

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th July 2018

New Constituent,

RE: PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS.

Thank you for contacting me recently about protection for whistleblowers; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I appreciate your concern on this issue and agree that individuals should be able to report malpractice in the workplace without fear of reprisal.

As you are aware, the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998* provides a right of redress for workers who are dismissed or suffer detriment at the hands of their employer because they 'blew the whistle' by making a protected disclosure. That said, in 2013, the Government published a wide-ranging call for evidence on the effectiveness of the whistleblowing framework and set out a plan of actions to improve this.

I believe the subsequent changes have made the whistleblowing process more transparent and more effective, and have helped employers know how to act on reports of wrongdoing. For instance, to ensure that whistleblowers have the confidence that a disclosure is effectively looked into, the Government introduced a duty for prescribed persons to report annually on the number of whistleblowing disclosures they receive. This will help to increase confidence in the actions taken by prescribed persons through greater transparency about how disclosures are handled. It will also help improve consistency across different bodies in the way they respond to disclosures.

Alongside this, I welcome the fact that the law has been changed to make employers responsible if whistleblowers are harassed or bullied by fellow employees.

Ultimately, I believe that the current legal framework is effective, and the steps taken since 2013 will help address the wider cultural barriers to effective whistleblowing.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE