



Finance and Corporate Resources
Executive Director **Paul Manning**
Audit and Compliance Services

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Our ref:
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Yvonne Douglas
Phone: 01698 455957
Date: 8 April 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt

Consideration of Petition PE1488

I write with reference to your request of 19 March 2014 in relation to the above petition and specifically your question as to how elected members of local authorities are involved in local authority's whistle-blowing policy.

South Lanarkshire Council's Fraud Whistleblowing for Third Parties procedures form part of the Council's Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy, the latest amendment to which was endorsed by the Council's Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum in June 2010 and approved by the Executive Committee in September 2010. The Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy establishes Elected Members' rights to register concerns through the Council's 'confidential procedure for reporting concerns at work' or by contacting the Authority's Audit and Compliance Manager directly.

Any concerns reported to South Lanarkshire Council, either internally or by an external party, would be investigated by the Council's own Internal Audit function. This function has the responsibility within the Authority to undertake such investigations and to formally report findings. Details of the outcome of all such investigations are reported to those Members 'charged with governance' within the Authority who form part of the Council's Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum.

In summary, the responsibility for the development of this policy lay initially with Council officers. The subsequent process of approval ensured that Elected Members were involved in the development of the policy, approved the practical application of such and have an awareness of local protocols for responding to instances of whistleblowing. Within the Authority, responsibility for administering this policy in practice rests with the Internal Audit function with formal outcomes being reported to Members of the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum on conclusion of investigations.

I trust this response will help in your consideration of the above petition.

Yours sincerely

Paul Manning
Executive Director
Finance and Corporate Resources

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