

Whistleblowing proposed policy wording.

This relates to the reporting of allegations of illegalities or wrong doings in the taxi/private hire trades regulated by South Ribble Borough Council Licensing.

Such reports may be considered as “whistleblowing” and there exists legislation to protect such individuals in certain circumstances. You will be considered a whistleblower if you’re a worker and you report certain types of wrongdoing, so as an employed Private Hire driver for example. This will usually be something you’ve seen at work.

The wrongdoing you disclose must be in the public interest. This means it must affect others, for example the general public.

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers or others in the taxi trade can raise any concerns with South Ribble Borough Council directly. Any information will be treated confidentially, taken seriously, and appropriately investigated.

A taxi driver or other person employed in the Taxi/Private Hire trade may choose to contact South Ribble Borough Council Licensing anonymously by submitting evidence, along with any other relevant details. In these cases, a reporter may lose their whistleblowing law rights.

As such we would encourage any person aware of wrong doings in the taxi trade occurring in South Ribble to report the matter to South Ribble Licensing with their full details to enable officers to ask for further information and attain the best evidence possible. Reporters will not have a say in how the concern is dealt with but can be kept updated as far as confidentiality rules allow. In these circumstances where the reporter makes it clear at the outset, that they do not want anyone else to know it was them who raised the concern, then reports will be treated confidentially, and we will do all we can to ensure details of the reporter will not be released.

Employed individuals might be able to benefit from the protections in whistleblowing legislation depending on their status and way of working. If an individual is unsure if they are protected, independent advice should be sought, for example from Citizens’ Advice. More information is available on the [Government’s website](#).

An employer may also have a whistleblowing policy and in this case any person with a concern to raise should also review their policy in deciding a course of action. South Ribble Borough Council Licensing do not require Private Hire Operators to have a specific policy on whistleblowing, but we do encourage the adoption of such policies. Larger organisations are likely to have a policy covering whistleblowing in relation to their employees.

In all cases if a crime is being or has been committed, drivers and others should report this to the Police either by calling 999/101 or making a report after the event to Lancashire Police

Where employees of South Ribble Borough Council have any concerns about the legal and correct application of legislation or policy in respect of regulating the taxi trade or generally about the licensing function South Ribble Borough Council has an internal confidential reporting policy available to enable confidential reporting, investigation and response.