



NETWORKS

# THE WAY WE WORK AT ESB OUR CODE



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## OUR CODE: A QUICK GUIDE

ESB's Code of Ethics, known as Our Code, sets out the principles and standards we must all adhere to in conducting our business. We can all benefit from following Our Code, not just to the letter but also in spirit, and helping each other to do the same.

All of the documents referred to in Our Code, as well as other documents that apply to the way we work at ESB, can be accessed online through the Hub employee intranet.

### 01 Use our values to guide our behaviours

At ESB, we believe that Our Values should clearly set out what we stand for as a company. ESB's values are to be Courageous, Caring, Driven and Trusted.

They are explained in our guide to The Way We Work – Our Values, and we use them to help us deliver the kind of service that will build on our existing reputation and help the company thrive.

### 02 Obey all laws and follow all policies and guidance

Following Our Code is in essence, about continually striving to work in a way that demonstrates honesty, loyalty, fairness and discretion: – that means always complying with the laws and regulations of Ireland and other countries where ESB operates, as well as following all policies, procedures and guidelines that relate to what you are doing.

### 03 Always act in the interests of ESB, your colleagues and everybody with whom we do business

When we live Our Code:

- We know what standards are expected of us, in whatever we are doing
- We understand what each of us must personally do to meet and reach beyond these standards
- We choose to take responsibility and do the right thing

Never do anything that would violate Our Code, and if you believe that a violation has occurred, immediately report it.



## MESSAGE FROM PADDY HAYES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our Code is a guide for each of us at ESB, calling out the expectations and standards we set for ourselves as employees of an ethical and inclusive organisation.

ESB has worked over many years to make a difference and to create a brighter future for our customers and the communities we serve. How we do this is important.

It's about doing the right thing, every time, for our customers, our society, our environment, for ESB, and for one another. It's grounded in what we do every day to live our values and to treat people with respect. It challenges us to consistently demonstrate that we're caring, courageous, driven, and trusted.

We all have a responsibility to live up to Our Code and to challenge, call out and change any behaviours that aren't consistent. Ultimately, Our Code requires that each of us takes responsibility for our own actions and behaviours and for those of our teams.

At the heart of Our Code is the respect we hold for each other, for our customers and suppliers, and for society and the environment. Living up to Our Code is about ensuring that how we behave, the decisions we make, and the actions we take reflect ESB's values and are consistent with ESB's purpose.

Thank you for your commitment to ESB's purpose, to our values, and to Our Code.

Take care,  
Paddy.



“  
It's about doing  
the right thing,  
every time, for  
our customers,  
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environment,  
for ESB, and for  
one another.

Paddy Hayes  
Chief Executive

”

# ABOUT OUR CODE



## WHO OUR CODE APPLIES TO

### Who Our Code is for

Our Code is for the use of all employees of ESB, both permanent and temporary, in Ireland and overseas. Its principles also apply to people and organisations with whom ESB does business. We are committed to working solely with partners, contractors and third parties that have values and standards consistent with Our Code.

### We are all responsible

The company's reputation as a trusted and responsible organisation is the responsibility of every one of us. By following Our Code, we all play a part in upholding and enhancing the respect ESB holds as a business and employer.

### How managers provide guidance

As well as following Our Code, managers tell people about it, help everyone understand it and lead by example. They also ensure that guidance and training is made available and that any breaches are reported so that our high standards are maintained.

### The role of ESB Board

The Board provides the leadership of the Group and, either directly or through the operation of Committees, applies independent judgement on matters of values, strategy, performance, resources and governance. The Board retains overall responsibility for ESB's governance framework, internal controls and risk management, including Our Code.

### Safety, Sustainability and Culture Committee

The Safety, Sustainability and Culture Committee reviews and recommends Our Code to the Board for approval and monitors the embedding Our Code across the business.

## WE ALWAYS, WE NEVER

### We always

1. We always manage our finances carefully so that ESB maintains financial strength ensuring that we can deliver our ambitious strategy.
2. We always work to protect ourselves and others from risk at all times and support our colleagues in the delivery of their health and safety duties.
3. We always respect the human rights of everyone we come into contact with at ESB, including our employees, our partners, contractors, suppliers, customers and everyone in our value chain.
4. We always act inclusively, treating each customer and colleague with dignity and respect.
5. We always respect and protect the company's property and resources, and avoid using them for any improper purpose.
6. We always respect privacy rights and protect ESB's information, networks and products from cyber risks.
7. We always ensure our business records are complete, accurate and appropriately authorised.
8. We always endeavour to work with and alongside companies who meet our standards and are aligned with our ways of working.
9. We always communicate with our stakeholders in a transparent way.
10. We always act responsibly, to protect the environment and climate, and to minimise any negative environmental and social impacts.
11. We always make sure that everyone in ESB is clear on what is expected of them, and has the opportunity to grow to their full potential.
12. We always deliver a professional, efficient service to our customers and make it easy for them to do business with us.
13. We always speak up when we have concerns and we always support and encourage each other in speaking up.

