

## **ETHICAL SPONSORSHIP POLICY**

### **Edinburgh International Science Festival**

Registered address

Mitchell House, 5 Mitchell Street, Edinburgh, EH6 7BD

[www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk)

Charity number: SC003790

#### **1. Our vision and mission**

##### **Discover the world**

**Our vision** is a world where the wonder and value of science and technology is recognised, debated and celebrated, in order to achieve a brighter and more sustainable future.

**Our mission** is to inspire, encourage and challenge people of all ages and backgrounds to explore and understand the world around them – and to communicate the educational, social and economic benefits of science and technology.

##### **Our aims**

To achieve our mission, we will:

- Run an extraordinary festival in Edinburgh with wide public appeal that sets the international standard for science engagement.
- Improve the teaching of science in Scottish primary schools and support teachers to deliver the curriculum.
- Be innovators in science communication at all levels.

##### **Our values**

At all times, we are committed to:

- Delivering the highest quality, interactive, face-to-face science communication.
- Building successful partnerships with other science and technology organisations in Scotland, the UK and around the world.
- Making learning and teaching science and technology fun.
- Acting as a forum for balanced, evidence based debate and discussion
- Debating and challenging science education and engagement policy, practice and funding in a way that helps improve them for everyone.

We retain absolute editorial control of all the events that we are associated with to ensure that these meet these values.

## **2. Sponsorship Policy**

This policy has been devised to ensure clarity and openness to all our stakeholders. It is designed to address sponsorship and how Edinburgh International Science Festival engages with its partners.

As a not for profit charity, we rely on the generosity of individuals, corporations and other institutional sources of funding to achieve our goals. While our work would be impossible without their support, we take these relationships and the associations that they imply very seriously.

EISF retains full editorial control over all the events it stages and endeavours to stage events that meet its own objectives and values. It will not take the money of a supporter to promote a message it does not agree with.

We recognise that science and technology are not intrinsically benign and that the uses of them should be scrutinised and debated. We offer the festival as a platform for this ethical debate.

### **Funding Partnerships**

We work with corporate partners, trusts and foundations, universities and research councils to create partnerships that help achieve key business and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) goals.

Supporting Edinburgh International Science Festival allows our partners to:

- Demonstrate their role as a good corporate citizen
- Raise their profile with a wide range of audiences
- Deepen relationships with their staff, clients and stakeholders
- Create opportunities for corporate hospitality
- Provide a platform for science engagement
- Support young people in communities throughout Scotland

One of the ways in which we present work is through forming partnerships with a variety of organisations working in science and technology to provide access to, and information on, the latest innovations in these areas.

Edinburgh International Science Festival provides a neutral platform to showcase innovation and industry developments with the aim of educating people and encouraging them to make informed choices. We welcome debate and discussion across our programme and activities including around the moral, ethical and broader societal implications of research.

However it is vital that we maintain our independence and do not allow external partnerships to bring our name into disrepute.

To this end, when selecting and entering into Funding Partnerships, we will adhere to the following guidelines and policies:

- Initiatives developed in partnership with third parties remain thematically neutral and these relationships do not compromise the independent status of Edinburgh International Science Festival.
- We are open to working with companies to co-create events that meet our shared mission and goals. However, as the independence of the Festival is paramount, under no circumstances will sponsorship dictate content of our programme.
- We value the participation of scientific and non-scientific organisations when in dialogue with scientific ideas and people however, we reserve the right to refuse participation of content providers based on either unilateral promotion of non-scientific ideas or irrelevance to our core vision and mission.
- We reserve the right to decline funding if the values and objectives of the organisation do not match those of Edinburgh International Science Festival.
- Sponsorship of Edinburgh International Science Festival does not imply endorsement of products or companies and instead reflects the partnership relating to delivery of activities.
- Edinburgh International Science Festival will not promote any products unless published research has shown direct benefit and relevance to our audiences.
- We reserve the right to withdraw from any partnership where new developments mean that areas of our ethical sponsorship policy are breached.

### **3. Avoidance criteria**

When selecting and entering into ethical Funding Partnerships, we will adhere to the following avoidance criteria.

In general, we will avoid working with companies involved in any of the following activities:

- Tobacco manufacture
- Non-government approved manufacture, sale, production or brokerage of armaments.
- Direct violation of international treaties, codes or standards associated with the protection of human rights.
- The extraction of fossil fuels or natural resources without carrying out any mitigation of negative ecological impact that could reasonably be expected.

- Direct violation of international treaties, codes or standards associated with protecting the environment.
- Generating revenue from the sale of pornography.

Exceptions may be made to this policy with the explicit approval from the Senior Management Team and Board of Directors. We will ensure transparency across all such decision-making processes and share with anyone who requests it, both internally and externally.

#### **4. Studio sales**

As an organisation, we work with national and international partners to help programme other Science Festivals, provide science communication training and tour our shows and workshops. Funding and sponsorship arrangements for these events remain the responsibility of our partners and subject to their own ethical policies and procedures.

#### **5. Process**

All marketing and sponsorship with a value of more than £50,000 must be approved by the Senior Management Team and, in some cases, the Board of Trustees.

Contracts with partners must permit Edinburgh International Science Festival to withdraw from any partnership where new developments mean that areas of our ethical sponsorship policy are breached.

#### **6. Transparency**

A full list of corporate sponsors will be maintained on our website and declared in our annual review.

Edinburgh International Science Festival will communicate its commitment to this policy to the organisation's stakeholders and publish this policy on its website.