

"WHISTLEBLOWING" POLICY (Making a Disclosure in the Public Interest)

Introduction

When we refer to 'us', 'we' or 'Safer Roadworks' in this policy, we are referring to the legal entities which make up the Safer Roadworks Group of Companies, consisting of Safer Roadworks Limited, Safer Roadworks (Fleet) Ltd and Safer Roadworks (Traffic Management) Ltd.

Safer Roadworks is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity, and accountability.

An important aspect of accountability and transparency is a mechanism to enable personnel and other members of Safer Roadworks to voice concerns in a responsible and effective manner. It is a fundamental term of engagement with candidates that they will faithfully serve Safer Roadworks and not disclose confidential information about the Safer Roadworks's affairs. Nevertheless, where an individual discovers information which they believe shows serious malpractice or wrongdoing within the organisation then this information should be disclosed internally without fear of reprisal, in relatively minor instances the operations manager would be the appropriate person to be told.

"The Public Interest Disclosure Act", gives legal protection to employees against being dismissed or penalised by their employers as a result of publicly disclosing certain serious concerns. Safer Roadworks has endorsed the provisions set out below to ensure that no members of staff should feel at a disadvantage in raising legitimate concerns.

It should be emphasised that this policy is intended to assist individuals who believe they have discovered malpractice or impropriety. It is not designed to question financial, or business decisions taken by Safer Roadworks nor should it be used to reconsider any matters which have already been addressed under harassment, complaint, disciplinary or other procedures.

Scope of Policy

This policy is designed to enable any person that does business with or works for Safer Roadworks to raise concerns internally and at a high level and to disclose information which the individual believes shows malpractice or impropriety. This policy is intended to cover concerns which are in the public interest and may at least initially be investigated separately but might then lead to the invocation of other procedures e.g., disciplinary. These concerns could include:

- Financial malpractice or impropriety or fraud.

- Failure to comply with a legal obligation or statutes.
- Dangers to health & safety or the environment.
- Criminal activity.
- Improper conduct or unethical behaviour.
- Attempts to conceal any of these.

Safeguards

1. **Protection** - this policy is designed to offer protection to those personnel of Safer Roadworks who disclose such concerns provided the disclosure is made:
 - In good faith;
 - In the reasonable belief of the individual making the disclosure that it tends to show malpractice or impropriety and if they make the disclosure to an appropriate person (see below). It is important to note that no protection from internal disciplinary procedures is offered to those who choose not to use the procedure. In an extreme case, malicious or wild allegations could give rise to legal action on the part of the persons complained about.
2. **Confidentiality** - Safer Roadworks will treat all such disclosures in a confidential and sensitive manner. The identity of the individual making the allegation may be kept confidential so long as it does not hinder or frustrate any investigation. However, the investigation process may reveal the source of the information and the individual making the disclosure may need to provide a statement as part of the evidence required.
3. **Anonymous Allegations** - this policy encourages individuals to put their name to any disclosures they make. Concerns expressed anonymously are much less credible, but they may be considered at the discretion of Safer Roadworks. In exercising this discretion, the factors to be taken into account will include:
 - The seriousness of the issues raised.
 - The credibility of the concern.
 - The likelihood of confirming the allegation from attributable sources.
4. **Untrue Allegations** - If an individual makes an allegation in good faith, which is not confirmed by subsequent investigation, no action will be taken against that individual. making a disclosure the individual should exercise due care to ensure the accuracy of the information. If, however, an individual makes malicious or vexatious allegations, and

particularly if he or she persists with making them, disciplinary action may be taken against that individual.

Procedures for Making a Disclosure

On receipt of a complaint of malpractice, the member of staff who receives and takes note of the complaint, must pass this information as soon as is reasonably possible, to the appropriate designated investigating officer as follows:

- Complaints of malpractice will be investigated by the appropriate Director/Manager unless the complaint is against the Director/Manager or is in any way related to the actions of the Director/Manager. In such cases, the complaint should be passed to another senior member of staff.
- In the case of a complaint, which is any way connected with but not against the Director, the General or Operations Manager will nominate a Senior Manager or external party to act as the alternative investigating officer.
- Complaints against the Director/Manager should be passed a different Director/Manager who will nominate an appropriate internal / external investigating officer.
- The complainant has the right to bypass the line management structure and take their complaint direct to a Director. The Director has the right to refer the complaint back to management if he/she feels that the management without any conflict of interest can more appropriately investigate the complaint.

If there is evidence of criminal activity, then the investigating person should inform the police. Safer Roadworks will ensure that any internal investigation does not hinder a formal police investigation.

Timescales

Due to the varied nature of these sorts of complaints, which may involve internal / external investigators and / or the police, it is not possible to lay down precise timescales for such investigations. The investigating person should ensure that the investigations are undertaken as quickly as possible without affecting the quality and depth of those investigations.

The investigating person, should as soon as practically possible, send a written acknowledgement of the concern to the complainant and thereafter report back to them in writing the outcome of the investigation and on the action that is proposed. If the investigation is a prolonged one, the investigating officer should keep the complainant informed, in writing, as to the progress of the investigation and as to when it is likely to be concluded.

All responses to the complainant should be in writing and sent to their home address marked “confidential”.

Investigating Procedure

The investigating person should follow these steps:

- Full details and clarifications of the complaint should be obtained.
- The investigating person should inform the member of staff against whom the complaint is made as soon as is practically possible. The member of staff will be informed of their right to be accompanied by a trade union or work colleague at any future interview or hearing held under the provision of these procedures. At the discretion of the investigating person and dependant on the circumstances of the complaint an alternative representative may be allowed e.g., the individual’s legal representative.
- The investigating officer should consider the involvement of Safer Roadworks auditors and the Police at this stage and should consult with the Director / General Manager / Operations Manager if appropriate.
- The allegations should be fully investigated by the investigating person with the assistance where appropriate, of other individuals / bodies.
- A judgement concerning the complaint and validity of the complaint will be made by the investigating person. This judgement will be detailed in a written report containing the findings of the investigations and reasons for the judgement. The report will be passed to the Director, General Manager or Operations Manager as appropriate.
- The Director, General Manager or Operations Manager will decide what action to take. If the complaint is shown to be justified, then they will invoke the disciplinary or other of Safer Roadworks.’s appropriate procedures.
- The complainant should be kept informed of the progress of the investigations and, if appropriate, of the final outcome.
- If appropriate, a copy of the outcomes will be used to enable a review of Safer Roadworks.’s procedures.

If the complainant is not satisfied that their concern is being properly dealt with by the investigating person, they have the right to raise it in confidence with another senior Manager or Director.

If the investigation finds the allegations unsubstantiated and all internal procedures have been exhausted, but the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, Safer Roadworks recognises the lawful rights of employees and ex-employees to make disclosures to prescribed persons or body (e.g., the Health and Safety Executive). A full list of prescribed people and bodies can be found on the Government Website (www.gov.uk).

Monitoring and review

Safer Roadworks monitors the effectiveness and reviews the implementation of this policy every 12 months, considering its suitability, adequacy and effectiveness. Any improvements identified are made as soon as possible. All personnel are aware that they are responsible for the success of this policy and should ensure they use it to disclose any wrongdoing.

Should you have a question about our whistleblowing policy please direct your questions to our enquiries department at: enquiries@safer-roadworks.co.uk.

Position: Managing Director

Name: Jake Waudby

Signature:



Date: 26th May 2026