### We never

1. We never avoid disclosing a conflict of interest. Conflicts of interest can arise from time to time but should not be a problem when they are openly and effectively managed.
2. We never accept or offer gifts or hospitality that could influence or be perceived as influencing a business decision.
3. We never defraud or deceive anyone, or act dishonestly, and we always protect the company against fraud.
4. We never tolerate bribery or corruption in any form.
5. We never use or share inside information about ESB (or any other company) for financial or other personal benefit.
6. We never disclose confidential company information to third parties unless required by law to do so.
7. We never damage the reputation of ESB through our own use of social media.
8. We never expose ESB's IT and digital systems to harm, so that we protect ESB's cybersecurity and the confidentiality of all company and personal data.
9. We never tolerate or engage in any activity that could lead to modern slavery.
10. We never compete unfairly or illegally in any market where we are active.
11. We never penalise anyone disclosing instances of breach.
12. We never discriminate or judge anyone because of their (actual or perceived): gender, marital/civil status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, or membership of the traveller community.

## OUR CODE IN CONTEXT

### Laws and Policies

All employees at ESB, along with our partners, contractors, suppliers and anyone else with whom we do business must respect and work within the laws of Ireland and any other country where we, or they, operate. Our Code reflects these laws as well as ESB's policies, standards and the regulations we follow. In particular, our Code should be viewed together with ESB's Anti-Bribery, Corruption and Fraud Policy and all the company's other governance and compliance policies.

### Regulatory Excellence

We always comply with the laws and regulatory obligations that apply to ESB in Ireland and every market and country where we are working. In some cases, the laws of one country may apply to activities that take place outside of that country. This environment demands that every employee and leader be committed to regulatory excellence.

We know, understand and choose to comply with the laws, licences and regulatory requirements that affect our work. Regulators are treated professionally with courtesy, honesty and respect at all times. We coordinate with business or corporate experts when working with or responding to requests from regulators. And above all, we flag any potential regulatory breaches, through our line managers or the other reporting channels covered in the Speak Up section of Our Code.

### Quality

Today our company operates one of the world's most advanced electricity networks, delivering critical infrastructure to the economies we serve.

Our reputation drives our success. Since 1927 we have gained the trust of customers, shareholders, stakeholders, landowners and the public, and each of us has a part to play in protecting that reputation and building on that trust.

We always:

- ensure that we represent ESB and our brands to the highest standards at all times. This includes how we speak, how we drive for business and how we use company tools and resources
- deliver the best possible customer experience by ensuring the quality of every customer interaction and the products and services we provide across our business areas
- require that all our business partners, including suppliers and contractors, meet our working standards
- follow the quality management system that covers where we work in ESB





## BREACHES OF OUR CODE ARE A SERIOUS MATTER

The trust of our customers is vital to us. It is important that we maintain this trust. If you are found guilty of breaching Our Code, you may face a disciplinary process in accordance with ESB's Disciplinary Procedures, and if you are found to have committed a violation, you will be penalised in such a way as to reflect on the seriousness of the offence, up to and including dismissal.

If a contractor, supplier, casual or agency worker breaches Our Code, we will report them to their employer and their contract may be terminated. ESB may also take action to recover any losses incurred as a result of the breach. Depending on the nature, ESB may be required to report to the police and/or to relevant authorities in line with the relevant laws.

As a company, ESB complies with applicable trade restrictions, sanctions and various other legal and regulatory requirements set by recognised national and international authorities. If we don't follow these restrictions, sanctions and legal and regulatory requirements we face serious consequences which may lead to civil and/or criminal prosecution.



# HOW DO I MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS?



## HOW DO I MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS?

### How can I be sure I'm doing the right thing?

Written standards like Our Code help us deal with issues that come up in our working lives. However, in a complex business like ours, it isn't possible to cover every situation that might happen. So, at times, we will have to use our own personal judgement.

Here you'll find some simple guidance to help get that judgement right.

