

PE1488/J

Ned Sharratt
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions
Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

4 April 2014

Dear Mr Sharratt,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1488](#)

Further to your letter of 19 March 2014 in respect of the above, I am pleased to submit East Lothian Council's response to your question – how are elected members of local authorities involved in the local authority's whistleblowing policy?

Our response is:

East Lothian Council has a formally approved Whistleblowing Policy in place – the Policy was approved in December 2004 by elected members who formed part of the Council Cabinet.

Elected members are not currently involved in the operational aspects of the Policy. The Policy provides a list of named officers from within the Council who can be contacted by employees who wish to raise a concern. In addition, members of Trade Unions can raise their concerns with their Trade Union representatives and where employees prefer to raise their concerns externally an independent advice helpline is also available. All concerns are investigated either by the contact officer to whom the whistleblowing concern is raised or by an appropriate investigation officer.

The Policy requires an annual report to be submitted summarising concerns raised under the Policy and the outcomes arising from these concerns. For whistleblowing concerns received in 2013/14, a report will be submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee. The report will inform the Committee of the nature of the concerns raised, together with actions taken by Management to address any weaknesses that were identified and elected members on the Committee will have an opportunity to question officers and raise any concerns regarding the Policy or its operation.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mala Garden
Internal Audit Manager