

Meeting date:	30 November 2022
Item:	9.2
Title:	Q1 and Q2 Whistleblowing Report 2022/23
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Fiona MacKenzie, Nurse / AHP Director and Chief Operating Officer
Report Author:	Marina MacLeod, Risk Systems Co-ordinator

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Awareness

This report relates to a:

- Government policy/directive

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2 Report summary

This report details Whistleblowing activity for quarter one and quarter two (April -September) of 2022/23 which will include performance information and an overview of cases that was handled within the reporting period for assurance purposes. The Corporate Management Team is asked to view and discuss the report

2.1 Situation

Information about the activity in quarter one and two of 2022/23 will refer to the following stages of whistleblowing, as per the Whistleblowing Standards.

- **Stage 1** concerns should result in an on-the-spot explanation and/or action to resolve the matter, with the aim of doing so within 5 working days.
- **Stage 2** concerns involve a more thorough investigation, with the aim of responding within 20 working days. Some stage 2 concerns will have originated from stage 1 but escalated if the Whistleblower was unhappy with the outcome.

- **Stage 3** – If the Whistleblower is dissatisfied with the conclusion of the investigation of their stage 2 case, they have the option of contacting the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer for an independent review

2.2 Background

NHS Western Isles is required to produce quarterly and annual Whistleblowing Reports which have to ultimately be submitted to the INWO. It was agreed with the INWO that Q1&2 could be presented in a collaborated report in this instance. However, going forward each quarter will be reported separately. Due to the small numbers of cases in NHSWI and the risk of identifying whistle-blowers then minimal information can be included in the report

2.3 Assessment

During this reporting period there was one concern taken down the whistleblowing route – it was initially taken forward as a stage 1 concern but has since escalated to stage 2. There were a further two concerns received, and these were taken down the business-as-usual route as detailed in page 3.

One case from the previous year has been escalated to the INWO for an independent review and we have shared all information requested by the INWO to enable this to be done.

NHS Western Isles planned, and organised events for 'speak up week' in October 2022 to promote and celebrate the difference speaking up can make. There were sessions available for staff to attend face to face or virtually to help staff understand the local arrangements for speaking up in NHS Western Isles and promote the role of Confidential Contacts. We are currently undertaking an evaluation of the events of 'speak up week' to help inform planning for next year.

2.3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

Any learning identified from whistleblowing concerns will inform improvements in the quality of care.

2.3.2 Workforce

The whistleblowing standards are a key part of staff governance.

2.3.3 Financial

No current financial impact.

2.3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

None at present.

2.3.5 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

No impact directly on equality and diversity.

2.3.6 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Development

Not applicable.

2.3.7 Other impacts

None.

2.3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

Ongoing communication with staff in Team brief about the whistleblowing standards and how to raise a concern.

2.3.9 Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the Nurse Director and Head of Clinical Governance and Professional Practice as part of its development. They have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report.

Presented to the Corporate Management Team on 11.11.22

2.4 Recommendation

- **Awareness** – For Members' information.

3 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

- Item 9.3.1 - Whistleblowing Quarterly Report 22/23 Q1&2