### What to keep in mind when taking action or making a decision:

- Our Values - we're courageous, caring, driven, and trusted
- Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- The regulations, standards and laws that apply to that particular situation
- Policies, procedures and guidelines that relate to what you are doing
- How might your action affect:
  - our customers
  - our communities
  - our colleagues
  - our company
  - ourselves
  - the environment

So when faced with a choice or dilemma, think about the following:

- Does my action comply with regulations and laws?
- Is it in line with Our Values?
- Does it follow our policies?
- Does it follow procedures and guidelines?
- Does it set a good example to people with whom I work?
- Would I be happy with this if I were a customer or a member of our community?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'no', think again about what to say or do. Either talk to your manager or use ESB's reporting channels to speak up. (See following section called 'Speak up'.)

### The phrases below are like red flashing lights.

Whether we say them ourselves or hear them from colleagues, we should take a moment to check if something wrong or illegal is happening:

**No one will ever know.**

**Everyone else does it, so it must be OK.**

**Don't worry; it's the way we do things around here.**

**It doesn't matter how it gets done, just do it.**

**I don't want to know.**

# Speak Up

## How do I speak up if I have concerns?

Being courageous is one of Our Values, which is why ESB expects us to report any concerns we have. Your line manager should be the first person you can turn to. If, for any reason, you're not able to talk to your line manager, there are other people that can help you, such as someone in HR, a different manager or Group Internal Auditor. Don't forget there is also the ESB Confidential Helpline (see contact details below).

Everyone at ESB should be able to ask questions and raise concerns without fear of penalisation. ESB will not tolerate penalisation, including bullying, intimidation, harassment, discrimination victimisation or disadvantage, of any person who reports a concern.

There are many ways to report your concerns but the most important thing of all is to speak up.

ESB's Whistleblowing and Protected Disclosure Policy sets out procedures for raising concerns and reporting wrongdoing.

## ESB Confidential Helpline

The Confidential Helpline is operated by an independent company separate from ESB and can be contacted on:

Call:

Ireland: **1800 481 098**

UK: **0800 915 1571**

Other jurisdictions:

**[www.safecall.co.uk/freephone](http://www.safecall.co.uk/freephone)**

Webmail:

**[www.safecall.co.uk/clients/esb](http://www.safecall.co.uk/clients/esb)**

## Group Internal Audit

You can contact the ESB Group Internal Audit Manager on:  
**[gia@esb.ie](mailto:gia@esb.ie)**

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# SECTION 1

## OUR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INTEGRITY

Since we were established in 1927, millions of people have grown to trust ESB to provide vital services that affect many aspects of their lives. It's a big responsibility, but it's one we all welcome. By maintaining that trust and protecting our reputation, we all contribute to ESB's success.

## OUR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INTEGRITY

### Conflicts of Interest

**Any conflicts of interest are disclosed and appropriately managed. It's the best way to ensure that all our decisions are made in the company's best interests.**

Conflicts of interest arise when our interests or connections outside of ESB – whether family, business or personal – affect the way we carry out our functions within ESB. This can happen in many different ways, such as when we:

- have a personal interest in business transactions involving ESB
- have family or friends who do business with ESB

For example, if you are involved in a tender process or a purchasing decision, and you feel like you might have a conflict of interest, you should notify the relevant Procurement Manager in writing. If the Procurement Manager then confirms that there is a conflict, you will be required to excuse yourself from the decision-making process.

Conflicts of interest may also arise in cases of close personal or family relationships between people within ESB. While this does not refer to regular friendships between colleagues, any internal personal relationship that could potentially pose a risk of any conflict of interest (for example: in recruitment, reward, performance, expense approval processes etc), must always be notified to a line manager or to a HR Business Partner. A line management relationship shouldn't exist between family members or those with a close personal relationship.

*Find out more in our policies including ESB's Policy on External Directorships of ESB Employees, ESB Group's Procurement Procedures, and Asset Disposal & Access to Infrastructure.*

### Financial Control

**We always manage our finances carefully so that ESB maintains financial strength to support the delivery of our ambitious strategy.**

We must follow our internal controls which keep ESB on course by promoting efficiency, reducing risk of asset loss, and helping to ensure the accuracy of financial statements and compliance with law and regulations. The Board, Senior Management and Financial Controllers are responsible for ensuring that we have an appropriate system of internal control operating across ESB and for monitoring its effectiveness to provide reasonable assurance of compliance. All of us have a responsibility to implement and operate within our internal control framework and report any non-compliance issues.

