

4 Bribery

Perhaps the most direct type of corruption is bribery. There is no data on the extent of it, except people's opinions and speculation. Secrecy is the very nature of bribery. An all-encompassing definition of bribery is found in the Anti-bribery Management Systems of the International Standards Organisation:

*"3.1 bribery:
offering, promising, giving, accepting or soliciting of an undue advantage of any value (which could be financial or non-financial), directly or indirectly, and irrespective of location(s), in violation of applicable law, as an inducement or reward for a person acting or refraining from acting in relation to the performance of that person's duties"*

(ISO, 2016, p.2)

Table 4.1: Bribery transaction characteristics

Intent: both parties must know they derive benefit from the transaction.

Opportunity: It is done in secrecy without other members of the staff seeing it happening and generally at a point of constraint or where a decision must be made that permits an action.

Benefit: there must be a benefit to both parties.

Consequence: there can be unintended consequences that expose the act of bribery. Hence both parties must consider these. For example for the customs official, this extra cash may show up in their life style.
