

Introduction

This policy applies to all employees of the Supply Chain Academy Limited. Other individuals performing functions in relation to the Supply Chain Academy Limited, such as agency workers and contractors, are encouraged to use it.

It is important to the business that any fraud, misconduct or wrongdoing by workers or officers of the Supply Chain Academy Limited is reported and properly dealt with. The Supply Chain Academy Limited therefore encourages all individuals to raise any concerns that they may have about the conduct of others in the business or the way in which the business is run. This policy sets out the way in which individuals may raise any concerns that they have and how those concerns will be dealt with.

Background

The law provides protection for workers who raise legitimate concerns about specified matters. These are called "qualifying disclosures". A qualifying disclosure is one made in the public interest by a worker who has a reasonable belief that:

- a criminal offence, for example fraud
- someone's health and safety is in danger
- risk or actual damage to the environment
- a miscarriage of justice
- the company is breaking the law, for example does not have the right insurance
- you believe someone is covering up wrongdoing

is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed. It is not necessary for the worker to have proof that such an act is being, has been, or is likely to be, committed - a reasonable belief is sufficient. The worker has no responsibility for investigating the matter - it is the Supply Chain Academy Limited responsibility to ensure that an investigation takes place.

A worker who makes such a protected disclosure has the right not to be dismissed, subjected to any other detriment, or victimised, because he/she has made a disclosure.

The Supply Chain Academy Limited encourages workers to raise their concerns under this procedure in the first instance. If a worker is not sure whether or not to raise a concern, he/she should discuss the issue with his/her line manager or the HR department.

Principles

- Everyone should be aware of the importance of preventing and eliminating wrongdoing at work. Workers should be watchful for illegal or unethical conduct and report anything of that nature that they become aware of.
- Any matter raised under this procedure will be investigated thoroughly, promptly and confidentially, and the outcome of the investigation reported back to the worker who raised the issue.
- No worker will be victimised for raising a matter under this procedure. This means that the continued employment and opportunities for future promotion or training of the worker will not be prejudiced because he/she has raised a legitimate concern.
- Victimisation of a worker for raising a qualified disclosure will be a disciplinary offence.

- If misconduct is discovered as a result of any investigation under this procedure the Supply Chain Academy Limited, disciplinary procedure will be used, in addition to any appropriate external measures.
- Maliciously making a false allegation is a disciplinary offence.
- An instruction to cover up wrongdoing is itself a disciplinary offence. If told not to raise or pursue any concern, even by a person in authority such as a manager, workers should not agree to remain silent. They should report the matter to the Chief Executive Officer.

This procedure is for disclosures about matters other than a breach of an employee's own contract of employment, personal grievances. If an employee is concerned that his/her own contract has been, or is likely to be, broken, he/she should use the Supply Chain Academy Limited grievance procedure.

Procedure

- (1) In the first instance, and unless the worker reasonably believes his/her line manager to be involved in the wrongdoing, or if for any other reason the worker does not wish to approach his/her line manager, any concerns should be raised with the worker's line manager.

If he/she believes the line manager to be involved, or for any reason does not wish to approach the line manager, then the worker should proceed straight to stage 3.

- (2) The line manager will arrange an investigation into the matter (either by investigating the matter him/herself or immediately passing the issue to someone in a more senior position). The investigation may involve the worker and other individuals involved giving a written statement.

Any investigation will be carried out in accordance with the principles set out above. The worker's statement will be taken into account, and he/she will be asked to comment on any additional evidence obtained.

The line manager (or the person who carried out the investigation) will then report to the board, which will take any necessary action, including reporting the matter to any appropriate government department or regulatory agency.

If disciplinary action is required, the line manager (or the person who carried out the investigation) will report the matter to the human resources department and start the disciplinary procedure.

On conclusion of any investigation, the worker will be told the outcome of the investigation and what the board has done, or proposes to do, about it. If no action is to be taken, the reason for this will be explained.

- (3) If the worker is concerned that his/her line manager is involved in the wrongdoing, has failed to make a proper investigation or has failed to report the outcome of the investigations to the board, he/she should inform Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Supply Chain Academy Limited or a member of the Group HR Team on 01708 259480, who will arrange for another manager to review the investigation carried out, make any necessary enquiries and make his/her own report to the board as in stage 2 above.

If for any other reason the worker does not wish to approach his/her line manager, he/she should also in the first instance CEO or a member of the HR Team. Any approach to the CEO will be treated with the strictest confidence and the worker's identity will not be disclosed without his/her prior consent.

- (4) If on conclusion of stages 1, 2 and 3 the worker reasonably believes that the appropriate action has not been taken, he/she should report the matter to the proper authority.

The legislation sets out a number of bodies to which qualifying disclosures may be made. These include:

- HM Revenue & Customs
- the Financial Conduct Authority (formerly the Financial Services Authority)
- the Competition and Markets Authority
- the Health and Safety Executive
- the Environment Agency
- the Independent Office for Police Conduct
- the Serious Fraud Office
- the Department for Education, see annex 1 for making a disclosure

Data protection

When an individual makes a disclosure, Supply Chain Academy Limited, will process any personal data collected in accordance with its data protection policy. Data collected from the point at which the individual makes the report is held securely and accessed by, and disclosed to, individuals only for the purposes of dealing with the disclosure.

Blowing the whistle to the Department for Education

Colleges and independent training providers

As an employee to make a complaint or disclosure about a post-16 education or training provider using the following details:

Emailing complaints or disclosure to customer.complaints@education.gov.uk

Sending a letter to:

Customer Service Team
Department for Education
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry CV1 2WT

What happens after making a disclosure

Once we receive your disclosure, we will:

- send an acknowledgement (if you shared your contact details)
- confirm that we will not contact you unless we need further information for any investigation

We will not enter into a conversation with you once we have started a formal investigation. This is to ensure we:

- protect your confidentiality and anonymity
- do nothing that could potentially undermine the legitimacy of the outcome of any investigation

DIRECTOR APPROVAL

Date	Updates/Amendments	Signature
06/08/2022	Format and Version update	<i>Neil Roll</i>
01/12/2023	No change	<i>Neil Roll</i>
01/10/2024	Update business name and logo from CP Training Services Ltd to Supply Chain Academy Limited WEF 12 September 2024.	<i>Neil Roll</i>