

Annual report on whistleblowing disclosures 2019-2020

Date 03/02/2021

This report is made in accordance with the Prescribed Persons (Reports on Disclosures of Information) Regulations 2017.

The National Crime Agency leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime. NCA officers work at the forefront of law enforcement, building the best possible intelligence picture of serious and organised crime threats, relentlessly pursuing the most serious and dangerous offenders and developing and delivering specialist capabilities on behalf of law enforcement and other partners.

The NCA is a Prescribed Person for the purposes of whistleblowing legislation in relation to a limited number of defined matters as specified in the Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 2014. The role of a Prescribed Person is to provide workers with an opportunity to make their public interest disclosure to an appropriate independent body where the worker does not feel able to disclose the matter directly to their employer. The Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) Order 2014 provides that workers can make protected disclosures to the NCA about matters relating to (a) corrupt individuals or companies offering or receiving bribes to secure a benefit for themselves or others or (b) compliance with the Terrorism Act 2000, the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017.

During the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 the NCA received 35 allegations of crime initially recorded as potential whistleblower disclosures. The NCA assessed the allegations and identified that 5 allegations met the relevant criteria for whistleblower disclosures (i.e. were reasonably believed to amount to qualifying disclosures within the meaning of s.43B Employment Rights Act 1996 and fell within the NCA's remit as a Prescribed Person). As a result of the assessment, the 5 separate whistleblowers were referred to more appropriate law enforcement agencies as they were either already investigating the allegations or because they are the national lead for the particular offences alleged. The NCA also assessed the other 30 allegations that did not meet the relevant criteria noted above and made a number of referrals to UK police forces, national law enforcement agencies, internal

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NCA units and regulatory bodies. The information disclosed to the NCA in its role as a prescribed person has enabled the NCA to ensure that serious allegations were properly assessed and appropriately referred to law enforcement partners.

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