



APPG Newsletter



Firstly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! Covid is an ongoing reminder of the importance of ensuring that Whistleblowers feel safe to speak out and that they will not only be heard but they will be listened to.

Since July 2018 the APPG for Whistleblowing has provided a platform for parliamentarians across all parties to review and discuss the effectiveness of existing whistleblowing legislation which is now in its 24th year.

During 2021 in addition to taking evidence I and my colleagues have represented the APPG speaking alongside local and international thought leaders at conferences including the International Symposium of Economic Crime and given interviews on a range of whistleblowing issues facing both the public and private sectors. We have joined forces with colleagues including Maria Miller in support of the banning of NDAs and we have also raised issues relating to whistleblowing in the Commons and ensured that the plight of whistleblowers is recognised by the Prime Minister.

We have made huge strides toward our stated goals and throughout 2021 we continued our call to evidence embracing technology to facilitate meetings and round table discussions. We met with stakeholders across all groups including; whistleblowers, regulators, academics, journalists, professional bodies and employers.

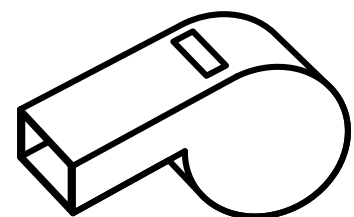
Covered in this letter

SUMMARISING OUR
2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

OUR GOALS FOR 2022

THE OFFICE OF THE
WHISTLEBLOWER BILL

UPDATE ON APPG
MEMBERSHIP



WHAT DO YOU THINK
OF THE CHANGES
WE'VE MADE TO OUR
WEBSITE?

LET US KNOW BY
CONTACTING US.

The message that we have received is consistent, the Public Interest Disclosure Act is not working well for anyone. Each group has a particular discontent with PIDA but they are all broadly dissatisfied with the inconsistencies, and complexity of a piece of legislation that was meant to provide a swift and efficient remedy to disputes that arise in the workplace.

Having listened carefully to the evidence in July we unanimously concluded that The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 has not stood the test of time and should be replaced. Events over the last two years including furlough fraud, grooming gangs, PPE, banking and closer to home events in Westminster, have reinforced the need to introduce a new law that supports whistleblowers and whistleblowing to ensure that the UK does not fall behind other countries.

Final touches on a new bill are now being concluded on behalf of our APPG by leading academics and lawyers coordinated by our secretariat WhistleblowersUK. Watch this space as we will be launching it shortly.

The launch of our Bill will be supported by our ongoing call to evidence and meetings with select committees and ministers. We will keep everyone updated via the website and press.

Our work will not be over until our bill becomes law and I encourage you, if you have evidence that will support calls for change to please do get in touch with me via our secretariat who will ensure that your evidence is included in our work. *Please note that we cannot take on whistleblower casework, if you need assistance please contact your MP, or one of the prescribed persons currently listed.* You can also contact WhistleblowersUK or Protect for confidential, impartial support and information.

On a final note I wish to thank Baroness Kramer for her support as she steps down as co-chair and assure her of the APPG's continued support of her Private Members Bill as it progresses through the Parliamentary Process.



MARY ROBINSON MP, APPG CHAIR