

**PE1488/W**

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Email of 1 May 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt,

Apologies for the late response to your letter of 19 March 2014, and I hope that the following information is still of assistance.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar revised and agreed its Whistle Blowing Policy in September 2012, based on good practice guidance provided by our Chief Internal Auditor. The Policy has a three step procedure, with the Monitoring Officer as the main point of contact. Should the employee still have concerns following investigation by the Monitoring Officer, the matter is passed to me as Chief Executive. Advice is given to employees as to obtaining independent advice, with a link to the "Public Concerns at Work" website.

The Monitoring Officer would, of course, report relevant issues to Elected Members, firstly through the Comhairle's Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

The Comhairle is currently considering the Report of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors on "Whistle Blowing and Corporate Governance" and, as the Committee will be aware, it recommends that Internal Audit sections should either play an integral part in the process of assessing Whistle Blowing reports, or should provide assurance to Councils on the integrity of the process. While I am satisfied that the Comhairle's Policy provides good and clear guidance for employees on how to report concerns at work, we will review our Policy in the light of the Institute's recommendations.

Please let me know if any further information is required.

Yours sincerely,

**Malcolm Burr**  
**Àrd-oifigear/Chief Executive**  
**Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**