

**CONSULTATION ON RAISING A CONCERN IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST (WHISTLEBLOWING) FRAMEWORK AND MODEL POLICY**

**RESPONSE FORM (IF NOT RESPONDING ONLINE VIA CITIZEN SPACE)**

Please indicate your answer to the questions by placing an **X** by your selection. You can also provide further comments in the free text field.

Please send responses electronically using the response sheet below and email address below.

**Responses to be sent by e-mail to:**

P&E@health-ni.gov.uk

**Hard Copy Responses can be sent to**:

Workforce Policy Directorate, Room D1, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SJ

**The deadline for consultation responses is on 26 August 2022.**

**Respondent details**

I am responding: [ ]  as an individual

 [ ]  on behalf of an organisation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Job Title:** |  |
| **Organisation:** |  |
| **Organisation Address:** |  |
| **e-mail:** |  |

**Consultation Questions**

1. **Do you agree our approach to the definition of the term “Raising a Concern” is successful in clearly demonstrating the breadth of the concerns which fall within the scope of the model framework and when the process for raising a concern should be used?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

**If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the guidance within the model framework is clear in addressing legislation and best practice documents?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the monitoring arrangements stipulated within the framework are sufficient in gathering data that will be effective in determining the success of the process**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the approach set out within the framework clearly demonstrates that the process ensures all staff and others who raise a concern will receive appropriate protection?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the approach taken in designating roles and responsibilities within the organisation in relation to handling the process for raising a concern will establish confidence in the integrity of the process?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the process laid out in appendix B Is clear and comprehensive?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the process laid out in appendix B successfully ensures individuals who raise a concern are given appropriate feedback in a timely manner?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the approach to monitoring and reporting within the framework ensures that lessons learned will be identified and applied appropriately to enable improvements in service.**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree that the approach taken in this framework creates a safe process where staff can raise concerns within a culture of openness and transparency where learning for improvement will be encouraged?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

1. **Do you agree with the outcome of the Impact Assessment Screenings? Have you any comments on either the Equality/Human Rights or Rural screening documents? Have you anything you believe we should be considering in future Equality/Human Rights or Rural screenings or future impact assessments?**

[ ] **Agree**

[ ] **Disagree**

 **If you select disagree please include further details below:**

**APPENDIX**

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs’ Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

* the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department’s functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
* the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties “in confidence” which is not confidential in nature;
* acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the InformationCommissioner’s Office or see web site at: <https://ico.org.uk>