Everybody has a responsibility for managing spend, regardless of the size of spend or method of procurement and we all have an obligation to seek value for money and to make savings where possible. Anyone engaged in procurement, receiving,

goods / service confirmation and payments to suppliers, commits to ensuring all undisputed supplier invoices are paid within agreed terms of payment.

We must also ensure that we provide high-standards of internal services in an efficient manner, be accountable for the costs we have ownership of whilst driving cost reductions and ensure value for money across ESB.

*Find out more in our policies including ESB's Internal Control Framework Policy, Group Policy for Corporate Procurement Credit Cards, Guidelines for Internal Control over Financial Reporting and ESB Group Procurement Guidelines.*

### Gifts and Entertainment

**We never accept or offer gifts or hospitality that could influence, or be perceived by others as influencing, a business decision.**

Giving and receiving gifts and/or hospitality is recognised as an established and important part of doing business. However it is important that this is limited, made for the right reason, legal, and is in line with our policies. For example, it can be customary at Christmas to exchange gifts of small value with suppliers and/or customers that we've dealt with during the year. Giving and receiving gifts of this type is acceptable provided they are unsolicited, infrequent, of low value (for example a bottle of wine), given openly and are recorded in line with ESB's Anti-bribery, Corruption and Fraud Policy.

Customer entertainment is also a feature of doing business, if it is limited in value, such as a meal at a local restaurant or a ticket to sporting event at a local venue. However, high value gifts, such as an offer of foreign flights and/or hotel bookings is not acceptable. If foreign travel is necessary in connection with your role, ESB will pay for the trip provided it is in line with our travel policy.

Remember:

- Never offer or accept any gift of cash or cash equivalents such as vouchers
- Particular care must be taken during a tender process as accepting any gift from a tenderer could be viewed as compromising our fair judgement
- If it's not practical to return a gift which is inappropriate, consider donating it to charity

Think carefully about how giving and/or receiving gifts or hospitality could be perceived by our stakeholders, competitors or customers.

Often the right answer is obvious but anyone in doubt should speak to their line manager.

*Find out more in policies including ESB's Anti-Bribery, Corruption and Fraud Policy and our Group Policy for Corporate Procurement Credit Cards.*

## OUR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INTEGRITY

### Fraud, deception and dishonesty

We never defraud or deceive anyone, or act dishonestly, and we always protect the company against fraud.

We will never seek to benefit from fraud, deception or false claims, or allow others to do so on our behalf. This includes defrauding or stealing from the company or any third party, and any kind of misappropriation of property. We all hold the trust of ESB, our partner organisations and our customers to make honest use of any funds, assets and properties that we are trusted to look after. Expense claims and working time records that we submit always accurately reflect our efforts on behalf of the company.

*Find out more in policies including ESB's Anti Bribery, Corruption and Fraud Policy, Group Health-Related Absence Policy, our Group Travel and Subsistence Expenses Policy and our Group International Assignment Policy.*

### Bribery and corruption

We never tolerate bribery or corruption in any form.

We never offer or accept a bribe to win or keep business or play any part in other illegal activities. We recognise that ESB's reputation can be harmed if it looks like we are doing the wrong thing.

*Find out more in policies including ESB's Anti Bribery, Corruption and Fraud Policy, IT Copyright Compliance Policy, and Guidelines for Managers on Managing Incidents of Fraud.*

### Market abuse

We never use or share inside information about ESB (or any other company) for financial or other personal benefit.

The law prohibits us, either in a personal capacity or on behalf of ESB, from using non-public inside information to engage in transactions in listed securities, including bonds issued by ESB, financial instruments (assets that can be traded) and wholesale energy products.

**Inside information** means precise information:

- that has not been made public
- that relates directly or indirectly to ESB Group or relevant products
- and that, once made public, could affect prices relating to ESB Group securities or those relevant products

ESB's Group Policy on Market Abuse and Securities Dealing requires that we never share or use any non-public information for financial or other personal benefit.

All of us have a responsibility to follow rules about insider trading. The rules also apply when other people take action based on inside information we provide and may still apply even after we leave ESB.

In summary:

- be informed about ESB's policy on Market Abuse and Securities Dealing
- be aware of the risks
- be responsible and ask for advice if you need it

*Find out more in ESB's Group Policy on Market Abuse & Securities Dealing.*

## OUR PERSONAL AND BUSINESS INTEGRITY

### Competition

**We never compete unfairly or illegally in any market where we are active and never collude with competitors to fix prices, rig bids or share our customers, projects or territories.**

We never enter into any agreement with competitors that may prevent customers from being able to choose our competitors to get the best deal. ESB believes in a healthy rivalry with our competitors and supports a free, open, competitive marketplace. Any of us that are involved in competitive markets and business development must be familiar with the relevant laws and customs of the countries where we do business and follow the guidance set out in ESB's Competition Law Manual.

