

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.
- 20.2 The University is committed to the highest standards of honesty, openness and accountability. The [Public Interest Disclosure \(Whistleblowing\) Policy](#) is in place to allow staff, students and all members of the University to raise concerns or information which they believe in good faith provides evidence of malpractice or impropriety. 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 College Dean for Research & Enterprise, 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](#). However, concerns about research misconduct, as for any other form of conduct, may be made via the [Public Interest Disclosure Act](#) where that is deemed necessary by the complainant. In this case, concerns should be expressed in writing to the Clerk to the Board of Governors. Following initial investigation, the University's research misconduct procedure may then be invoked, if appropriate.