

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS)

Whistleblowing

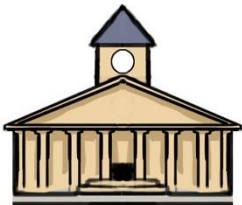
Easy Read version



Who we are?



We are Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS). It is our job to make sure public authorities are following environmental laws. It is also our job to make sure that environmental laws are working well.



Public authorities are people or organisations that work for the public. These include:

- the Scottish Government
- government departments
- local councils
- the Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- NatureScot



Environmental laws are any laws meant to protect the environment from threats, for example:

- air pollution
- water pollution
- danger to wildlife
- climate change

What is whistleblowing?



Sometimes a staff member can raise a concern about the organisation they work for. They can be offered legal protection after they do this. This is called whistleblowing.



The concern raised must be in the public interest. It can be about things being done wrong or breaking the law. It may cause harm to people or the community.

Our role in whistleblowing



If anyone is worried that their employer is not following environmental laws they can report it to us.



You can also tell us if there are problems or gaps in environmental law that might cause harm to the environment, or if they are not working well.

How to raise a whistleblowing issue



Your place of work may have its own whistleblowing policy that you can use to report something that worried you.



You might not feel comfortable reporting to your employer. Or you might have already reported it to your employer but they have not investigated it properly.

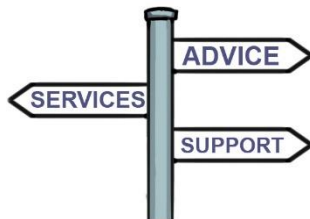


In these cases you can inform Environmental Standards Scotland through our [Whistleblowing secure inbox](#).

What we will do



If you raise a concern with us, our staff will look into what you have told us. Our next steps may include:



- contacting you with questions about the information
- check if we have other information about the employer or area you have told us about
- tell you it is being treated as whistleblowing
- tell you if we are going to investigate or tell you who you should report it to

Confidentiality



The information you give us and your identity will be kept private. We will not tell your employer who you are without your consent. You can ask for the report to be anonymous.

Contacting us



If you are not clear on our work in this area you can speak to us confidentially. Contact us through our [Whistleblowing Secure inbox](#).



For more information read our full [Whistleblowing Policy](#).