We all want to succeed, but our success must reflect our honest efforts within the law and in line with our purpose and values. In most countries, competition (or antitrust) laws regulate dealings with competitors, customers, distributors, trade associations and other third parties. Be aware that competition laws may also apply to activities taking place outside Ireland.

Any works, supplies and services that are bought-in, should be fairly chosen through an open and competitive tender in line with ESB Group's Procurement Guidelines. Purchasing/Procurement within the ESB Group is governed by ESB purchasing procedures (which reflect EU and Irish procurement laws).

You must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest that may arise in the course of your purchasing responsibilities. If this situation arises you must remove yourself from any further involvement in the purchasing decision.

*Find out more in ESB Group's Procurement Guidelines and ESB's Competition Law Compliance Manual.*





# SECTION 2

## OUR PEOPLE AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

We work together to serve the public, our customers and communities every day and know many of them as friends, colleagues and acquaintances. By continuing to care for them, and each other, and have the courage to always keep people's best interests at heart, we can ensure the whole company keeps their respect.



## OUR PEOPLE AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

### Health, safety and personal security

We always work to protect ourselves and others from risk at all times and support our colleagues in the delivery of their health and safety duties.

At ESB our approach to safety, like everything else we do, is driven by our values. Every one of us should maintain our own personal safety and the safety of our colleagues, customers, the public and others who may be affected by our activities. Each of us has responsibilities in maintaining a work environment where everyone goes home safe and well from work every day. When dealing with safety issues we always act in an open, honest and respectful way, reporting any breaches or unsafe situations as soon as possible. Being safe and looking out for each other's health, safety and wellbeing is at the core of how we work every day.

*Find out more in our Group Health and Safety Policy.*

### Human Rights

**In ESB, we respect all internationally-recognised human rights legislation.**

We always respect the human rights of everyone we come into contact with at ESB, including our employees, our partners, contractors, suppliers, customers and everyone in our value chain. We work to implement and enforce effective measures in our supply chain, operations and in the communities and locations in which ESB operates to ensure that human rights abuses are not taking place. We continue to inform our employees and workers on human rights and encourage all our people to immediately report any potential negative human rights impacts.

We never tolerate modern slavery or human trafficking and never engage in any activity in breach of our Policy on Modern Slavery (our Group Policy on Human Rights, including Prevention of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking).

ESB expects all partners, contractors, and suppliers of goods, services, or works – to the company or on behalf of the company – to perform their duties in an honest and ethical manner, within the law and with respect for everyone's human rights. We are committed to acting ethically in all of our business dealings and relationships and will take all reasonable steps to ensure human trafficking and/or modern slavery is not happening anywhere in our business or in the organisations with whom we do business. We immediately report any incidents of modern slavery.

*Find out more in the ESB Group Policy on Human Rights, including Prevention of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.*

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Respect and Dignity

We always act inclusively, treating each customer and colleague with dignity and respect.

We are committed to building and sustaining a diverse workforce with a culture of inclusion, equity and belonging. We maintain an environment where people can be themselves, thrive and feel connected to our purpose. At all times, we treat each other with respect and dignity. As well as being responsible for our own behaviour, we always take an inclusive and open-minded attitude with colleagues, customers and suppliers, treating everyone with courtesy and respect.

ESB is committed to a safe working environment for everyone – free from discrimination, bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment. We do not discriminate or judge anyone because of their (actual or perceived): gender, gender identity, marital/civil status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, or membership of the Traveller community, and we challenge discrimination where we see it. It is ESB's policy to have a fair and transparent recruitment process, where successful candidates are appointed on merit. ESB respects each employee's right to associate and be a member of a Trade Union.

*Find out more in ESB's Policies, including our Policy for the Respect and Dignity of the Individual in ESB, Code of Practice for People with Disabilities, Group Resourcing Policy and our Policy on Official Languages Act.*

## OUR PEOPLE AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

### Developing our people

We always make sure that everyone in ESB is clear on what is expected of them and has the opportunity to grow to their full potential.

ESB is committed to enabling everyone at ESB to fulfil their potential and maximise their contribution to ESB's success, so that we can deliver a high standard of service to our customers. Managing performance has two essential parts; having clearly agreed goals which set out what is expected of employees, and developing employees to grow in capabilities relevant to their existing roles as well as planning for their future career within ESB.

