

Report on concerns received 20th March 2024

The WBUK tweet being used by employers

The WBUK Tweet being used by employers to shut down whistleblowers



Most whistleblowers report to their employers first, the Department For Business, innovation, skills, and trade are responsible for current whistleblowing law and list who you should report to if you cannot report to your employer.

From:

[Department for Business and Trade](#)

Published

1 October 2014

Last updated

29 December 2023 — [See all updates](#)



[Get emails about this page](#)

Documents



[Whistleblowing: list of prescribed people and bodies](#)

HTML

Details

If you decide to blow the whistle to a prescribed person rather than your employer, you must make sure that you've chosen the correct person or body for your issue.

This document is a list of the prescribed persons and bodies who you can make a disclosure to. There is also a brief description about the matters you can report to each prescribed person.

[More information on whistleblowing.](#)

Since tweeting that the WBUK statement in the above tweet is completely wrong, and putting out an urgent alert to whistleblowers that this was wrong, we have been contacted at the time of writing this by 7 whistleblowers, who reported serious abuse to their employer and suffered serious harassment as a result. These whistleblowers were shown the WBUK tweet by their employer and told they did not qualify for protection as they had not reported to a prescribed person. These 7 whistleblowers are likely the tip of a very large iceberg. The amount of harm caused is hard to ignore and yet so many in authority have chosen to ignore it.

The consequences of this WBUK tweet is clear, the abuse was never acted on, the whistleblowers did not access the legal protection they were entitled to, in one case the whistleblower had to leave the UK when they lost their job.

We have been raising serious concerns about WBUK for some time, regarding both their lack of knowledge of whistleblowing, their funding and conduct. They have caused untold harm to whistleblowers but because they hold a parliamentary position and are secretariate and the main funder of the APPG on Whistleblowing they are considered experts.

Indeed, a whistleblower who wrote to the BBC about the recent appearance of WBUK on Newsnight received the below response,

BBC recent response

They provide the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Whistleblowing, which has been widely quoted as an authority on the subject of whistleblowing by media, while Georgina Halford-Hall is the Director of Strategy and Policy for the APPG, and wrote its report, 'The Whistleblowing Bill' in April 2022, proposing legislation to strengthen protections for whistleblowers.

So we are satisfied that she is a contributor with relevant experience and our policy is not to remove material from our archive unless there are exceptional circumstances

Above is BBC's response in March 2024 to a complaint about Newsnight broadcast in January 2024

We are asking the recipient for consent to publish their full letter of concern sent to BBC.

Somebody considered an expert in Whistleblowing by the BBC whom we have shown to be so ignorant of Whistleblowing that they are a liability to whistleblowers safety.

Furthermore, after raising serious robustly evidenced concerns about WBUK on behalf of our beneficiaries instead of receiving a response from WBUK, we were subjected to a campaign of malicious allegations by WBUK to the Charity Commission and others.

Every media outlet who platforms WBUK has a duty of care.

This is being sent as part of a formal complaint to the BBC, parliament, and others.

This week the whistleblowing bill written by WBUK receives its second reading in parliament, whilst whistleblowers continue to suffer the consequences of WBUK actions.

The APPG on whistleblowing continue to ignore serious evidenced concerns about their secretariat.

The issues we raise are not a dispute but serious harm and further risk of harm.

Eileen Chubb