

WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Company at all times conducts its business to the highest standards of integrity, openness and accountability. It expects all employees to maintain the same standards in everything they do.

This policy applies to all employees and officers of the Company. This policy applies directly any contractor, sub-contractor, supplier, partner or agency worker who is subject to a written agreement with Pilgrims Group Ltd or one of its subsidiaries.

It is important to the business that any fraud, misconduct or wrongdoing by Employees or officers of the Company is reported and properly dealt with. The Company therefore encourages all individuals to raise any concerns that they may have about the conduct of others in the business or the way in which the business is run. This policy sets out the way in which individuals may raise any concerns that they have and how those concerns will be dealt with.

Background

English law and the law of many countries provides protection for Employees who raise legitimate concerns about specified matters. Pilgrims Policy provide identical protection. Raising such concerns are called "qualifying disclosures". A qualifying disclosure is one made in the public interest by a worker who has a reasonable belief that:

- a criminal offence; including offences such as theft, fraud or acts of bribery
- a miscarriage of justice;
- an act creating risk to health and safety;
- an act causing damage to the environment;
- improper conduct or unethical behaviour
- a breach of any other legal obligation or statute; or
- concealment of any of the above;

is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed. It is not necessary for the worker to have proof that such an act is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed - a reasonable belief is sufficient. The worker has no responsibility for investigating the matter - it is the Company's responsibility to ensure that an investigation takes place.

A worker who makes such a protected qualifying disclosure has the right not to be dismissed, subjected to any other detriment, or victimised, because he/she has made a disclosure.

The Company encourages Employees to raise their concerns under this procedure in the first instance. If a worker is not sure whether or not to raise a concern, he/she should discuss the issue with his/her line manager or the HR department.

Principles

- Everyone should be aware of the importance of preventing and eliminating wrongdoing at work. Employees should be watchful for illegal or unethical conduct and report anything of that nature that they become aware of.
- Any matter raised under this procedure will be investigated thoroughly, promptly and confidentially, and the outcome of the investigation reported back to the worker who raised the issue.

- No worker will be victimised for raising a matter under this procedure. This means that the continued employment and opportunities for future promotion or training of the worker will not be prejudiced because he/she has raised a legitimate concern.
- Victimisation of a worker for raising a qualified disclosure will be a disciplinary offence.
- If misconduct is discovered as a result of any investigation under this procedure the Company disciplinary procedure will be used, in addition to any appropriate external measures.
- Maliciously making a false allegation is a disciplinary offence.
- An instruction to cover up wrongdoing is itself a disciplinary offence. If told not to raise or pursue any concern, even by a person in authority such as a manager, Employees should not agree to remain silent. They should report the matter to a director.

This procedure is for disclosures about matters other than a breach of an employee's own contract of employment. If an employee is concerned that his/her own contract has been, or is likely to be, broken, he/she should use the Company grievance procedure.

Procedure

- (1) In the first instance, and unless the worker reasonably believes his/her line manager to be involved in the wrongdoing, or if for any other reason the worker does not wish to approach his/her line manager, any concerns should be raised with the worker's line manager. If he/she believes the line manager to be involved, or for any reason does not wish to approach the line manager, then the worker should proceed straight to stage 3.
- (2) The line manager will arrange an investigation into the matter (either by investigating the matter him/herself or immediately passing the issue to someone in a more senior position). The investigation may involve the worker and other individuals involved giving a written statement. Any investigation will be carried out in accordance with the principles set out above. The worker's statement will be taken into account, and he/she will be asked to comment on any additional evidence obtained. The line manager (or the person who carried out the investigation) will then report to the board, which will take any necessary action, including reporting the matter to any appropriate government department or regulatory agency. If disciplinary action is required, the line manager (or the person who carried out the investigation) will report the matter to the human resources department and start the disciplinary procedure. On conclusion of any investigation, the worker will be told the outcome of the investigation and what the board has done, or proposes to do, about it. If no action is to be taken, the reason for this will be explained.
- (3) If the worker is concerned that his/her line manager is involved in the wrongdoing, has failed to make a proper investigation or has failed to report the outcome of the investigations to the board, he/she should inform a Company Director, who will arrange for another manager to review the investigation carried out, make any necessary enquiries and make his/her own report to the board as in stage 2 above. If for any other reason the worker does not wish to approach his/her line manager he/she should also in the first instance a Company Director. Any approach to the director will be treated with the strictest confidence and the worker's identity will not be disclosed without his/her prior consent.

(4) If on conclusion of stages 1, 2 and 3 the worker reasonably believes that the appropriate action has not been taken, he/she should report the matter to the proper authority. The legislation sets out a number of bodies to which qualifying disclosures may be made. These include the UK agencies below. Where it is not appropriate to contact a UK agency, then advice should be sought from Pilgrims line management, Pilgrims HR, or the Embassy or Home Ministry of the country of the worker concerned.

- HM Revenue & Customs;
- the Financial Conduct Authority (formerly the Financial Services Authority);
- the Competition and Markets Authority; the Health and Safety Executive;
- the Environment Agency;
- the Independent Police Complaints Commission; and
- the Serious Fraud Office