



WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY STATEMENT

TNT is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability. Staff and other company members must be allowed to voice concerns in a responsible and effective manner. It is a fundamental term of every contract of employment that an employee will faithfully serve their employer and not disclose confidential information about the employer's affairs. Nevertheless, where an individual discovers information which they believe shows serious malpractice or wrongdoing within the organisation then this information should be disclosed internally without fear of reprisal, and there should be arrangements to enable this to be done independently of line management.

1.1 The Public Interest Disclosure Act gives legal protection to employees against being dismissed or penalised by their employers as a result of publicly disclosing serious concerns. TNT has endorsed the provisions set out below to ensure that no members of staff should feel at a disadvantage in raising legitimate concerns.

1.2 This policy is intended to assist those who believe they have discovered malpractice or impropriety. It is not designed to question financial or business decisions taken by TNT nor should it be used to reconsider matters which have already been addressed under harassment, complaint, disciplinary or other procedures.

2. POLICY SCOPE

2.1 This policy is designed to enable TNT employees to raise concerns internally, at a high level and to disclose information which the individual believes shows malpractice or impropriety. This policy is intended to cover concerns which are in the public interest and may at least initially be investigated separately but might then lead to the involvement of other procedures e.g. disciplinary. These concerns include:

- Financial malpractice or impropriety or fraud;
- Failure to comply with a legal obligation or Statutes;
- Dangers to Health & Safety or the environment;
- Criminal activity;
- Improper conduct or unethical behaviour;
- Attempts to conceal any of these.

3. SAFEGUARDS

3.1 Protection

This policy is designed to offer protection to those employees of TNT who disclose such concerns, provided the disclosure is made:

- in good faith;
- in the reasonable belief of the individual making the disclosure that it tends to show malpractice or impropriety

It is important to note that no protection from internal disciplinary procedures is offered to those who choose not to use the procedure. In extreme cases, malicious or wild allegations could give rise to legal action on the part of the persons complained about.

3.2 Confidentiality



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HEALING IN THE NAME OF JESUS SINCE 1861

TNT will treat all such disclosures in a confidential and sensitive manner. The identity of the individual making the allegation may be kept confidential so long as it does not hinder or frustrate any investigation. However, the investigation process may reveal the source of the information and the individual making the disclosure may need to provide a statement as part of the evidence required.

3.3 Anonymous Allegations

This policy encourages individuals to put their name to any disclosures they make. Concerns expressed anonymously are much less credible, but they may be considered at TNT's discretion. In exercising this discretion, the factors to be taken into account will include:

- The seriousness of the issues raised;
- The credibility of the concern;
- The likelihood of confirming the allegation from attributable sources.

3.4 False Allegations

If an individual makes an allegation in good faith which is not confirmed by subsequent investigation, no action will be taken against that individual. In making a disclosure the individual should exercise due care to ensure the accuracy of the information. If, however, an individual makes malicious or vexatious allegations, and particularly if they persist with making them, disciplinary action may be taken against that individual.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 On receipt of a complaint of malpractice, the member of staff who receives and takes note of the complaint, must pass this information as soon as is reasonably possible, to the appropriate designated investigating officer as follows:

- Complaints of malpractice will be investigated by the CEO unless the complaint is against the CEO or is related to their actions. In such cases, the complaint should be passed to the Chair of the Board for referral.
- In the case of a complaint, which is any way connected with but not against the CEO, the Chief Executive will nominate a Senior Manager or external party to act as the alternative investigating officer.
- Complaints against the Chief Executive should be passed to the Chair who will nominate an appropriate in/external investigating officer.
- The complainant has the right to bypass the line management structure and take their complaint direct to the Chair. The Chair has the right to refer the complaint back to management if they feel that the management without any conflict of interest can more appropriately investigate the complaint.

4.2 Should none of the above routes be suitable or acceptable to the complainant, then they may approach one of the following individuals who have been designated and trained as independent points of contact under this procedure. They can advise the complainant on the implications of the legislation and the possible internal and external avenues of complaint open to them:

- Frank Kantor
- Christine Farah

4.3 If there is evidence of criminal activity, then the investigating officer should inform the police. TNT will ensure that any internal investigation does not hinder a formal police investigation.



4.4 Timescales

- a. Due to the varied nature of these sorts of complaints, which may involve in/external investigators and/or the police, it is not possible to lay down precise timescales for such investigations. The investigating officer should ensure that the investigations are undertaken as quickly as possible without affecting the quality and depth of those investigations.
- b. The investigating officer, should as soon as practically possible, send a written acknowledgement of the concern to the complainant and thereafter report back to them in writing the outcome of the investigation and on the action that is proposed. If the investigation is a prolonged one, the investigating officer should keep the complainant informed, in writing, as to the progress of the investigation and as to when it is likely to be concluded.
- c. All responses to the complainant should be in writing and sent to their home address marked "confidential".

4.5 Investigating Procedure

- a. The investigating officer should follow these steps:
 - Full details and clarifications of the complaint should be obtained;
 - The investigating officer should inform the member of staff against whom the complaint is made as soon as is practically possible. The member of staff will be informed of their right to be accompanied by a trade union or work colleague at any future interview or hearing held under the provision of these procedures. At the discretion of the investigating officer and dependant on the circumstances of the complaint an alternative representative may be allowed e.g. the individual's legal representative;
 - The investigating officer should consider the involvement of the Company auditors and the Police at this stage and should consult with the Chair and/or Chief Executive if appropriate;
 - The allegations should be fully investigated by the investigating officer with the assistance where appropriate, of other individuals/bodies;
 - A judgement concerning the complaint its validity will be made by the investigating officer. This judgement will be detailed in a written report containing the findings of the investigations and reasons for the judgement. The report will be passed to the Chief Executive and/or Chair as appropriate;
 - The Chief Executive and/or Chair will decide what action to take. If the complaint is shown to be justified, then they will invoke the disciplinary or other appropriate TNT procedures;
 - The complainant should be kept informed of the progress of the investigations and, if appropriate, of the final outcome;
 - If appropriate, a copy of the outcomes will be used to enable a review of TNT procedures.
- b. If the complainant is not satisfied that their concern is being properly dealt with by the investigating officer, they have the right to raise it in confidence with the Chief Executive and/or Chair, or one of the designated persons described above.
- c. If the investigation finds the allegations unsubstantiated and all internal procedures have been exhausted, but the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, TNT recognises the lawful rights of employees and ex-employees to make disclosures to prescribed persons or body (e.g. the Health and Safety Executive). A full list of prescribed people and bodies can be found on the Government Website (www.gov.uk).