

Public Concern at Work

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Press Release- Stand Up for Whistleblowers

Whistleblowing Charity, Public Concern at Work (PCaW) calls for the Government and regulators to promote the current UK whistleblower protection.

In a survey¹ commissioned by the charity, it was found 77% of working Brits either did not think or know there is a law that protects whistleblowers.

Cathy James, Chief Executive comments: *"The UK is unusual as it provides comprehensive whistleblowing protection² to individuals working in all sectors, who raise concerns internally, externally with regulators and even in some cases where individuals go to the media. It is alarming that knowledge of protection is so poor - the Government and regulators such as the Care Quality Commission, Health and Safety Executive and the Financial Services Authority need to start promoting the law and its protections. The more that the law is promoted, the more likely organisations will take whistleblowing seriously. The recent case of Winterbourne view demonstrates the terrible consequences of Government and regulators not taking whistleblowing seriously."*

The survey shows that employers have an enormous incentive to make whistleblowing work in their organisation - 85% of workers said if they had a concern about possible corruption, danger or serious malpractice at work they would raise this with their employer. Worryingly, 55% of respondents said their employers either did not have or they did not know if they had a whistleblowing policy.

Cathy James added: *"These results should be a wake up call for employers. It is in their best interest to know about their problems early and deal with them effectively³. If they are unwilling to listen to their staff, they will risk facing a legal claim, loss of reputation and loss of public confidence."*

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NOTE TO EDITORS

For further comment, contact Cathy James, Chief Executive on **0203 117 2520** or **07899 000 472**.

ABOUT PUBLIC CONCERN AT WORK

Public Concern at Work, the whistleblowing advice line, is an independent charity set up in 1993. We give free, confidential advice to those concerned about malpractice or wrongdoing in the workplace. We also help organisations to address risk responsibly. The charity was instrumental in getting the whistleblowing legislation, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, on the statute books. For more information please visit www.pcaw.org.uk

¹ All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2023 GB adults of which 1191 are working. Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th-10th June 2011. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). Full details of the survey can be found at http://www.pcaw.org.uk/news_attachments/Results%20for%20PCAW-YouGov%20Survey.pdf

² The UK law is known as the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998: <http://www.pcaw.org.uk/law/pida.htm>.

³ Good employers should be aware of the best practice stated in the British Standards Institution's Code of Practice on Whistleblowing Arrangements: <http://www.pcaw.org.uk/bsi/index.php>

making **whistleblowing** work