

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Audit & Performance Review Committee: 25th September 2013

Subject: Public Interest Disclosures for the period 1st January 2013 to 30th June 2013

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the level of public interest disclosures received during the period 1st January 2013 to 30th June 2013.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** Members are asked to consider and note this report.

3. Background

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

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** A total of 8 disclosures were received during the period January 2013 to June 2013 as summarised below:

<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Date completed</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
21.01.13	Allegation of misuse of Council money	24.05.13	Founded. Action plan in place to address the issues found.
14.02.13	Allegation of a breach of contractual working hours.	11.04.13	Partly founded. Action plan in place to monitor employee.

<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Date completed</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
20.02.13	Allegation of a breach of contractual working hours.	18.04.13	Unfounded
22.02.13	Allegation of misuse of Council Money	15.08.13	Partly founded. Action plan in place to address the issues found.
04.03.13	Allegation that payment is being made for hours not worked.	18.04.13	Unfounded
25.03.13	Allegation of theft of council materials.	26.03.13	Unfounded
16.04.13	Allegation of misuse of council van and materials.	23.04.13	Unfounded
22.05.13	Allegation of a potential misuse of a Council parking concession.	04.06.13	Unfounded

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no personnel implications with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Although an element of financial misuse was uncovered there are no financial implications to the Council.

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 employees make disclosures in the public interest.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 An EIA was undertaken at the time the policy was updated and identified no negative impact.

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: 26th August 2013

Person to Contact:	Colin McDougall, Audit and Risk Manager, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton Telephone (01389-737436). Email: colin.mcdougall@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	The Public Interest Disclosure Policy approved by the Corporate Services Committee on 14 th November 2012.
Wards Affected:	All