Any PwC professional (including partners/principals, or staff) who takes retaliatory action will be held accountable.



At each level and dimension of the PwC Professional, expectations on ethical behaviour are defined.



The most innovative solutions come from working together with colleagues and clients. Effective collaboration enables innovation.



Build trust in our communities



We further our contribution to society by using our skills and experience to help solve important problems, including those related to ethics, integrity, and trust—issues central to fostering a sustainable and inclusive global economy.

We support a shift to a more sustainable society by providing services that transform business and civil society, contribute to wider development goals, and reduce environmental impact.

We help solve important social problems in our communities by contributing our professional expertise and collaborating with other organisations to achieve maximum results.

We respect and honour the customs and traditions of the countries in which we operate. If these customs and traditions conflict with this code, we consult internally on how to adhere to the code while being respectful of local culture and traditions. We aim to gain the trust of our stakeholders by showing care, openness and honesty and focusing relentlessly on ethics and quality.

We respect the limits of our planet and adopt a preventative approach to minimise the environmental impacts of our business. We also help our clients to do the same.





We participate in the dialogue to help shape legislation and regulation in a manner that upholds the public interest and our purpose.

We support the rule of law in our interactions with regulators. We work with government and professional authorities in a respectful and forthright manner. Contacts, on behalf of PwC, with government and professional authorities are generally handled by designated partners/principals and staff.

We respond promptly to governmental and professional authorities' requests for information, as required by applicable law and professional obligations.

We encourage and support involvement in community activities. We do not represent our personal political affiliations or views as those of PwC, and we comply with applicable reporting requirements. We avoid using PwC resources (or creating the appearance that PwC is supporting, endorsing, or opposing any particular political position or political party/candidate, charity, product, or specific religion), without approval.

What if?



political situation(s) in my country. May I express my or views via social media?



not for PwC.



A client has asked me to speak at a conference which they are sponsoring on certain political issues pertaining to them. May I accept the speaking engagement?



Risk and Quality team to determine



I am on the professional ethics committee of a professional accountants' association, which has agreed to take a view on a proposed standard that differs from PwC's view. May I publicly present the association's





We care about, respect and support internationally proclaimed human rights. We work to guard against complicity in human rights abuses. We comply with applicable labour and employment laws, and draw on internationally recognised labour principles in how we do business.

We are responsible taxpayers. We manage all our relevant tax filings, domestic and foreign, with accuracy, in good faith, and on time. We only pursue tax planning initiatives or adopt filing positions which would not adversely impact the reputation of PwC. We apply the *Global Tax code of conduct* to our member firms, and to our partners/principals and staff, as we apply it to clients.

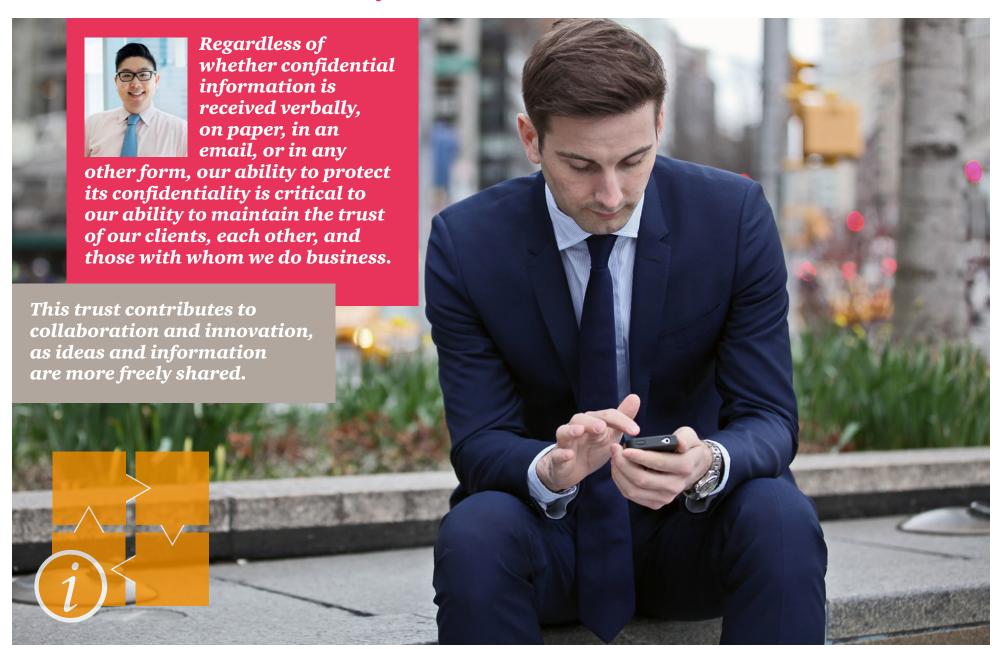
Internationally recognised labour principles include, for example, principles in the UN Global Compact and the aims of the International Labour Organisation.

