

WHISTLEBLOWERSUK SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to WhistleblowerUK's Autumn Newsletter.

We would like to start by expressing our deepest condolences and gratitude to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her lifetime of service to the United Kingdom and send our best wishes for a long and successful reign to his Majesty King Charles III.

As a mark of respect to the Royal Family we cancelled this year's programme at the Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime. For the speakers and delegates already at the event we ran informal round table discussions tackling challenging stereotypes associated with whistleblowing and the progress that is being made on the Whistleblowing Bill in the UK and other legislation and frameworks around the world including the EU Directive where almost a year after transposition still only 11 members states have made progress.

We look forward to announcing the date on which we will be running our postponed programme. It is likely to be in London if you would like to attend or be notified by emailing: secretary@wbuk.org

As recess ended we saw the beginning of the new Government under the leadership of Liz Truss speaking about the importance of whistleblowers and a commitment to ensure that they can speak out safely. We look forward to continuing our discussions about our solutions with her.

WhistleblowersUK and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Whistleblowing led by Mary Robinson MP will continue to press forward proposals for the creation of Office of the Whistleblower. www.appgwhistleblowing.co.uk

We are encouraged to see the Government's commitment to the crackdown on economic crime, including within the London financial districts. We welcomed the opportunity to again discuss and put forward amendments to the Economic Crime Bill 2 with Lord Callanan this week and his recognition and thanks for our work. While we were disappointed by the lack of Government action to help whistleblowers in the upcoming Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency (ECCT) Bill, we will continue working to achieve our objectives and protect every whistleblower.

This issue:

The Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime 2022

A new Prime Minister

Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill

Public Interest amendment to National Security legislation

Ambulance Action

Linda Fairhall: Speaking Out to Save Lives



In contrast, multiple senior MPs have called for an amendment to the National Security bill taking into consideration proposals we had outlined in meetings with Sir Robert Buckland for a public interest defence within the national security framework. It is essential that everyone who raises legitimate concerns in a responsible manner are protected from retaliation. We support the proposals to removing this defence for people who recklessly dump large amounts of classified information, potentially endangering lives. This move will end the misuse of the Official Secrets Act as a means of covering up corruption and crimes.

We have been receiving record numbers of enquiries for help from whistleblowers and would like to thank our Legal Panel led by Iain Mitchell KC for their support. If you need help email: HelpMe@wbuk.org

WhistleblowersUK have joined forces with Ambulance Action, a public voice fighting for justice for victims of bullying and sexual harassment across the NHS. They will be appearing at events throughout the Autumn. We are supporting their cause to help spotlight and end the harm this abuse causes to members of the NHS and the Public and increase public awareness of our proposals for the Office of the Whistleblower.

Many of you will have read about Linda Fairhall who won her Employment Tribunal after the court reached “an unimpeachable decision” that she was dismissed for whistleblowing. Ignoring her concerns about depleted staffing a patient died. Yet another avoidable death. Also Dr Chris Day, who on the eve of what seemed certain vindication evidence surfaced of the destruction of 90k documents! These cases demonstrate the failure of the Public Interest Disclosure Act and the catastrophic damage done when no one acts on concerns again demonstrating and reinforcing the importance of an Office of the Whistleblower.

Georgina Halford-Hall

“If we do not do something people like Assange will continue to use this public interest defence”

- Rt. Hon. David Davis MP, on the National Security amendment

BEFORE YOU GO - WhistleblowersUK is the only whistleblowing organisation that has developed legislation that IS WORKING ITS WAY through Parliament. But our work is not over and we need your help to continue to raise funds to ensure that we can keep up with the demands of leading the campaign to make whistleblowing work.

<https://www.wbuk.org/donate>