

The Deputy Monitoring Officer's request: "I am doing a report on the operation of the Council's whistleblowing policy for our next Standards Committee (which has overview responsibilities for this policy) as members had previously expressed concern that our policy has never actually been used. As part of this as a comparator they wanted to know if this was the case with our neighbouring authorities. I would be really grateful if you would all drop me a line to let me know if your whistleblowing policies have been used and if so, how regularly - my committee is wondering if we need to do something different to promote it to staff (we revised and updated the policy a couple of years ago and sent a copy to all members of staff with payslips, we have posters about it around the building and we currently send regular reminders on its existence and directing staff to the page on the intranet)."

East Cambridgeshire District Council

We reviewed ours a year or so ago. We had a special email account set up before, and the only complaints received, were, to be frank, minor HR issues. So we reviewed the policy / had it approved, changed the contact email (internalised) and put the new policy out via our Core briefing, but again little more than a few minor issues on people parking where they shouldn't.

Fenland District Council

We have never had a case through ours. It looks like you promote it more frequently than we do, with us its covered on induction and is available on the intranet.

One could say that the fact it is not used is a good thing as the management processes you have enable staff to address issues at a lower level but that may not satisfy the concerns of the committee. It would be interesting to see what the other districts say on volumes.

Huntingdonshire District Council

December 2008 (issues reported in the previous eight months)

7 concerns have been received through the various whistleblowing reporting channels.

- 3 related to housing or council tax benefit claims
- 1 was concerning with a motor trader
- 1 was concerned with a housing matter
- 1 was concerned with the misuse of the internet from a public use computer
- 1 was referred to the County Council.

3 of the concerns were made anonymously.

March 2008 (issues reported in the previous fifteen months)

- 12 related to housing or council tax benefit claims
- 3 were concerning potential abandoned vehicles
- 1 was concerned with planning issues
- 1 was concerned with a housing matter
- 1 was referred to the Dept of Work & Pensions.

12 of the concerns were made anonymously.