

## **SCOTTISH POWER FOUNDATION**

### **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**(as approved by the Trustees on 11 June 2024)**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 As a registered Scottish charity, the Scottish Power Foundation (the “**Foundation**”) considers the protection and safety of its staff and beneficiaries (particularly children and vulnerable adults) to be of paramount importance in its work.
- 1.2 The Foundation is predominantly a grant giving body, focusing on giving financial support to registered charitable organisations operating in the UK, and as such does not directly engage with children or vulnerable adults during the course of its regular activities. Nonetheless, the principles of safeguarding are intrinsic to the role of a charity trustee and the Foundation is committed to implementing appropriate measures to ensure the protection and safety of its staff and beneficiaries.

#### **2 Due Diligence and Foundation expectations**

- 2.1 Conducting effective due diligence assessments of all applicants is a core part of the Foundation’s work and this includes forming a rounded judgement on the potential risks and vulnerabilities whether they are financial, reputational or related to governance. The due diligence assessment is a crucial opportunity for the Foundation to ascertain whether the applicant can demonstrate it has appropriate measures and procedures in terms of safeguarding.
- 2.2 During the initial online application stage, the Foundation asks applicants to confirm whether they have a written safeguarding policy and when that policy was last reviewed by its Board.
- 2.3 Further, depending on the nature of the activities carried out by the applicant, there may be additional regulatory requirements – for example being a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme, or making arrangements for staff (and/ or volunteers) to obtain Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) or Disclosure Scotland certificates – and the Foundation may, at its sole discretion, make enquiries about such regulatory compliance.
- 2.4 The Foundation expects applicants not only to be able to demonstrate that their organisation maintains an appropriate safeguarding policy but additionally to demonstrate that they have appropriate measures in place to allow for any concerns to be reported and appropriately dealt with and may, at its sole discretion, ask for evidence of such measures.

2.5 Applicants will be required to provide a copy of their safeguarding policy before any funding award is made.

### 3 **Areas of risk**

3.1 Providing funding to charities operating overseas is often considered an area of particular concern and high risk from a safeguarding perspective. This stems from practical difficulties in carrying out the necessary due diligence and differences in terms of regulatory frameworks applying to work with vulnerable groups.

3.2 In instances where any applicants are engaged in work overseas, or funding work overseas, additional detail should be sought from applicants regarding the ongoing safeguarding monitoring which is carried out.

### 4 **Internal safeguarding**

4.1 In accordance with the Foundation's Compliance Regulations, an ethics mailbox (the "**Ethics Mailbox**") has been established with a view to promoting legal and regulatory compliance and uphold ethical behaviour standards.

4.2 Any safeguarding concerns raised via the Ethics Mailbox will be dealt with in accordance with the Compliance Regulations.

4.3 The Foundation is committed to reviewing this Safeguarding policy at least every two years.