

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Executive

Audit & Performance Review Committee : 11 March 2009

Subject: Activity on Whistleblowing Hotline to 31 December 2008

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the level of activity on the whistleblowing hotline.

2. Background

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) has had a Confidential Reporting Policy, or whistleblowing policy, since 2000.
- 2.2** A dedicated telephone hotline operated by Internal Audit to support the WDC Confidential Reporting Policy was launched on 6 March 2006 and was re-launched by way of a payslip message, global email and Intranet article on 29th July 2008.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Whistleblowing is taken to include contact with Internal Audit on specific cases through the use of the Council's whistleblowing telephone hotline, email, on-line form or traditional letter.
- 3.2** Since the launch of the whistleblowing hotline on 6 March 2006, there have been a total of 82 cases, covering a variety of subjects as summarised below:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>2006/07</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>
1	13	7	5
2	7	4	6
3	5	4	9
4	6	16	
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	31	31	20
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- 3.3** These cases have been initially assessed by Internal Audit and then investigated or passed to departmental management for attention as appropriate. Details of the outcome of 2008/09 cases are shown in Appendix A.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** This policy does have the potential to cause personnel issues, dependent on the circumstances or findings of any concern raised by an employee.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no financial implications

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Internal Audit assesses each reported case on its merits and allocates resources in accordance with the sensitivity and impact on the Council of the information received. This assessment also includes consideration of the extent to which the direct involvement of departmental management in assisting with any case may or may not be beneficial to the case being satisfactorily resolved.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** Although usage remains relatively low, the Whistleblowing re-launch ensures all employees remain aware of ways to report concerns of wrongdoing within the Council.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** The Committee is asked to note this report.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 18 February 2009

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Appendix:	A – Summary of Activity on Whistleblowing Hotline to 31 December 2008
Background Papers:	Audit & Performance Review Committee - 16 April 2008
Wards Affected:	All