

Code of Conduct for Deputy Lieutenants

1. Congratulations on your appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant (DL).

Nature of the Role

2. The role of a DL is to support the Lord-Lieutenant and to represent him or her when asked to do so. It is a role of service, and, though your appointment recognises that you have already provided a significant level of service in the community, it is not primarily intended as an honour or a reward.

Dignity of the Crown

3. DLs have a special responsibility stemming from the duty of the Lieutenancy to protect the honour and dignity of the Crown. Lord-Lieutenants are The King's personal representatives, and they and their deputies must avoid actions and comments that could bring the Monarchy or the Lieutenancy into disrepute. DLs must not use their position, or the post nominal-letters attached to it, for political or commercial purposes or in ways that go against the principles of public life (the Nolan principles, which are set out in the annex).

Social Media

4. Particular care is needed in relation to social media. DLs' account names should not include the post-nominal letters "DL" unless the account is there specifically for promoting official activities of the Lieutenancy and is authorised as such by the Lord-Lieutenant. Posts and comments on such accounts should not convey DLs' personal views on any matter that is political or controversial, whether nationally or locally.
5. So far as personal social media accounts are concerned, even if the account name does not specifically refer to the fact that the poster is a DL, restraint should be shown in commenting on controversial subjects. Personal attacks and pejorative language must be avoided, and responses to posted comments should be moderate, responsible and balanced. Extreme care should also be taken if reposting or retweeting controversial posts. If posting directly would go against the principles of this code then reposting, sharing or retweeting is also very likely to do so, even without comment.

Social Cohesion

6. Lord-Lieutenants are fortunate in that they are able to appoint their DLs from a wide range of people reflecting the diverse nature of their communities. It is important to remember however, that The King is the Sovereign of all the people of the United Kingdom, and DLs are not appointed to represent or advocate on behalf of any particular group. One of the prime duties of a Lord-Lieutenant is to foster social cohesion, and DLs must take special care to avoid any public action or comment that could have the effect of dividing the community or setting one group against another. Such activities could seriously undermine the very nature of

the Lieutenancy, and could justify the Lord-Lieutenant's seeking the DL's resignation or revoking their commission.

7. These principles, if observed sensibly, should not unduly constrain DLs or affect their basic rights, such as freedom of speech. Any DL who feels the need for freedom to act or comment in a way which might go against them is at liberty to stand down as a DL, which is not in any way giving up a right or privilege. As a DL you are voluntarily offering to serve the community, and taking on a role that comes with important and positive duties. You may feel you could better serve the community in ways that would conflict with these duties: but it is to be hoped that you will welcome the opportunity that your appointment brings to promote social cohesion and bring communities together.
8. To summarise:
 - Uphold the dignity of the Crown;
 - Avoid political and other controversy;
 - Be civil, moderate, responsible and balanced in any public comments;
 - Act in ways that will tend to bring people together, rather than divide them.

ANNEX

The Nolan Principles:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.