

Standards Committee - 14th October 2009

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Confidential Reporting Policy

Purpose of Report

1. To monitor the operation of the Council's Confidential Reporting Policy.

Background

2. Within its terms of reference the Standards Committee is responsible for advising the Council on its confidential reporting (i.e. whistle-blowing) policy and monitoring its operation.
3. The Policy was first introduced in July 1999 and was last updated in July 2007. A copy of the current policy is attached at Appendix 1.
4. In my capacity as Monitoring Officer I regularly monitor the Policy by surveying each directorate and asking a number of standard questions. The latest survey was undertaken during the Spring of 2009 and the results are set out below.

What is the outcome of your directorate's review of the policy?

5. Each directorate has reviewed the Policy and no changes are recommended other than minor updating.

Are you aware of any use of the Policy by your staff and, if so, please supply appropriate details?

6. There has been no reported use of the Policy in the last 12 months.
7. As in previous years the Directorate of Finance received a few confidential letters, mostly anonymous, which were reviewed by Internal Audit.

How are your staff reminded of the existence of the policy e.g. newsletters and briefings?

8. Generally directorates make use of briefings, newsletters, management meetings, team briefings, posters and leaflets.

Are there regular checks of posters and leaflets to make sure that they are up to date and readily available?

9. All directorates report that regular (i.e. at least annually) checks do take place and any missing or out-dated posters are replaced.

Finance

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Law

11. The relevant legislation is contained in the Public Interest Disclosure Act which affords some statutory protection for whistle-blowers.

Equality Impact

12. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the Committee note the outcome of the recent monitoring of the Confidential Reporting Policy.



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Monitoring Officer

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List of Background Papers

1. Various e-mails from Council directorates in 2009.