



Whistle-blowing Policy

It is important that any fraud, misconduct or wrongdoing by volunteers, board members, contractors or others working on behalf of the Charity is reported and properly dealt with. We therefore require all individuals to raise any concerns that they may have about the conduct of others in the charity or the way in which the organisation is run. This policy sets out the way in which individuals may raise any concerns that they have and how those concerns will be dealt with.

It is not necessary for you to have proof that such an act is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed – a reasonable belief is sufficient. You have no responsibility for investigating the matter – it is the charity's responsibility to ensure that an investigation takes place.

Principles

- Everyone should be aware of the importance of preventing and eliminating wrongdoing. Those working on behalf of the charity should be watchful for illegal or unethical conduct and report anything of that nature that they become aware of.
- Any matter raised under this procedure will be investigated thoroughly, promptly, and confidentially, and the outcome of the investigation reported back to the person who raised the issue.
- No contractor or other person working on behalf of the charity will be victimised for raising a matter under this procedure. This means that the continued opportunities for future involvement of that person be prejudiced because they have raised a legitimate concern.

Procedure

Stage 1

In the first instance, any concerns should be raised with the Chair of Trustees, or another Trustee, who will arrange an investigation of the matter. The investigation may involve you and other individuals involved giving a written statement. Any investigation will be carried out in accordance with the principles set out above. Your statement will be taken into account, and you will be asked to comment on any additional evidence obtained. The Chair of Trustees or another Trustee, will take any necessary action, including reporting the matter to the board of trustees and any appropriate government department or regulatory agency. On conclusion of any investigation, you will be told the outcome and what the charity has done, or proposes to do, about it. If no action is to be taken, the reason for this will be explained.

Stage 2

If on conclusion of stage 1, you reasonably believe that the appropriate action has not been taken, you should report the matter to the relevant body. This includes:

- HM Revenue & Customs
- the Health and Safety Executive
- the Environment Agency
- the Serious Fraud Office
- the Charity Commission
- the Information Commissioner
- the Financial Conduct Authority.

You can find the full list in The Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 2014:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496899/BIS-16-79-blowing-the-whistle-to-a-prescribed-person.pdf

Review date

This document was last reviewed on 16th January 2025

It was approved by the full Board of Trustees, and this approval minuted at the meeting on:

16th January 2025.....

Next review due on..... 15th January 2026.

Signed..... *Chris J*(Chair)..... *S. Spence*(Secretary)