The global nature of the business world together with the complexity and competing priorities of national laws, are such that it is not always clear where lines should be drawn. Accordingly, the member firms of the PwC network have adopted the Global Tax code of conduct to assist their clients, other stakeholders, and their respective partners/principals and staff.





Build trust in how we use information



We respect the **privacy and confidentiality** of information of our clients, our people, and others with whom we do business.

We protect personal and other confidential information in all forms.

We collect, store, use, transmit, and dispose of personal and confidential information in a way that is transparent and promotes trust. We gather, use, and keep personal, client, and other confidential information only if we have a legitimate reason to do so. Access to this information is provided only as necessary. Our duty of confidentiality does not end when we leave PwC; we continue to respect the confidentiality of information even after our departure.

We all play a role in protecting confidential information entrusted to us in its various forms.

- 1. We only use approved PwC systems and applications in our work.
- 2. We do not inappropriately divulge confidential information, including when using social media.
- 3. We are cautious when discussing client matters in public spaces.
- 4. We take care to protect physical copies of confidential information.
- 5. We promptly identify any unintended disclosure of confidential information and escalate within PwC as appropriate.

An understanding of the importance of confidentiality and trust in one another helps us collaborate, innovate and succeed across the Network.



We use good judgment in the use of social media, and never lose sight of the fact that social media is public media. We think before we post.



We protect the information and physical and electronic assets to which we have access. This includes protecting them from all malicious threats and accidental loss.

We secure all paper and electronic records and keep them for only the prescribed period of time.

We preserve relevant information when we know of or anticipate an investigation, litigation or other matter, or have been instructed to do so.

We respect the integrity of our **work papers** and do not make inappropriate changes to them once they are complete.

We never trade on or inappropriately disclose **inside information**.

What do we mean by "accidental"?

Accidental loss can occur by leaving a computer unattended, inadvertently sending a confidential email to the wrong recipient, or simply leaving sensitive documents at a printer site near your office.

What if?



I was in an office elevator, and overheard two people talking about a merger and acquisition they were working on. Is it okay for me to invest in one of the companies?



No, this would be considered "insider trading." We do not trade or non-public information no matter how we have obtained it. Also we should not disclose that information

to any other person. If not sure, you can find additional guidance in the Insider Trading policy. Remember that there are resources that you can speak with as well, such as Risk and Quality.

What is "inside information"?

Inside information is information about a company (e.g., financial forecasts, merger and acquisition proposals, and key personnel changes) that has not been made public.

Where does inside information come from?

Inside information can come from any source (e.g., clients, suppliers, subcontractors, joint venture partners, or any other entity or person which PwC or anyone in PwC has contact with or information about).

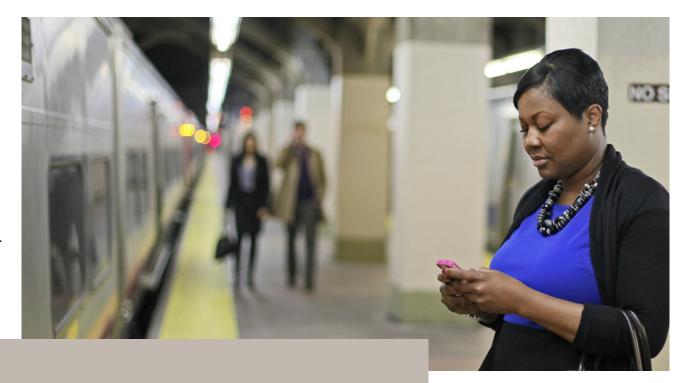


We are thoughtful in our **communications**, online and off. We're courteous and respectful towards co-workers and clients when we speak in public or online forums, use social media, or take part in external dialogue.

