

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Audit & Performance Review Committee: 12th March 2014

Subject: Public Interest Disclosures for the period 1st July 2013 to 31st December 2013

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of public interest disclosures received during the period 1st July 2013 to 31st December 2013.

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 12 disclosures were received during the period July 2013 to December 2013 as summarised below:

	Date Received	Detail	Date completed	Outcome
1	30.07.13	Allegation of breach of confidentiality.	17.12.13	Founded in part resulting in disciplinary action.
2	22.08.13	Allegation of bullying and breach of health & safety.	03.10.13	Unfounded
3	25.08.13	Allegation of breach of health and safety. (Nb. Linked to allegation No.2 above).	03.10.13	Unfounded
4	26.08.13	Allegation of breach of Code of Conduct for Employees.	23.11.13	Unfounded

5	27.08.13	Allegation of unethical conduct / fraud.	—	In progress
6	28.08.13	Allegation of a breach of data protection.	15.10.13	Unfounded
7	16.09.13	Allegation of unethical conduct	19.09.13	Unfounded
8	23.09.13	Allegation of theft.	15.01.13	Unfounded
9	01.10.13	Allegation of breach of working time directive.	—	In progress
10	12.10.13	Allegation of a breach of data protection.	01.11.13	Unfounded
11	04.11.13	Allegation of breach of working time directive.	—	In progress
12	08.11.13	Allegation of breaches of Health & Safety at Work Act and failure to comply with legal obligations.	—	In progress

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 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: 25 February 2014

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