Each employee and their manager have a shared responsibility for delivering individual high-performance, and ensuring their continuing professional development. ESB provides a range of development supports including professional coaching and mentoring.

ESB, through strategic talent management, also plans for new roles, skills and capabilities which have been identified as important to deliver our 'Net Zero by 2040' strategy. and encourages and facilitate employees to move into roles in other parts of the organisation.

*Find out more about the responsibility of individuals and managers in delivering high-performance and developing people in our policies, including our Management Development Policy, ESB CPD Policy, ESB Coaching Policy and ESB Mentoring Policy.*



# SECTION 3

## OUR ASSETS AND INFORMATION

During our working day, many of us will make use of company property or information. The care we take in looking after these assets and the level of trust that ESB places in us is an important responsibility.





## OUR ASSETS AND INFORMATION

### Company property and resources

**We always respect and protect the company's property and resources, and avoid using them for any improper purpose.**

Everyone at ESB is entrusted with company assets every day. Some of these are physical items, such as tools, equipment, computer assets, phones, company money or facilities. Others are intangible such as data, intellectual property, brand value or information. At times we may also be trusted with the property of other organisations, individuals or business partners.

We always make sure that we:

- only use ESB's assets in a way that is reasonable, appropriate and within the law, and never use, take, sell, lend, borrow or give away any of them without prior permission
- keep ESB's best interests in mind when spending company money or making financial commitments on the company's behalf
- always follow the applicable travel and expenses policy and show we can be trusted and responsible when submitting travel and expense claims, or approving those submitted by others
- respect the property and resources of other organisations and the property and resources of our business partners

### Digital Systems

**We never expose ESB's IT and Digital systems to harm, so that we protect ESB's cybersecurity and the confidentiality of all company and personal data**

Nowadays very few of us can do our work without using digital systems, and we have policies and guidelines to ensure that we use these digital systems appropriately, to protect ESB and ourselves. We need to be particularly careful when using the internet and email, regardless of the device, so that we do not expose ESB to harm (for example: always remaining vigilant and completing all relevant assigned training on time).

All of us at ESB use our digital IT systems for purposes that are within the law. Using our IT systems for personal use is allowed, provided it is used only occasionally and it does not interfere with business. All personal use must be appropriate and comply with our policies in this area. At any time, ESB reserves the right to revoke access to our IT systems.

*Relevant policies include ESB's Policy on Cybersecurity, Internet Usage Policy, Email Usage Policy, Mobile Phone Policy, Cloud Usage Policy, Protection Against Malware Policy, Remote Access to ESB's Corporate LAN Policy, Mobile Computing Storage Platforms and Devices Policy, Service Provider Access to ESB Systems Policy, User Access Management & User Authentication Policy, Desktop & Thin Client Security Policy, and our Print Management Policy.*

### Confidentiality

**We never disclose confidential company information to third parties unless required by law to do so.**

All ESB information that we come across while working in ESB should be treated as confidential. We must all comply with a range of legislation, including Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation together with conditions set out in our regulatory licences, the ESB Networks Compliance Code of Conduct and ESB's own internal confidentiality arrangements.

Unless you are authorised to do so, you never disclose confidential information or commercially sensitive information about ESB's activities to any third party or, in the case of information relating to particular ESB business unit, to anyone in a different business unit in breach of business separation/ring fencing obligations. The obligation not to disclose confidential/commercially sensitive information remains even after leaving the company.

All ESB confidential and commercially sensitive information must be created and stored in accordance with ESB's Information Governance Policy.

We never acquire any information or business secrets by improper means. Any confidential information that comes into our possession (whether it is about ESB or not) will never be used for our own or anyone else's personal gain.

*Relevant policies include ESB's Policy on External Directorships of ESB Employees, our Policy on Market Abuse and Securities Dealing and the ESB Networks Compliance Code of Conduct and our Anti-Bribery, Fraud and Whistleblowing Policy.*

## OUR ASSETS AND INFORMATION

### Data privacy and personal information

We always respect privacy rights and protect ESB's information, networks and products from cyber risks.

In the course of our business some of us will hold or gain access to personal information about colleagues, customers, suppliers and other individuals. We always respect and protect this information and make sure we comply with applicable data privacy laws and ESB policies regarding the protection of personal data.

Any personal information which we hold, or which others collect, hold or process for us, or to which we have access, must only be used for the business purposes for which it was collected.

Sensitive personal information about a person's health, race, ethnic origin, political opinions, moral and religious beliefs, sexual orientation, biometric data, trade union membership or criminal activity should be handled with particular care.

