

CODE OF CONDUCT – PSC ACT (2009)

Every employee and every head of department of the Cook Islands Public Service must, in the course of their employment –

1. Behave with integrity and honesty; and
2. Exercise care and diligence; and
3. Be professional, courteous, and treat everyone with respect and without coercion or harassment; and
4. Comply with all applicable laws relating to their employment; and
5. Comply with all lawful and reasonable instructions; and
6. Take reasonable steps to disclose and avoid any real or apparent conflicts of interest in connection with their employment; and
7. Ensure the proper and prudent use of government resources; and
8. Use official information only for official purposes; and
9. Not improperly use their status or authority to seek or obtain a benefit for themselves or any other person or body; and
10. At all times act and behave in a manner that upholds and promotes the integrity, values and good reputation of the Cook Islands Public Service; and
11. Comply with any other conduct requirements as may be prescribed by regulations.

Values of the Public Service

Subject to the Constitution and the rule of law, the Commissioner, every head of department, and every employee must uphold the following values in their work:

- a. HONESTY – acting honestly, being truthful, and abiding by the laws of the Cook Islands.
- b. IMPARTIALITY – providing impartial advice, acting without fear or favour, and making decisions on their merits.
- c. SERVICE – serving the people well through faithful service to the Government of the Cook Islands.
- d. RESPECT – treating the people, the Government of the Cook Islands, and colleagues with courtesy and respect;
- e. TRANSPARENCY – taking actions and making decisions in an open way;
- f. ACCOUNTABILITY – being able to explain the reason for actions taken, and taking responsibility for these actions;
- g. EFFICIENCY and EFFECTIVENESS – achieving good results for the Cook Islands in an economical way.