

Where's whistleblowing?

A survey of 2256 people across Great Britain – carried out by YouGov in May 2007 – asked about their knowledge of and attitudes to whistleblowing. Those in work (1451) were also asked whether they would blow the whistle and, if so, to whom.

Would you blow the whistle internally?

85% said if they had a concern about possible corruption, danger or serious malpractice at work they would raise it with their employer.

Externally?

When given the following seven options and asked what they would do if they weren't confident about telling their employer,

- 32% said they didn't know what they would do,
- 31% would most likely contact the police or a regulator,
- 17% would most likely contact the whistleblowing charity, PCaW,
- 12% would most likely do nothing,
- 4% would most likely contact the media,
- 3% would most likely contact their MP, and
- 1% would most likely contact a pressure group like Greenpeace.

Does your employer have a policy?

29% said their employer had a whistleblowing policy, 30% said it did not and 41% did not know either way.

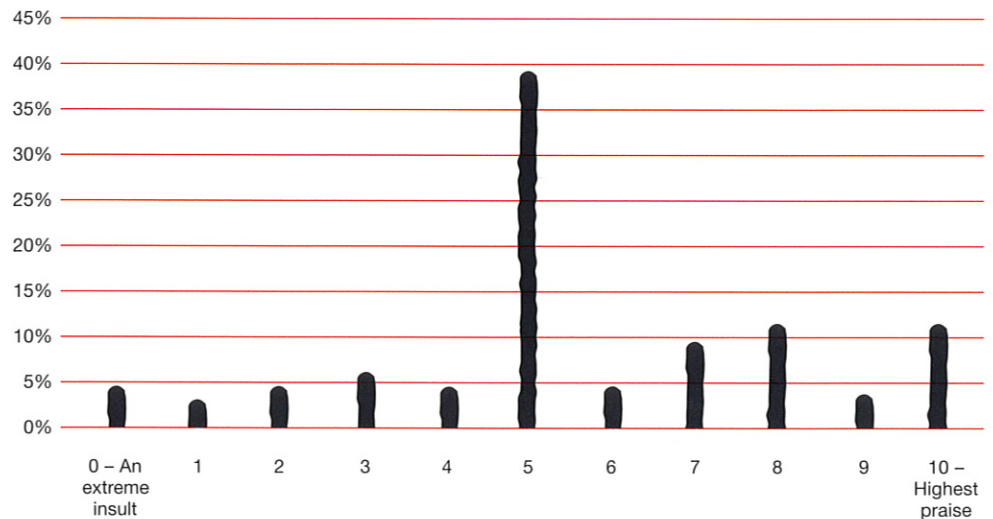
Knowledge of the whistleblowing law

22% of the respondents said that to their knowledge there is a law that protects whistleblowers, 20% said there is not and 57% say they do not know either way.

Is it insulting to be called a whistleblower?

As the chart below shows, twice as many people in and out of work think the word 'whistleblower' is praiseworthy as think it is insulting. (On a scale of 0-10, 40% view the word positively, 40% as neutral and 20% negatively).

How people rate the word 'whistleblower'



An interesting comparator

In March 2007, Ernst & Young asked 1300 senior executives in 13 European countries who worked for multinationals that had promoted whistleblowing whether employees in their company felt free to report a case of suspected fraud, bribery or corruption. Across mainland Europe 54% said yes, by contrast in the UK the figure was 86%.