



UK Government Announces review of Whistleblowing Laws

WhistleblowersUK are delighted that our 5 year campaign has triggered the long awaited government review of Whistleblowing. On Monday 20th March immediately after the **first annual Whistleblowing Awareness Week** held in the Palace of Westminster, Business Minister, Kevin Hollinrake MP, (former vice chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Whistleblowing) said,

*"Whistleblowing is a **vital tool** in tackling economic crime and unsafe working conditions, and the UK was one of the first countries in the world to develop a whistleblowing framework. **This review has been a priority for me since joining government**, and it will take stock of whether the whistleblowing framework is operating effectively and protects those who call out wrongdoing in the workplace."*

Over the last 5 years we have taken and reviewed thousands of hours of evidence. It is our firm position that every citizen must be protected. Regulators and employers share our opinion that PIDA does not work and over 40 organisations support the introduction of an Office of the Whistleblower. In adopting our popular proposals the UK will return to being a global leader **and** strengthen employment rights too.

WhistleblowersUK have undertaken to collaborate in the review and share our research and facilitate meetings with whistleblowers. If you would like to provide evidence to the review please complete the survey on our website and tell us about your experience and if you would like to attend in person or on zoom meetings.



Pic: The launch of Whistleblowing Awareness Week 2023

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**"Whistleblowers are the
vital element of a fair &
transparent society"**

MARY ROBINSON MP
CHAIR OF THE APPG FOR
WHISTLEBLOWING

**"The Office of the
Whistleblower will be
good for society & good
for business."**

- GEORGINA HALFORD-
HALL, CEO
WhistleblowersUK



Whistleblowing Awareness Week is an overwhelming success

We did it! Our campaign triggered the Government's announcement of the **whistleblowing framework review**.

WBAW was a huge success

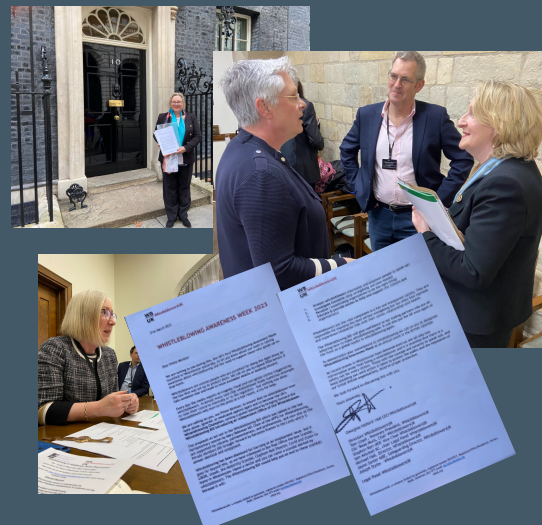
- **hundreds of people** across several continents attended our 11 events including round tables and conference.
- A delegation from WhistleblowersUK **petitioned No10 Downing St.** calling on the PM to adopt our Bill
- We delivered **free training** on whistleblowing and the existing framework for both Parliamentarians and the public, hailed by one delegate as, **"The best training I have ever had."**
- Mary Robinson MP, chair of the APPG led a **Westminster Hall Debate** that unanimously supported #WBAW and calls for the Office of the Whistleblower.
- We held a full day conference **'The Future of Whistleblowing'** hosted by Grant Thornton

WBAW was delivered in just 10 weeks thanks to the great work of our volunteers, supporters and sponsors who received a big thank you from Mary Robinson, the APPG and Business Minister Kevin Hollinrake MP.



Whistleblowing in the news

On Tuesday 21st March as part of #WBAW we ran a round table to discuss the issues facing Health and the NHS. We heard compelling stories and the experience of senior health professionals including Dr Jenny Vaughan OBE from The Doctors Association UK, The CEO of Nursing and Midwifery Watch, who we welcome to the advisory panel of WhistleblowersUK, both referred to the **blame not learn culture** and the punitive referrals to the GMC and NMC of whistleblowers. We heard from co-chair of the WBUK Health Focus Group who set out the impact of whistleblowing to patient safety, and from Professor Nicolosis on how his whistleblowing about toxic cultures triggered the review of BUH.



"This review has been a priority for me since joining government & this bill is Oven Ready"

- KEVIN HOLLINRAKE,
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR ENTERPRISE AND
MARKETS

**GOVERNMENT
REVIEW
HERE**

"We need a courageous system to support the courage, leadership & bravery of whistleblowers"

**SUELLA BRAVERMAN MP
HOME SECRETARY**



Representatives from the CQC, NHSE, FTSUG and former chair of the BMA Dr Chaand Nagpaul all shared their experience of the failure of PIDA for the NHS and patient care. They confided to Maggie Throup MP and Mary Robinson, **"we do not feel safe to do our job as we do not feel protected by PIDA."** PIDA was universally condemned as a failure summarised by Steve Turner WBUK Health Focus Group co-chair, **"Recent revelations on the culture of fear and bullying in the University Hospitals Birmingham, and the deeply disturbing Bewick Review highlight clearly why we need an Office of the Whistleblower [OWB]. The OWB will provide a safety net for every citizen where the warning signs will not be ignored."** A message reinforced by the **Casey Review into the Metropolitan Police** culture that has silenced police officers allowing the murder, rape and abuse of women & children published during #WBAW

Jayne Senior, former Rotherham Cllr. "The Whistleblowing Review is long overdue, every citizen must be protected against retaliation from within their own rank so that they can properly serve the public."

US lawyers including Stephen Kohn from KKC explained that UK whistleblowers **"seek them out"** because of robust protections and compensation to whistleblowers for the risk and loss they face. This view was supported by US regulators who disclosed that the CFTC attributes the recovery & return of \$330bn last to the US treasury last year alone to whistleblower tips.

One UK employment solicitor said, **"PIDA has been weaponised by clever lawyers and the time is right for reform and the Office of the Whistleblower is a natural progression."**

Minister Kevin Hollinrake described the Whistleblowing Bill as **"Oven ready"** and the **Home Secretary** this week committed to supporting reform of Whistleblowing law saying, **"We need a courageous system" that supports the courage, leadership and bravery of whistleblowers and tackles the practice, culture and failure...** [that has allowed the grooming gangs to operate uninterrupted] when she met our CEO, members of our team and survivors of Rotherham grooming gangs this week. **The Minister has committed to meet with WhistleblowersUK to discuss the proposals in the Whistleblowing Bill and supports new legislation that will "put an end to cover-ups".**

We need your help, get involved by sharing your evidence, complete the survey and please donate generously.

Thank you all

Georgina Halford-Hall, CEO of WhistleblowersUK