



## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

AT Global Markets (UK) Limited (“ATFX”) is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”). Under the FCA’s Handbook of rules and guidance, firms are required to conduct their business in accordance with the regulator’s ‘Principles of Business’ which include:

- conducting business with integrity; (Principle 1)
- paying due regard to the interests of our clients and treat them fairly; (Principle 6)
- managing conflicts of interest fairly. (Principle 8)

The FCA rules require firms to take all appropriate steps to:

- identify any conflicts of interests that arise, or may arise, in the course of carrying out regulated activities between the firm and their clients, or between clients themselves; and
- maintain and operate effective organisational and administrative arrangements with a view to taking all reasonable steps to prevent those conflicts of interest from constituting or giving rise to a material risk of damage to the interests of our clients.

Conflicts of interest can exist in all businesses and financial services organisations and, accordingly, ATFX has put in place a number of policies, procedures and processes designed to identify, evaluate and prevent those conflicts of interest. The purpose of this policy is to identify in a summary form those conflicts which ATFX experiences as an organisation and to describe how it addresses the challenges that such conflicts create, and how it shall prevent them from arising.

This policy may be reviewed and amended at any time, and in any event at least once a year.

### ATFX’S SERVICE PROVISION – GENERAL APPROACH

ATFX, or any party to whom it may have delegated its functions (a “delegate”) may, without prior reference to a client, effect transactions in which ATFX or a delegate has, directly or indirectly, a material interest or a relationship of any description with another party, which may involve a potential conflict with ATFX’s duty to the client. In the event of any such transaction, however, ATFX will ensure that:

1. such transactions are effected on normal commercial terms negotiated at arm’s length and on terms which are not materially less favourable to the client than if the potential conflict had not existed;
2. such transactions do not adversely affect the performance of ATFX’s duties and responsibilities to the client; and

AT Global Markets (UK) Limited

A: 1st Floor, 32 Cornhill, London EC3V 3SG. United Kingdom

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W: [www.atfx.com](http://www.atfx.com)

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3. it takes all appropriate steps to ensure fair treatment for the client in accordance with the requirements of the rules and guidance of the FCA.

## IDENTIFICATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The circumstances which should be treated as giving rise to conflicts of interest include all cases where there is:

- (A) a conflict between the interests of ATFX, an individual member of staff, certain persons directly or indirectly connected to ATFX or a delegate, and the duty that ATFX owes to a client; or
- (B) a conflict between the differing interests of two or more clients, as ATFX owes a separate duty to each of them.

Conflicts may arise and all of ATFX's staff must take into account whether any of the persons described at (A) above:

- a) is likely to make a financial gain, or avoid a financial loss, at the expense of the client;
- b) has an interest in the outcome of a service provided to the client or of a transaction carried out on behalf of the client which is distinct from the client's interest in that outcome;
- c) has a financial or other incentive to favour the interest of another client or group of clients over the interests of the client;
- d) carries on the same business as the client;
- e) receives or will receive from a person other than the client an inducement in relation to a service provided to the client, in the form of monies, goods or services, other than the standard commission or fee for that service.

All ATFX's staff must additionally take into account whether any client or group of clients described in (B) above is likely to make a financial gain, or avoid a financial loss, at the expense of another client or group of clients of ATFX.

## REPORTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All directors and staff must report conflicts of interest situations or potential conflicts of interest situations immediately by email to ATFX's Compliance Officer.

## RECORD OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

ATFX maintains an up to date **Register of Conflicts of Interest** in which to record any identified conflicts of interest that have arisen, or which may arise, leading to a material risk of damage to the interest of one or more clients, resulting from services or activities carried out by or on behalf of ATFX.

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## **PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

ATFX is required to maintain and operate effective, organisational and administrative arrangements with a view to taking all appropriate steps to prevent conflicts of interest from constituting or giving rise to a material risk or damage to the interests of its clients. ATFX has implemented various systems and procedures so as to prevent the potential causes of conflicts of interest, and to prevent all conflicts of interest arising, including the following.

### **Departmental structure, segregation of duties and staff supervision**

ATFX has a defined department structure to provide segregation of duties to prevent any conflicts of interest. ATFX Organisation Chart creates clear lines of authority allowing for the separate supervision of officers whose principal functions involve carrying out activities on behalf of, or providing services to, clients whose interests may conflict, or who otherwise represent different interests that may conflict including those of ATFX. Given the nature of ATFX's business there can be occasions which could give rise to a conflict of interest and in these circumstances additional controls are in place to identify inappropriate behaviour, and ensure all appropriate steps are taken by ATFX to prevent this. The Compliance Officer undertakes regular reviews of each department's operations and the roles undertaken by the individuals within the departments to ensure the departmental structures, segregation of duties and lines of authority continue to be appropriate.

### **Removal of remuneration links**

ATFX removes any link wherever possible between the remuneration of any officer principally engaged in one activity from the remuneration of, or revenues generated by, different officers of the firm principally engaged in another activity, where a conflict of interest may arise in relation to those activities.

