

20. Public Interest Disclosure ('Whistleblowing')

- 20.1 The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, gives legal protection to employees against being dismissed or penalised by their employers as a result of publicly disclosing certain serious concerns. The University's Policy and Procedures for Disclosure ('Whistleblowing') can be found at:
[http://www.uwe.ac.uk/finance/purchasing/documents/Public Disclosure Policy\[1\].pdf](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/finance/purchasing/documents/Public%20Disclosure%20Policy[1].pdf)
- 20.2 It should be noted that UWE Bristol seeks to provide a supportive environment for those with research misconduct concerns, and issues may initially be raised informally in confidence with the relevant Associate Dean or Head of Professional Service or the Research Governance Manager. Concerns about research misconduct should normally be raised formally by means of the University's Research Misconduct Policy (see below). However, concerns about research misconduct, as for any other form of conduct, may be made via the Public Interest Disclosure Act (www.gov.uk/whistleblowing) where that is deemed necessary by the complainant. In this case, concerns should be expressed in writing to the Vice Chancellor. Following initial investigation, the University's research misconduct procedure may then be invoked if appropriate.