Template X - Raising a whistleblowing concern externally

You can use this template to help you write a letter to an external body (e.g. a regulator or your MP) raising your whistleblowing concerns. We have more detailed guidance about raising whistleblowing concerns [here](https://protect-advice.org.uk/raising-a-concern/).

Your whistleblowing policy may say that you can raise a range of concerns to external bodies. We encourage you to raise public interest wrongdoing but remember - not all concerns are whistleblowing concerns. The legal rights for whistleblowers only apply if your concern qualifies for protection. Find out more about this [here](https://protect-advice.org.uk/advice-line-2/faqprotecteddisclosure/)**.**

You must also disclose your concern to the right person in the right way. The legal tests for this vary depending on who you raise them to, and you are less likely to be protected when raising concerns externally. Find out more about the relevant legal tests [here](https://protect-advice.org.uk/external-disclosures/)**.**

We are always happy to help so if you are unsure about whether or how to raise concerns please [speak to us](https://protect-advice.org.uk/contact-protect-advice-line/)**.**

This is only a guide. Please edit or adapt it to suit you.

Dear...

I am writing to you to raise a whistleblowing concern.

I previously raised my concerns with [insert name] on [insert date].

Unfortunately, no action was taken [and the concern is ongoing and/or has increased in severity].

[I am raising these concerns with you openly. I am happy for my identity to be revealed.]

**OR**

[I am raising these concerns with you on a confidential basis. I do not want my identity to be revealed to any other party without first obtaining my consent. I ask that you investigate the concerns in such a way so as not to reveal my identity.]

**OR**

[I am raising these concerns with you anonymously. I do not want to reveal my identity to you.]

**NB:** Raising concerns anonymously can make it more difficult to assert your legal rights. See [here](https://protect-advice.org.uk/raising-a-concern/) for more information and [contact us](https://protect-advice.org.uk/contact-protect-advice-line/) for advice if you are unsure.

My concern is as follows...

**Here you should:**

1. **Raise what you have seen, or are personally aware of, and where possible stick to situations or incidents you have seen for yourself rather than what colleagues may have told you.**
2. **Raise what you have seen, or are personally aware of, and where possible stick to situations or incidents you have seen for yourself rather than what colleagues may have told you**

* **Describe your concerns in detail but try to be specific and concise. Imagine you are the person receiving the concern: You want to include enough detail so that the person can understand and act on the concern, but not too much that they are overwhelmed. Remember they can always come back to you for more information if they need it.**
* **If the concern relates to a particular incident, explain who was involved, and when and where it happened**
* **Give specific examples of wrongdoing of which you are personally aware. Try to be as clear as possible when explaining why you think this is wrongdoing**
* **If your concern shows any of the following (whether in the past, present or future) then expressly say this and explain why:**
  + **A danger to health and safety**
  + **Failure to comply with a legal obligation**
  + **A criminal offence**
  + **Damage to the environment**
  + **A miscarriage of justice**
  + **The concealment of any of the above.**
* **Explain why you think raising the concern is in the** [**public interest**](https://protect-advice.org.uk/who-is-protected-by-pida/public-interest/)**: set out the scale of the harm and the potential risks if the concern goes unaddressed.**

I would be grateful if you could please acknowledge receipt of this letter, and provide a response within two weeks of what action you will take. Please let me know if you need me to clarify any of the above information. I am happy to attend a meeting to discuss these concerns.

Best wishes,

[Your name]