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## Making regulation work

Public Concern at Work<sup>i</sup>, the independent authority on whistleblowing, welcomes the Department for Business Innovation & Skills consultation<sup>ii</sup> to allow information about claims made under the whistleblowing legislation (PIDA - the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998<sup>iii</sup>) to be passed on to a relevant regulator. As the law currently stands, whistleblowers who have been victimised or dismissed for raising concerns can bring a claim to the employment tribunal. The tribunal will only look at the position of the individual and not the substance of the concern. This means that information about actual, previous or anticipated malpractice can be lost. The consultation proposes that as soon as an individual lodges a whistleblowing claim a copy of the claim form be passed on to the relevant regulator listed in PIDA. This is a welcome measure to strengthen the role of regulators by increasing the flow of information. The current financial crisis shows how important the flow of information to regulators can be in making accountability work. The proposal makes sure that public interest issues are not lost in long drawn out employment battles and will encourage responsible organisations to address wrongdoing early.

Cathy James, Acting Director of Public Concern at Work said: "We hope that this proposal will lead to not only the detection of malpractice in the workplace but will also act as an effective deterrent."

### For further comment and information, please contact:

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<sup>i</sup> Public Concern at Work is an independent charity set up in 1993. The charity runs a helpline advising individuals on whether or how they can raise whistleblowing concerns so as to minimise the effect on their own position. The charity was instrumental in getting the whistleblowing legislation- the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998- on the statute books. The charity also works with organisations helping them to address risk responsibly. For more information please visit [www.pcaw.co.uk](http://www.pcaw.co.uk) .

<sup>ii</sup> For more information on consultation please visit <http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page52097.html>

<sup>iii</sup> For more information on the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 please visit <http://www.pcaw.co.uk/law/uklegislation.htm> .

## Making whistleblowing work