



Data Protection Officer
Freedom of Information
NW Leicestershire District Council
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Leicestershire
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Telephone: 01530 454763

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1124

I write further to your email dated 02 March 2020.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

Your request:

- Q1 Does your organisation take action to protect external whistleblowers from unjustified treatment by their employers or others?
Yes, see attached document 1124a.
- Q2 Does any protection against unjustified treatment provided by your organisation extend to persons reporting on behalf of external whistleblowers?
Yes, see attached document 1124a.
- Q3 Does any protection extend to proposed or intended unjustified action against an external whistleblower contemplated by his/her employer or another in respect of the disclosure?
Yes, see attached document 1124a.
- Q4 Does your organisation offer any reward or bounty for information received from an external whistleblower in respect of information about which you are the prescribed body or person?
No.
- Q5 Does your organisation publish for the public a step by step guide on how it follows up on external whistleblower information?
No.
- Q6 Where your organisation does not feel itself to be legally competent to engage with a disclosure made by an external whistleblower, do you have a policy and process to refer that disclosure to another prescribed body/person/regulator or other agency better placed to deal with it?
Yes, see attached document 1124a.
- Q7 Where in the circumstances described in Q6 above, your organisation passes information to another prescribed body etc., do you have a policy and process to advise the external whistleblower that the disclosure has been passed to another body etc?
Yes, standard protocol is to notify information passed on and to whom.

- Q8 Where an external whistleblower may be dissatisfied with his/her dealings with your organisation, is there an appeals policy and process which engage someone who is independent of the investigating department?
No - whistle-blower advised the appropriate organisation as set out section 10 of document 1124a.
- Q9 Does your organisation publish FAQ to advise and assist external whistleblowers considering making a disclosure to you?
No.
- Q10 Does all your staff which communicates with or otherwise manages external whistleblowers receive specialist and on-going training for that purpose?
Yes.
- Q11 Where, following a disclosure to your organisation by an external whistleblower about a matter for which you are prescribed, an alleged act of retaliation occurs against the external whistleblower by the employer or another person, does your organisation investigate the alleged act of retaliation?
It would depend on the facts.
- Q12 Please describe what criteria you consider in deciding whether to investigate information received from an external whistleblower about a matter in respect of which you are prescribed?
See section 2 of document 1124a.
- Q13 Does your organisation distinguish between public complaints and external whistleblowers?
*Yes. Whistleblowing refers to "prevention, deterrence, detection and investigation of fraud, corruption and malpractice in all forms."
Public complaints refers to "an expression of dissatisfaction about the standard of service, action or lack of action whether that service is provided directly by the Council or by a contractor or partner."*
- Q14 Apart from any information on your website, does your organisation undertake any public awareness programme(s) regarding whistleblowing?
Not known.

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GOING FORWARD

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk or the address above.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley
Information Governance Officer