

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Audit & Performance Review Committee: 24th September 2014

Subject: Public Interest Disclosures for the period 1st January 2014 to 30th June 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of public interest disclosures received during the period 1st January 2014 to 30th June 2014.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1** A disclosure in the public interest is where a concern is raised about a danger or illegality that has a public interest aspect to it. A confidential reporting facility is managed by Internal Audit as part of the WDC Public Interest Disclosure Policy. Internal Audit maintains a central record of all concerns raised under the Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** A total of 7 disclosures were received during the period January 2014 to June 2014 summarised below:

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Date completed</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
1.	20.2.14	Allegation that member of staff was on duty smelling strongly of alcohol.	20.2.14	Unfounded.
2.	5.3.14	Allegation that member staff manipulating work practices to get overtime.	16.4.14	Unfounded.
3.	25.3.14	Allegation that partner of school volunteer is drug dealer.	2.6.14	As the Council was not in a position to take this allegation forward , the complainant was advised to contact Police Scotland.

				Internally, assurances were provided by HR and Education that correct PVG procedures were followed for this volunteer.
4.	30.4.14	Allegation that a member of staff in sheltered housing not working all hours paid for.	5.8.14	Unfounded.
5.	12.5.14	Allegation that a refuse collection employee finishes work early every day, and also offers to pick up bulk items in Council vehicles for cash.	28.5.14	Unfounded.
6.	26.5.14	Allegation that an employee takes drugs.	9.6.14	Unfounded.
7.	23.6.14	Allegation that employee is abusing ex partner.	—	In progress.

4.2 Activity relating to public interest disclosure for recent reporting periods is as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>
1 st January 2013 to 30 th June 2013	8
1 st July 2013 to 31 st December 2013	12

4.3 As can be noted from the above analysis, the number of cases being reported continues to be at a relatively low level.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel implications with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications with this report.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There are risks to the Council in financial, legal, operational and reputation terms of not providing a service to enable a disclosure in the public interest.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** There are no issues identified.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** This report has been subject to a check by Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The Public Interest Disclosure Policy contributes to Council's strategic priorities by ensuring that early warnings of malpractice may mitigate the extent of financial losses to the Council, contributes to better asset management by utilising employees to manage risks to the organisation's reputation and supports fit for purpose services through the continuation and promotion of robust employment practice.

Angela Wilson
Executive Director of Corporate Services
Date: 22 August 2014

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Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	Revised Public Interest Disclosure Policy agreed by the Corporate Services Committee on 13 th August 2014
Wards Affected:	All