

Whistleblowing policy

What is whistleblowing

If you see or find out about something you think is wrong at the business you should report it. You should go first to your line-manager or any other senior person. If you cannot or do not wish to do this for any reason you should follow this whistleblowing policy.

Raising concerns about wrongdoing can be one of the most difficult and challenging things to do in a work environment. Under this policy you may come forward with legitimate concerns without fear of being blamed or suffering any disadvantage for doing so.

What types of concerns can be raised by whistle-blowers?

The UK Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA) 1998 provides protection for workers who reasonably believe that they are acting in the public interest and where the disclosure falls into one of more of the following categories;

- A criminal offence that has, is being, or is likely to be committed
- Unauthorised or inappropriate disclosure, misuse or loss of confidential, personal and / or sensitive information
- A miscarriage of justice
- Risk or damage to the environment
- A danger to the health and safety of employees or others
- Attempts to suppress or hide information relating to wrongdoing.

The concern can be about an incident that happened in the past, is happening now or that you believe is likely in the future. As long as you hold a reasonable belief that the information is true then you will be covered by the protection set out in this policy regardless of whether you are mistaken or the matter cannot be proved.

Making your claim anonymously

It is possible for you to raise your claim anonymously if you wish to do so. However, this may mean that it is difficult to investigate fully if you haven't provided us with enough information.

We assure you that we will not tolerate any harassment or victimisation of individuals and would encourage you to provide us with your name so we can fully investigate the matter. You may ask for confidentiality when doing so and we will respect this.

If you ask for confidentiality we will make every effort to protect your identity unless required to disclose it by law. If it becomes clear that we are unable to resolve the issue without revealing your identity we will discuss this with you, taking into account your views and our wider legal obligations before deciding whether or not to proceed with the investigation.

How to raise a concern internally

Step 1

Where possible you should raise any matter of concern, serious or otherwise with your line manager. This may be done either verbally or in writing.

Step 2

If you feel unable, for whatever reason, to raise the matter with your line manager, you may go to any other team member.

When raising your concern, it is helpful for you to provide an explanation with as much detail as possible including dates and times of incidents, any eye witness details and any supporting documents that you have.

How to raise a concern externally

Raising concerns externally

Please contact us via whistleblower@interweavetextiles.com

What happens next

The person who you raise the concern to will listen to and consider your concern in full and determine whether any action is needed. This may mean reporting it to a more senior member of staff.

We will try to keep you informed about the actions that we are taking in relation to the concern including how we propose to deal with the matter, whether we need further assistance from you, any action that is taken and the outcome of the investigation. However, we may not be able to provide you with much detail where we have a duty to keep the confidence of other people.

Support for whistle-blowers

Whistleblowing may be very difficult. We will take every step to ensure we protect and support whistle-blowers both internally and externally. However, we recognise that people may feel more comfortable seeking external support in this situation.