When expressing views on community or public issues, we are clear when such views are our own and not necessarily those of PwC.

When audiences to whom we are speaking would reasonably expect that we represent PwC, we generally state only PwC's view and not our own. We do not express the views of others as our own.

We comply with copyright and **intellectual property laws**.



What if?



I found a really good research article on the internet that I would like to share with my colleagues and clients. Is it ok to do that?



It depends. Remember that information on both the internet and PwC's internal systems is often copyrighted and/or licensed material, and you may need permission to further circulate the information. Also, it is

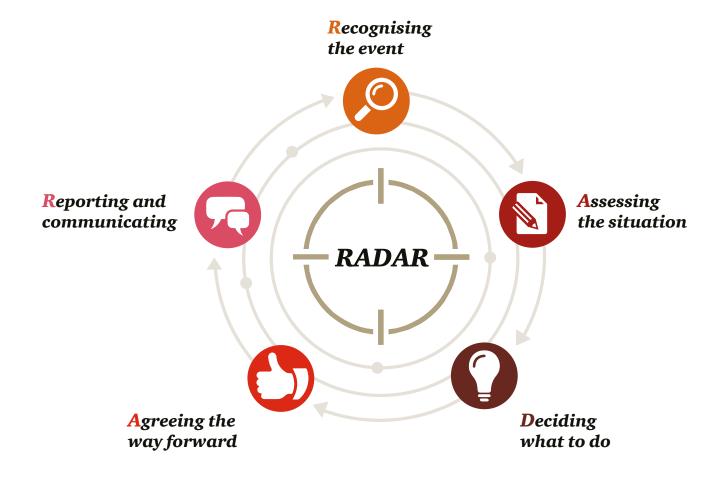
important that you not use another's work product as your own. Attribution at a minimum is always required, so that you are not accused of plagiarising. If you are not sure, you should discuss with your manager or engagement partner.



We are purpose led and values driven, and our purpose and values are our guiding principles in deciding the right thing to do. Addressing and resolving ethical dilemmas is complex, and the code cannot address all questions or situations. The code is one of many tools we have as professionals to guide our behaviour. It is not meant to be a rule book. The code is underpinned by the PwC purpose and values. It is supported and supplemented by network standards, network and local policies and guidance, all of which are available on relevant sites throughout the network.

This RADAR decision making framework is here to help you think and to build your skills in analysing ethical dilemmas, and, in doing so, make good decisions. In deciding on a course of action, the steps and questions can help guide your approach. They do not need to be followed in any particular order, and the following graphic is not meant to be a decision tree. Rather, this is meant to help frame your thinking, which could happen within a few minutes to a few days. And remember, nothing can replace individual judgment and the application of the values when deciding what to do in the moment.





Reporting and

communicating

- Report your concerns to appropriate resources (e.g., ethics teams, OGC, R&Q, HC) as necessary.
- Communicate your concerns and rationale to the relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.
- Reflect on what you have learned and whether anything needs to change.

- Is the situation consistent with the PwC purpose and values?
- Are you being asked to do something which you think is wrong, against the PwC purpose or our values?
- Are you aware of others' unethical or illegal behaviour (e.g., colleagues, clients, suppliers and other parties)?
- Are you trying to make a decision but are unsure of the ethical implications?

Recognising the event

• What if it was reported in the media?



- Test your decision—does it feel right? Can you sleep at night?
- Would you be embarrassed if others knew what you did, or did not do?
- Reflect on what a reasonable person would think
- Consult again, if necessary.
- Act when you are confident with your decision, and always in good faith.

- What are the options?
- What are the likely results of each option?
- Is there an alternative solution that does not pose an ethical conflict?
- Consult as appropriate.
- Make a decision on what to do.

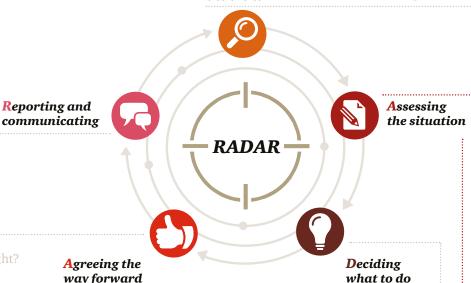
Who is affected?

