

**Delayed Office Opening  
for Employee Training**

*This office will be closed from  
8.45am - 11.00am on the first  
Thursday of each month.*



**PERTH &  
KINROSS  
COUNCIL**

**Chief Executive's  
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Mr Ned Sharratt  
Assistant Clerk  
Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
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Our ref BM/SG

Your ref

Date 24 March 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1488**

I write in response to your letter of 19 March 2014 enquiring as to the ways in which this Council's elected members are involved in the development and oversight of our whistle blowing policy and the extent of their involvement in our procedures.

Perth and Kinross Council has two related policies on this subject. The main policy, our original Whistleblowing Policy, was approved by the Council in July 2000, shortly after the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 came into force. The policy was then revised in May 2004 and became known as the 'Procedure for Employees to Report Concerns'. It was last revised in June 2011. The Council has a related policy, the 'Reporting Concerns – Fraud and Corruption' which has operated since February 2006. The policies do not give a direct operational role to elected members

You may wish to note, however, that as part of our implementation of the Bribery Act 2010, I have requested a review of both the terms of both our Annual Governance Statement and the Procedure for Employees to Report Concerns - Fraud and Corruption which will be undertaken this year. It is quite likely that this will also result in changes to our Procedure for Employees to Report Concerns. This review will be an opportunity to assess the extent to which each of these policies has an appropriate elected member input, not only in relation to their future development but also in terms of their oversight and involvement.

Finally, you may wish to note that this Council has an Audit Committee which is comprised of seven elected members and that its role was last considered by the Council at a meeting on 1 May 2013. It was agreed then that the role of the Audit Committee is to scrutinise, on behalf of the elected members, all aspects of the Council's 'control environment' and on which our Chief Internal Auditor presents an annual report to the Audit Committee. The purpose of this control environment report is to ensure, amongst other things, compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and

**Bernadette Malone**  
Chief Executive

Council policies. This is a further means available to elected members to hold management to account and to ensure proper governance.

I hope this is of some assistance to the Public Petitions Committee but if you require any further information please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette Malone  
Chief Executive