We always:

- ensure that anybody who provides personal information knows who will have access to their data and what we will do with the data
- consider data privacy law and whether a data privacy impact assessment is required before starting any new activity involving personal information
- contact the Data Protection Officer for advice if you are unsure if you need to be collecting or processing personal data, or if you receive a request for access to personal data
- report any data breach immediately to the Data Protection Officer

*Relevant policies include ESB's Corporate Policy on Data Protection, ESB's CCTV Data Protection Policy and our Group Information Management Policy.*

### External communication and social media

We never set out to damage ESB's reputation.

We never set out to damage ESB's reputation, through what we say in person or through our own social media channels. Everything we do or say, and everything said about us can positively or negatively impact on ESB's reputation.

While social media content can be both informative and engaging, it can also be damaging. Such content is instant, widely distributed, and permanent. Remember that your social media audience may be our stakeholders, including our customers, investors, commercial partners, the community and media.

Outside of work, anyone who makes comments on social media about the ESB, our brands, or any issue that relates to ESB, must make it clear that the opinions expressed are their own and not those of ESB.

We must all take due care and attention before making comments and ask ourselves the following question: 'Could what I am saying have a negative impact on ESB, our brands or our stakeholders?'

ESB's Corporate and Regulatory Affairs team manages all ESB-owned social media channels, as well as handling all press queries, approving speaking engagements and appointing spokespeople. Communication with investors is managed by Corporate Finance. Always direct any queries to the appropriate team.

*Relevant policies include ESB's Group Policy on Staff Engagement with Social Media and our Group Policy on Publishing to ESB Websites.*

### Business records

We always ensure our business records are complete, accurate and appropriately authorised.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that any records we create on behalf of ESB accurately represent the facts. We always report accurately on financial and non-financial information in order to meet our legal and regulatory obligations. Accurate reporting helps people within the company to make informed decisions about our business and helps us meet our responsibilities to shareholders, regulators and others.

Every ESB business and local operation needs to understand the financial control procedures that apply to them. If in doubt, check with your Line Manager or the Financial Controller for your business area.

# SECTION 4

## OUR ROLE IN SOCIETY

This is an exciting, transformational time for ESB. To thrive amid all the changes, we must approach each day with the energy, passion, persistence and drive needed to succeed and make a long-term difference for our customers, communities and colleagues.



## OUR ROLE IN SOCIETY

### Environment and Sustainability

**We are driven to make a difference through electricity as an enabler for regeneration.**

At ESB we empower our people in a healthy workplace to act sustainably, supporting our customers to reach net zero and working to protect the rights of all people in our value chain. We are committed to playing a full role in building a resilient electricity system of the future, where carbon-free energy will displace carbon emissions in how we power our buildings and transport ambitious carbon reduction targets.

ESB respects our shared environment, and we are committed to enhancing nature where we operate and supporting our host communities to develop and grow stronger. We support the UN Sustainable Development Goals and our activities and projects observe UN principles for the wellbeing of local communities. In all ESB's operations, we maintain and follow management systems, standards and procedures to avoid uncontrolled emissions to the air, water or soil and to improve our energy and resource efficiency. We manage and responsibly handle any waste materials. We speak up if something doesn't feel right as we carry out our work. Where an incident does happen, ESB will take appropriate remediation measures and will promptly alert the appropriate regulatory or other authorities as required.

Every year ESB lets our stakeholders know how we have performed on our carbon targets and our Environmental Social and Governance goals by publishing this information in accordance with international best practice.

*Find out more in our Group Policy on Environment and Sustainability.*





## OUR ROLE IN SOCIETY

### Relationships with customers

**We will always provide a professional, efficient customer experience with accurate and timely communication whilst listening carefully and proactively responding to customer needs.**

At ESB we have a long history of putting customers' needs at the heart of our business. Customer demands and expectations are increasing year on year, fuelled by rapid advances in technology, developments in other industry sectors and increased competition within the energy sector.

Delivering an excellent customer experience is part of everyone's role, not just those who interact directly with customers on a day-to-day basis. We strive to ensure that, at all levels of our organisation, we are adapting a customer-first mindset and behaviour as part of all our day-to-day interactions. The positive behaviours we espouse are aligned to our core values (being courageous, driven, caring and trusted) and form the foundation of every contact with our customers.

