Ocean City College

Whistle-blowing

Also see: Grievances, Dismissal

If workers bring information about wrongdoing to the attention of their employers or a relevant organisation, they are protected in certain ways under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. This is commonly referred to as 'blowing the whistle'. The law that protects whistle-blowers is for the public interest – so people are encouraged to speak out if they find malpractice in an organisation. Blowing the whistle is more formally known as 'making a disclosure in the public interest'.

Workers who 'blow the whistle' on wrongdoing in the workplace can complain to an employment tribunal if they are dismissed or victimised for doing so. An employee's dismissal (or selection for redundancy) is automatically considered 'unfair' if it is wholly or mainly for making a protected disclosure.

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