

Internal Audit

Appendix A

Whistleblowing Details 2010/11

Summary of cases as at 31.03.11

Month	Number of reported cases
Jan'11	4
Feb'11	4
Mar'11	3

Date	Detail of allegation	Date Completed	Outcome
10.01.11	Allegation that private landlord is using a 'scam' to commit benefit fraud.	31.03.11	Housing Benefit was aware of this allegation and had requested from the Whistleblower evidence of payment of rent from her to her landlord. To date no reply has been received. As considerable response time has passed, the case has been closed
15.01.11	Allegations surrounding: 1. The waste of Council money in relation to vehicle washing at weekends by a contractor. 2. Named employees use council vehicles to go home for lunch each day. 3. Named contractor still getting work when he lost the contract.	03.02.11	1. Allegation unfounded. A review was carried out prior to the contract being placed. Management believe the cost of this service was value for money. 2. Allegation unfounded. There is no evidence to support the allegation that a council operated vehicle is used specifically to go home for lunch each day. 3) Allegation unfounded. The contractor in question was the successful bidder (2nd place) in a framework contract and is used as back up to Contractor provision. Contractor is only engaged where in house resources cannot meet demand.
19.01.11	Allegation that a named employee was witnessed speaking to a client in an inappropriate and abusive manner.	29.03.11	Allegation unfounded. Staff were interviewed and no-one witnessed the alleged incident. Manager has reminded all staff about behaviour and attitude generally, and made it clear that if any staff member is finding a situation difficult, then they should inform the senior who will be able to assist.
24.01.11	Allegation of racism and segregation acts within a workplace.	01.02.11	Management met with the named staff who were reminded that it is inappropriate to display any items or materials which could be deemed to be offensive to other staff members, and were instructed to ensure that the necessary action was taken to remove these immediately. The staff insisted they had not meant to cause any distress or offence to others, and would be careful to think of the potential impact of their actions and behaviour on colleagues in the future. Staff will be reminded through team meetings that actions which could be perceived as linked to segregation and racism are unacceptable. Seniors will require to check the work environment of their staff regularly to ensure adherence to this instruction.

03.02.11	Concerns surrounding the shoddy way invoices are issued at a particular establishment.	31.03.11	Allegation founded. Due to a serious lack of procedures and very poor controls a substantial sum of income had not been collected. The Department has been instructed to put in place arrangements for the collection of monies owing to the Council. This will be subject to an Internal Audit report.
10.02.11	Allegation of the financial abuse of finances.	31.03.11	The investigation uncovered serious breaches in procedures within the establishment which will be highlighted in an Internal Audit Report.
15.02.11	Allegation that single person discount (council tax) is being falsely claimed.	o/s	As at 28.03.11 a number of checks have been carried out by the department and a further check is in progress.
16.02.11	Allegation that grant monies are being spent unfairly.	o/s	Investigation being carried out by Internal Audit.
03.03.11	Allegation that council employees are allowed to use council facilities for their own benefit.	23.03.11	Allegation unfounded. Departmental procedures implemented following a similar allegation in 2007 have not changed and continue to be complied with.
18.03.11	1. Question raised over the absence management of an employee who is alleged to have had a lot of sickness over the years. 2. Also questioned was the personal relationship the same employee has with service users and their families outside work.	04.04.11	Department having investigated is satisfied that appropriate procedures have been followed and there is nothing inappropriate occurring.
23.03.11	Allegation of abuse of flexi time surrounding lunch breaks and smoke breaks.	o/s	Passed to dept to investigate.