



Annual report on whistle blowing 2018–19

Outcome requested:	Audit and Risk Committee is asked to consider a report on whistle blowing cases in 2018–19.
Executive Summary:	This paper gives an overview of the operation of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy during 2018–19.
QMUL Strategy	Effective governance underpins the achievement of the University's strategic aims.
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013
Strategic Risks:	Risk area 16: Compliance with ongoing conditions of registration with the Office for Students.
Equality Impact Assessment:	There are no equality and diversity issues arising from this paper.
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	The overview will be incorporated into the Committee's Annual Report.
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	No
Timing:	Annual report
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Date:	23 September 2019
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Jonathan Morgan, Registrar and Secretary

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1. There have been two disclosures under the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy in 2018–19, compared to four disclosures in 2017–18.
 - [a] The first disclosure arose in the context of a disciplinary investigation in the security team, where a member of staff had complained that CCTV footage was being used by managers to monitor their movements in the workplace. The matter was explored as part of the ongoing disciplinary investigation and no evidence of malpractice was found.
 - [b] The second disclosure raised a concern about the application of a new policy on the approval of contracts in QMI. The matter was investigated under the whistle blowing policy. No evidence of malpractice was found, but recommendations were made and subsequently acted upon to clarify the contracts policy.
2. A review of the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy was undertaken in 2017–18 with external legal advice. The external context has not changed since that time.
3. The evidence from the past year indicates that the Public Interest Disclosure (Whistle Blowing) Policy continues to provide an effective route for matters of public interest to be raised and investigated. No further amendments to the policy are proposed at this time. The next formal review is due in 2020.
4. The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to **consider** this report.