We aim to make each customer interaction a positive one by being:

- Professional - respectful, competent, courteous and make our customers feel valued
- Accountable - take responsibility and see the job / customer issue through to completion, keep our promises and always act in a safe and ethical manner
- Helpful - listen carefully to customer needs, show empathy when required and make the whole experience easy and convenient, regardless of how customers choose to interact with us
- Proactive - keeping customers advised and updated, being creative around issues which arise and seek out better ways of working

These guiding behaviours in every interaction will ensure we have a customer-centered culture that ESB prides itself on and will continue to deliver benefits to our customers, communities and our business.

### Relationships with suppliers and other business partners

**We always endeavor to work with and alongside companies who meet our standards and are aligned with our ways of working.**

We want to do business with partners who share our values. That's why we require all of our partners to adopt clear commitments on ethical business like those in Our Code.

Any organisation operating on ESB's behalf must ensure that their actions comply with Our Code and relevant policies. Any of us that have responsibility for a relationship with a business partner must make sure that their commitments meet our standards.

As a minimum, we expect our business partners to:

- comply with all relevant and applicable laws, regulations and industry standards and always inform us of any relevant enforcement processes
- be aware of Our Code and meet its principles within their own operations
- conduct their business in an ethical manner
- protect human rights and core labour standards
- value diversity and be actively committed to ensuring an equitable and inclusive working environment
- maintain a safe and healthy working environment
- protect the environment in their work and be actively committed to sustainability
- have zero tolerance for bribery and corruption in any form, including extortion and improper payments
- avoid situations where a conflict of interest may occur and always disclose where a potential conflict exists
- proactively safeguard confidential and personal information.

These are set out in our 'Requirements for Agents, Suppliers, Contractors, Advisors and other Third Parties' which form part of our contracts with third parties.

*Relevant policies include ESB's Group Policy & Procedure on Contractor Employment Standards, Policy and Procedure for Managing Agency Staff, ESB's Group Policy on Human Rights, ESB's Requirements for Third Parties Documents and ESB's Outsourcing Guideline.*

### Government and political bodies

**We always communicate with our stakeholders in a transparent way.**

ESB follows the highest ethical standards in conducting business with politicians, Ministers and Government departments. When dealing with public representatives and officials, we are committed to being truthful, accurate and meeting all applicable laws, regulations and contractual terms and conditions, including legal obligations to report lobbying activities on behalf of ESB.

*Find out more in our ESB-Lobbying-Policy-and-Procedure.*

DOING THE RIGHT  
THING, TOGETHER

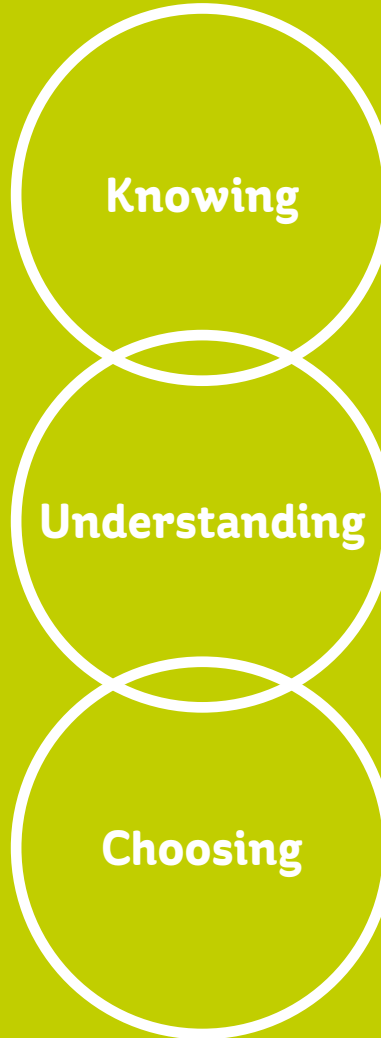


## DOING THE RIGHT THING, TOGETHER

The Way We Work at ESB is about knowing what is expected of each of us, understanding what that means for us and choosing to do the right thing.

Our Values, Our Code and our Group Policies help us understand and choose the right thing to do, as individuals and together.

Discover everything you need to know about The Way We Work at ESB on the Hub.



**I know**  
what standards are expected of me, in whatever I'm doing.

**I understand**  
what I personally must do to meet and reach beyond these standards.

**I choose**  
to take responsibility and do the right thing.

**ESB F27**

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**ESB Confidential Helpline**

The Confidential Helpline is operated  
by an independent company separate  
from ESB and can be contacted on:  
1800 812 740 from Ireland  
0800 915 1571 from UK  
[www.safecall.co.uk/clients/esb](http://www.safecall.co.uk/clients/esb)

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