

Whistleblowing Policy



Whistleblowing and Confidentiality

Whistleblowing is a term used when an individual discloses information relating to malpractice or wrongdoing or covering up any malpractice or wrongdoing. This is often committed by the individual's employer, although this is not always the case.

On occasions, someone making an allegation of malpractice or maladministration or any other issue may wish to remain anonymous, it is always preferable to reveal your identity and provide us with your contact details. If you are concerned about possible adverse consequences that may occur if your identity is revealed to other parties, please inform us that you do not wish for us to divulge your identity and we will ensure we do not disclose your details.

Safety Training Awards are not obliged to disclose information, if to do so would be a breach of confidentiality and / or any other legal duty. However, on occasions to progress an investigation it may not be possible to entirely anonymise individuals, third parties may need to be involved, in this instance this would be discussed in advance with the whistle blower / person who made the allegation. We may need to disclose identity to the following:

- The police, fraud prevention agencies or other law enforcement agencies (to investigate or prevent crime, including fraud)
- The courts (in connection with court proceedings)
- Any other person to whom we are required by law to disclose your identity.

The investigator assigned to review the allegation will not reveal the whistle-blowers identity unless permission has been granted or it is absolutely necessary for the purposes of the investigation (as above). The investigator will notify the whistle-blower if it becomes necessary to reveal their identity against their wishes.

A whistle-blower should recognise that they may be identifiable by others due to the nature of circumstances of the disclosure.

Once a concern has been raised Safety Training Awards has a duty to pursue the matter, it is not possible to prevent the matter being investigated by subsequently withdrawing a concern as we are obliged by the regulators to follow up any allegation of malpractice or maladministration and investigate accordingly.

We will consider each disclosure of information sensitively and carefully and decide upon an appropriate response.

In all cases we will update you to confirm if an allegation will be investigated and will keep you updated with how this is progressing, a whistle-blower will have the opportunity to raise any concerns to the investigator about the way the investigation is being conducted. However, Safety Training Awards are not obliged to disclose any information, if to do so would be a breach of confidentiality and/or any other legal duty.

Whilst we cannot guarantee we will disclose all matters in a way that you might wish, we will strive to deal with the investigation fairly, thoroughly, and promptly.

Notifying relevant parties

Safety Training Awards will tell the person who made the allegation who will be handling the matter, how they can contact them and any further assistance we may need from them. We will keep them updated as to how the allegation has progressed and if an investigation has commenced, timeframes may depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we will not disclose any details of the investigation activities and it may not be appropriate to disclose any details of the outcomes due to confidentiality or legal reasons.

In all cases of suspected or actual malpractice or maladministration at an ATC, we will notify the ATC Co-ordinator involved in the allegation (unless they are under investigation in which case communication may be with the next appropriate person of authority) that we are investigating the matter.

In cases of learner malpractice, we may ask the ATC to investigate the issue whilst liaising with personnel at Safety Training Awards. We will only ask the ATC to investigate the matter when we have confidence that the investigation would be prompt, thorough, fair, independent, and effective.

We may communicate directly with ATC personnel who have been accused of malpractice if appropriate and / or communicate directly with a learner or their representative if deemed necessary when reviewing the evidence.

Where applicable Safety Training Awards Responsible Officer will inform the appropriate regulatory authority of a suspected case or a proven case of malpractice and/or maladministration, which may invalidate the award of a qualification or if it could affect another awarding organisation. We will also keep them informed if we are investigating a large or complex case.

For more information on Safety Training Awards investigation process please refer to the Safety Training Awards Malpractice and Maladministration Policy on our website

What to do if you have a concern about suspected malpractice or wrongdoing?

Whistleblowing disclosures can be made in one of the following ways:

- By email to compliance@safetytrainingawards.co.uk
- By post to: Safety Training Awards, Anchor House, Birch Street, Walsall, WS2 8HZ

Monitoring and Review

We will review this policy annually as part of our quality assurance requirements and revise it as and when necessary in response to ATC and learner feedback, changes in our practices, actions from the regulatory authorities or external agencies, changes in legislation, or trends identified from previous allegations.

In addition, this policy may be updated in light of operational feedback to ensure our arrangements for dealing with suspected cases of malpractice and maladministration remain effective.

Safety Training Awards contact details

Safety Training Awards, Anchor House, Birch Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 8HZ

Tel: 01922 645097, **Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday 8.00-16.00

Website: www.safetytrainingawards.co.uk , **Email:** compliance@safetytrainingawards.co.uk