

Public Concern at Work

3rd Floor, Bank Chambers

6-10 Borough High Street

London SE1 9QQ

Tel: 020 7404 6609 (helpline)

Tel: 020 3117 2520 (other enquiries)

Fax: 020 7403 8823

Email: whistle@pcaw.org.uk

www.pcaw.org.uk



Whistleblowing helpline sees drop in demand from financial sector

Public Concern at Work – the UK’s whistleblowing charity – has seen calls from the financial sector halved from 8.6% in 2009 to just 4.3% in 2010. In the latter 6 months of 2010 this dropped to only 3.2%.

Cathy James, Acting Director of Public Concern at Work commented “With financial services under fire we are concerned banks are not sending a strong enough message to staff that they still want to hear about a risk before it becomes a problem. Ultimately this will increase the likelihood that matters are reported externally and anonymously. Staff are a vital early warning system for the sector, if businesses do not do more to re-assure staff, they will hear about problems from the regulator or the media –if at all.”

“The lambasting of individuals who have disclosed information publicly, such as Bradley Birkenfeld and Rudolf Elmer, will increase the perception that whistleblowing is a high risk, high profile gamble to expose the truth. With fears of job loss in the sector, banks need to work hard to counteract this message, give good guidance on how to raise a concern, raise awareness of the support available and openly demonstrate it is safe for staff to speak up in the workplace.”

END

For comment, contact Cathy James on 07899 000 472 or 020 7404 6609

Public Concern at Work is an independent, self-funding whistleblowing charity. It runs a free confidential helpline on 020 7404 6609 for people with whistleblowing concerns; promotes the public interest through its policy work; and advises public bodies, business, regulators and unions on how to create more open and accountable cultures.

making **whistleblowing** work