### **Job Descriptions and staff assessment**

Employment duties are designed to limit the potential for conflicts of interest and all ATFX's staff are issued with job descriptions to help prevent an officer from exercising inappropriate influence over the way any other officer or group of officers carries out services or activities. All employees are regularly assessed for competency in their roles and are required to follow the internal procedures detailed in ATFX's Compliance Manual.

### **Training**

Regular training is provided to staff on conflicts of interest, and ATFX's policies and procedures for preventing them.

### **Monitoring of ongoing service provision**

ATFX monitors and takes measures where identified as necessary to prevent the simultaneous or sequential involvement of an officer in separate services or activities where such involvement may impair the proper management of conflicts of interest.

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### Trade Order Management

ATFX has a policy in place governing client order priority, whereby all trading on behalf of ATFX, including principal trading, and trading on behalf of its clients should take place fairly and in due turn so as to prevent a potential conflict of interest.

### Chinese walls – establishing an information barrier

Wherever necessary ATFX establishes and maintains a 'Chinese wall' in order to create a barrier so that information held by one part of the business is withheld from, and cannot be used by, persons in another part of the business, the operation and effectiveness of which are overseen and monitored by the Compliance Officer and senior management.

### Gifts, Inducements and Entertainment

ATFX maintains a Gifts, Inducements and Entertainment Policy whereby no member of staff of ATFX may solicit or accept from any person, or give or offer to give to any person, any gift, inducement or other benefit that cannot properly be regarded as justifiable in all the circumstances and which might therefore influence either person's independence or business judgement or which could create a conflict with any duty owed to ATFX or its clients. Staff may not accept gifts from, or provide gifts to, an individual or firm with whom they conduct, or intend to conduct, business on behalf of ATFX unless it can be demonstrated that no conflict of interest is created by doing so. This restriction does not include any special promotions which have been agreed by our senior management, nor does it cover corporate gifts and hospitality which are considered to be incidental to ATFX's standard business.

Entertainment or hospitality provided by a member of staff must fall within predetermined maximum cost limits and should not in any event create any conflict of interest. Entertainment or hospitality accepted by an employee should be appropriate and the acceptance of such entertainment/hospitality should not create any conflict of interest.

These rules apply even if the direct recipient of the gift, entertainment, hospitality or other benefit is the spouse or a child of the staff member or some other third party.

Staff are required to register with the Compliance Department details of gifts, entertainment or hospitality, whether given or received with an estimated value in excess of £200 and to seek guidance if in doubt about the suitability of the gift. The Compliance Officer maintains a *Gifts, Entertainment and Hospitality Register* and monitors all gifts, entertainment and hospitality given and received to ensure compliance with ATFX policy.

### Personal account dealing

All ATFX's staff are bound by the requirements of ATFX's **Personal Account Dealing rules** which have been established to ensure that personal account dealing by members of staff complies with the FCA rules. Under the Personal Account Dealing rules staff can only undertake personal investment activities with first prior written general permission to do so, and which then:

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- i. do not breach applicable law or regulation;
- ii. do not unduly distract from their employment responsibilities, and
- iii. do not create an unacceptable risk to ATFX's reputation.
- iv. Transactions should also be free from business and ethical conflicts of interest. ATFX's staff must never misuse proprietary or client confidential information in their personal dealings and must ensure that clients are never disadvantaged as a result of their dealings.

All transactions undertaken by staff have to be reported to, and are actively monitored by, the Compliance Officer.

### **Data Access**

Access to data on ATFX's computer drives is restricted by the use of passwords and user ID's. Computers are automatically locked if unattended for any short period. ATFX's staff are regularly reminded of the importance of data protection.

### **Information Releases**

Staff may not release or disclose relevant information to another party without ensuring that there is a clear need to know basis for the recipient and that they are made aware of the requirement to treat the information received as confidential.

### **External business interests**

Unless granted prior written consent from Company senior management, or specifically permitted to under their terms of their employment, staff are not allowed to engage or have an interest in any business which is or may be in competition with ATFX or which would involve the use of ATFX's time, property, facilities or resources.

### **Public Interest Disclosure**

All ATFX's staff are made aware of The Public Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) which allows individuals to disclose certain issues to particular external parties where there is good reason to believe that internal disclosure will not be taken seriously or will cause the member of staff to be penalised in some way.

## **DISCLOSURE OR WITHDRAWING A SERVICE**

Despite the arrangements ATFX has put in place to prevent conflicts of interests, it may not be possible to prevent some conflicts of interest from arising which could materially act to the detriment of a client. In that event, ATFX will provide the client with the following:

- (i) clear statement that the steps taken by ATFX to prevent the conflict are not sufficient to manage the risk of damage to the client;
- (ii) specific description of the conflicts that arise from that service;

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(iii) explanation of the risks that arise and steps taken to mitigate the risks; and

explanation that the ATFX's organisational and administrative arrangements are not sufficient to protect the client. In spite of the above disclosure, if ATFX does not believe that disclosure is appropriate to manage the conflict of interest, ATFX may have no choice but to decline to provide the service requested to the client.

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