

From: Corporate Communication
Sent: Wednesday, 27 March 2024 14:20
To: Corporate Communication
Subject: ENGAGING: IMPACT NEWSLETTER 28



ENGAGING



PFS Diaries...

Provincial Forensic Services (PFS) regularly receives communication from whistle-blowers asking pertinent questions they need answers to! Here are some of their stories.

Dear PFS

I saw a colleague driving a GG vehicle at the mall on Sunday afternoon with his family in the car. I want to report him for abusing the WCG's GG vehicle. Is this something I can report to the PFS?

Sincerely, Driving Ms Daisy

Dear Driving Ms Daisy

Thank you for reaching out. Simply, the PFS is mandated to investigate reports of alleged theft, corruption and fraud occurring in or affecting the WCG. We could also investigate gross irregularities that may cause severe loss or reputational damage to the WCG; at the discretion of PFS, and after consultation with the relevant Accounting Officer. The incident you described sounds like a matter that should be reported to your supervisor as it could be an issue of non-compliance with a policy or a management issue. You could also report the suspected misuse of GG vehicles to GMT directly by phoning 081 042 8039/021 467 8707 or sending an email with the details of the vehicle and suspected contravention to GMT.Communications@westerncape.gov.za. Good luck!

Dear PFS

I heard about fighting fraud and corruption, but I really don't understand what the difference between fraud and corruption is. Is there a difference, and can you please explain it to me so that I know how to report it if I come across these incidents?

Sincerely, Curious George

Dear Curious George

This is an extremely common question!

Fraud

Fraud can occur when a person unlawfully and intentionally makes a misrepresentation that causes actual or potential prejudice to another. For example, an official alters the banking details on an invoice to re-route funds to his/her own or a third party's bank account.

Corruption

Corruption can take many forms but basically it occurs when someone uses/abuses their position of power or authority for personal gain or to benefit another. Examples of corruption: offering or accepting a bribe, giving contracts or jobs to friends or family as well as manipulating a process or system in return for money, gifts or some other form of gratification.

I hope this makes it clearer, but feel free to contact PFS again if you still feel uncertain, or better still, why don't you attend one of our awareness sessions which are often communicated by Corporate Communication? Hope to see you there!

Dear PFS

I would like to blow the whistle on my colleague who I suspect is colluding with a service provider and receiving gifts in return for leaking confidential information related to the specifications of certain bids. I am scared that if I blow the whistle and report them, my colleague will suspect that it is me and that I will be victimised because of it. How can I blow the whistle without anyone suspecting that it was me that did?

Sincerely, No Nonsense Neville

Dear No Nonsense Neville

Well done on taking the first step to report corrupt activities in the WCG! Remember that you can report suspicions of corruption to PFS and the National Anti-Corruption Hotline confidentially or anonymously. "Anonymously" means that you do not have to provide your name and contact details when reporting, but you must provide sufficient information to enable an investigation to proceed. To report confidentially, you can, but do not need to provide your name and contact details. If you provide your details, PFS will provide feedback to you. It also means that PFS will do everything possible within the confines of the law to protect your identity in the handling of your whistle-blower report. We have got you covered!

Dear PFS

A colleague in my department attended training on the WCG's Whistle-Blowing Policy facilitated by PFS. She advised me that blowing the whistle or making a protected disclosure must be done in good faith. I have no idea what this means! Please explain what it means to "report in good faith" and if there are any consequences for those who don't.

Sincerely, Faithful Faye

Dear Faithful Faye

Your friend is correct! Making a protected disclosure and reporting a matter in terms of the Whistle-blowing Policy must be done in good faith (the only exception where good faith is not required, is a disclosure to a legal practitioner with the object of obtaining legal advice). This means that the whistle-blower must not have any malicious intention or ulterior motive when blowing the whistle. Disclosing false information is also not allowed! Section 9B of the Protected Disclosures Act which states that a whistle-blower who intentionally and knowingly discloses false information (or ought to have known it is false) with the intention to cause harm to another, and that affected person suffers harm as a result, is guilty of an offence and can be imprisoned for up to 2 years or receive a fine as a sanction! A person who suffers harm as a result of malicious reporting, may report the matter to management or Employee Relations. Please discourage anyone that wishes to blow the whistle maliciously.

Dear PFS

I would like to know what the impact of corruption is in our country. I hear all the time that we need to fight fraud and corruption but how do we really know if we will be able to make a difference?

Sincerely, Confused Cathy

Dear Confused Cathy

Every effort to prevent corruption from thriving in the WCG makes a difference. Your reporting assists the WCG to detect corrupt activities within our organisation so that it can be adequately investigated and appropriately dealt with. Here is a snippet from the 2022 Annual Corruption Watch Report on the effects of corruption.




Dear PFS


I have come across so many instances of fraud and corruption in the workplace, but I have no idea who to report it to? What can I report to PFS, and what can I do to prevent it?

Dear Desperately Seeking Justice

Thank you for reaching out! PFS ensures that our contact details for the reporting of suspicions of fraud and corruption are published on the WCG intranet and the (external) website and various WCG social media platforms. Please look out for it but in the meantime, here is how you can contact PFS:

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 Telephone number: (021) 483 0931 or (021) 829 0219

 Appointment which can be arranged telephonically/ walk-in at 9 Riebeeck Street, 10th Floor, The Box, Cape Town

 E-mail : Tip.Offs@westerncape.gov.za

 Postal address: P.O.Box 659, Cape Town, 8000

 National Anti-corruption hotline: 0800 701 701

Dear WCG Colleagues

Kindly see the latest issue 28 of our **IMPACT NEWSLETTER** attached.

Molweni Basebenzi boRhulumente weNtshona Koloni

Ncedani nijonge olu shicilelo lwethu lwamva nje lwama-28 **lweIMPACT NEWSLETTER** yethu oluqhotyoshelweyo.

Geagte WKR-kollegas

Aangeheg is die nuutste uitgawe 28 van ons **IMPAK-NUUSBRIEF**.

Issued by Corporate Communication on behalf of the Chief Directorate: Provincial Forensic Services, Department of the Premier

