

Ginger Nut Training.



Document Title

Whistleblowing Policy

Originator

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Responsible Person

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What is Whistleblowing?

We are committed to conducting our business with honesty and integrity and we expect all staff to maintain high standards. Any suspected wrongdoing should be reported as soon as possible.

Whistleblowing is the reporting of suspected wrongdoing or dangers in relation to our activities. This includes bribery, facilitation of tax evasion, fraud or other criminal activity, miscarriages of justice, health and safety risks, damage to the environment and any breach of legal or professional obligations.

To be covered by whistleblowing law, the individual must make a qualifying disclosure of information and the information must relate to one of the types of relevant failures set out above.

This policy

This Policy aims to:

- Encourage you to feel confident in raising serious concerns at the earliest opportunity and to question and act upon concerns about practice.
- Provide avenues for you to raise those concerns and receive feedback on any action taken.
- Ensure that you receive a response to your concerns and that you are aware of how to pursue them if you are not satisfied.
- Reassure you that you will be protected from possible reprisals or victimisation if you have made any disclosure in good faith.

The Policy applies to all:

- Apprentices and Employers under the Apprenticeship Agreement for Ginger Nut Training's Apprenticeship training services.
- Employees of Ginger Nut Media Ltd.
- Those providing services under a contract or other agreement with Ginger Nut Media Ltd.

Rarely, a case might arise where it is the employee that has participated in the action causing concern. In such a case it is in the employee's interest to come into the open as soon as possible. We cannot promise not to act against such an employee, but the fact that they came forward will be taken into consideration.

Confidentiality

We are committed to conducting our business with honesty and integrity and we expect all staff to maintain high standards. Any suspected wrongdoing should be reported as soon as possible.

Who should you raise your concerns with?

This will depend on the seriousness and sensitivity of the issues involved and who is suspected of the wrongdoing. You should normally raise concerns with:

- Your Line Manager
- A Company Director
- By using the Whistleblowing Form: [Whistleblowing Form – Ginger Nut Training](#)

How to raise a concern

There are several options for raising a concern. You can do this in person, via email, telephone, or post.

To raise a concern anonymously, please use the Whistleblowing Form on our website:

[Whistleblowing Form – Ginger Nut Training](#)

The earlier you express your concern, the easier it is to take action. You will need to provide the following information:

- The nature of your concern and why you believe it to be true.
- The background and history of the concern (giving relevant dates if possible).

Although you are not expected to prove beyond doubt the truth of your suspicion, you will need to demonstrate to the person contacted that you have a genuine concern relating to suspected wrongdoing or malpractice and there are reasonable grounds for your concern.

You may wish to consider discussing your concern with a colleague first and you may find it easier to raise the matter if there are two (or more) of you who have had the same experience or concerns.

What we will do

We will arrange a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss your concern. Do not forget that testing your concerns is not the same as either accepting or rejecting them. You may invite a colleague to be present for support during any meetings or interviews in connection with the concerns you have raised. Your companion must respect the confidentiality of your disclosure and any subsequent investigation. Any meeting can be arranged away from your workplace.

In order to be fair to all employees, including those who may be wrongly or mistakenly accused, initial enquiries will be made to decide whether an investigation is appropriate and, if so, what form it should take.

The investigation may need to be carried out under terms of strict confidentiality, i.e. by not informing the subject of the complaint until (or if) it becomes necessary to do so. In certain cases however, such as allegations of ill treatment of others, suspension from work may have to be considered immediately. Protection of others is paramount in all cases.

Where appropriate, the matters raised may:

- be investigated by management, internal audit, or through the disciplinary/grievance process
- be referred to the police
- be referred to the external auditor
- be referred and put through established child protection/abuse procedures
- form the subject of an independent inquiry

Within ten working days of a concern being raised, the person investigating your concern will write to you:

- acknowledging that the concern has been received
- indicating how we propose to deal with the matter
- supplying you with information on staff support mechanisms
- telling you whether further investigations will take place and if not, why not.

The amount of contact between you and the Director considering the issues will depend on the nature of the matters raised, the potential difficulties involved and the clarity of your information. It is likely that you will be interviewed to ensure that your disclosure is fully understood.

Ginger Nut Media will do what it can to minimise any difficulties that you may experience as a result of raising a concern. For instance, if you are asked to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings, we will arrange for you to receive appropriate advice and support. You need to be assured that your disclosure has been properly addressed. Unless there are any legal reasons why this cannot be done, you will be kept informed of the progress and outcome of any investigation.

How the matter can be taken further

The aim of this policy is to provide an internal mechanism for reporting, investigating, and remedying any wrongdoing in the workplace. In most cases you should not find it necessary to alert anyone externally.

The law recognises that in some circumstances it may be appropriate for you to report your concerns to an external body such as a regulator. We strongly encourage you to seek advice before reporting a concern to anyone external. Protect operates a confidential helpline. Their contact details are at the end of this policy.

This Policy does not prevent you from seeking your own legal advice.

Protection and support for whistleblowers

We aim to encourage openness and will support whistleblowers who raise genuine concerns under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken.

Whistleblowers must not suffer any detrimental treatment as a result of raising a genuine concern. If you believe that you have suffered any such treatment, you should inform a director immediately. If the matter is not remedied, you should raise it formally using our Grievance Procedure.

You must not threaten or retaliate against whistleblowers in any way. If you are involved in such conduct, you may be subject to disciplinary action.

However, if we conclude that a whistleblower has made false allegations maliciously, the whistleblower may be subject to disciplinary action.

Throughout this process:

- you will be given full support from senior management.
- your concerns will be taken seriously, and
- We will do all it can to help you throughout the investigation.

Protect operates a confidential helpline:

Protect Independent whistleblowing charity	Helpline: 0203 117 2520 Email: whistle@pcaw.co.uk Website: https://protect-advice.org.uk
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Further Escalation

If the whistleblower is not satisfied with the response from Ginger Nut Training, they may escalate their concern to the DfE/ESFA

To complain or make a disclosure about a post-16 education or training provider, please email complaints.esfa@education.gov.uk or send a letter to:

Customer Service Team
Education and Skills Funding Agency
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry CV1 2WT