

RS/ABB 01 01 03

31 March 2014



Mr N Sharratt
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT
Chief Executive:
Richard Stiff

Dear Mr Sharratt

Consideration of Petition PE1488

Whistleblowing policies are an important element of governance, supporting both accountability and assurance.

Angus Council, as a response to the Nolan Committee report, developed whistleblowing policies. These policies were part of a suite of supporting policies to an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy which was developed at that time. Two whistleblowing policies were developed, one for Council Employees and one for Third Parties. The policies drew from guidance available from Public Concern at Work and were considered, and approved, by Elected Members through the Committee reporting process.

The whistleblowing policy for Employees and Elected Members gives a number of different options for employees to report concerns, one of which is a fraud hotline. The fraud hotline number is widely available and can be used by employees or third parties. Both give details of how concerns raised will be dealt with and safeguards available to whistleblowers.

Our Anti-Fraud and Corruption policies (including whistleblowing) are reviewed periodically and are contained in our Financial Regulations. Details of the employee whistleblowing policy are contained in the Employee Code of Conduct and employees are reminded of the whistleblowing policy on an annual basis.

Where whistleblowing allegations relate to fraud, they are investigated by our Internal Audit function. Once investigations are completed, summaries of the outcomes and any recommendations made are considered by Members of our Scrutiny and Audit Committee in their Oversight role.

Yours sincerely

Richard Stiff
Chief Executive

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