- You?
- A colleague/your team?
- PwC—your firm or the network?
- Your client/a client?
- Other third parties?

- Does it feel right?
- The law—is it legal?
- Regulation/professional standards.
- PwC standards and policies.
- Client reactions.
- Wider third party reactions.
- PwC purpose.
- PwC values.

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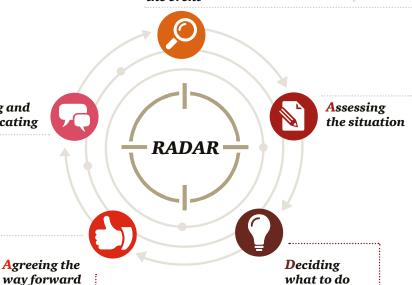
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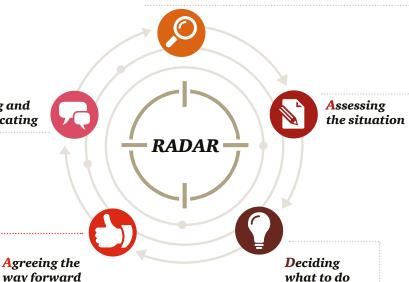
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- Other third parties?

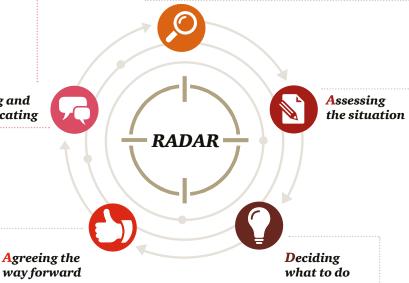
- Does it feel right?
- The law—is it legal?
- Regulation/professional standards.
- PwC standards and policies.
- Client reactions.
- Wider third party reactions.
- PwC purpose.
- PwC values.

- Report your concerns to appropriate resources (e.g., ethics teams, OGC, R&Q, HC) as necessary.
- Communicate your concerns and rationale to the relevant stakeholders. as appropriate.
- Reflect on what you have learned and whether anything needs to change.

Reporting and communicating

- Test your decision—does it feel right?
- Would you be embarrassed if others
- Reflect on what a reasonable person
- Consult again, if necessary.
- Act when you are confident with your

- Is the situation consistent with the PwC purpose and values?
- Are you being asked to do something which you think is wrong,
- Are you aware of others' unethical or illegal behaviour (e.g.,
- Are you trying to make a decision but are unsure of the ethical
- What if it was reported in the media?



Recognising

the event

- What are the options?
 - What are the likely results of each
 - Is there an alternative solution that
 - Consult as appropriate.
 - Make a decision on what to do.

Who is affected?

- You?
- A colleague/your team?
- PwC—vour firm or the network?
- Your client/a client?
- Other third parties?

- Does it feel right?
- The law—is it legal?
- Regulation/professional standards.
- PwC standards and policies.
- Client reactions.
- Wider third party reactions.
- PwC purpose.
- PwC values.

We listen and take action

"Speaking up" is an essential first step. For any allegation, complaint, or concern, we investigate and address the situation in an appropriate way. If you want to learn more about the investigation process, and your options for anonymous reporting, contact your local ethics team. Remember that PwC is committed to caring for and protecting our people against retaliation.

Anybody who violates the PwC code of conduct or policies and procedures will be held accountable. Those of us in the reporting line are responsible for addressing issues that are brought to our attention.

If anyone directs or approves violations, or has knowledge of them and does not promptly move to correct them, he or she will be held accountable. We are all responsible for cooperating during the investigation process, and for answering questions truthfully, accurately, completely, and with integrity. Failure to cooperate may result in disciplinary measures.

The code of conduct, and the PwC network of firms

We are committed to the spirit of cooperation among PwC network firms. When faced with questions about business conduct or concerns when working for another firm within the PwC network, follow the established policies of the host firm. If you're not comfortable with raising the issue with the host firm, or are not satisfied with the outcome, raise the issue in your home firm so the issue can be addressed amongst the respective leaderships of the firms involved.

For further information, please visit: www.pwc.nl/onze-organisatie/gedragscode
Spark: code of conduct NL or www.pwc.com/ethics



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