

Consultation on Whistleblowing to Prescribed Persons

Closing Date: 1st March 2024

Douglas City Council Response

Question 1:

Do you think that the medical regulatory bodies listed above should be added to the list of prescribed persons for the Isle of Man?

Yes. Adding them to the list could:

- enhance their ability to safeguard the safety and well-being of patients;
- assist in streamlining and providing a co-ordinated approach to reporting and investigating safeguarding concerns that involve healthcare professionals;
- the Nursing and Midwifery Council should be added to the list of prescribed persons.

Question 2:

Do you think that Members of the House of Keys should be specified as prescribed persons?

Yes.

This would be in keeping with the House of Commons and Members of Parliament becoming prescribed persons in 2014, however only under specific conditions as set out in the UK Employments Rights Act (2006). Similar conditions should be contained within the Employment Amendment Bill and Employment Act 2006.

Question 3:

Do you think that all Members of Tynwald should be specified as prescribed persons?

No. Specifying MLCs' as prescribed persons could:

- potentially create a conflict of interest or compromise their independent decision-making within the legislative process;
- blur the lines of separation of powers between legislative and safeguarding functions;
- introduce perceptions of political influence or interference in safeguarding matter therefore, raising concerns about the impartiality and objectivity of the legislative process as well as the integrity of safeguarding decisions;
- create additional demands on the MLC's time and resources potentially impacting their ability to undertake their legislative duties effectively.

The Isle of Man has established safeguarding authorities/agencies who specifically handle safeguarding issues and who protect vulnerable individuals. Maybe it would be more appropriate for these designated professionals to serve as prescribed persons as they have the expertise and focus on safeguarding responsibilities?

Question 4:

Are there any other persons, organisations or bodies that should be added to the list of prescribed persons?

- Healthcare Professionals such as doctors, nurses, therapists, who all play a crucial roles in identifying and reporting instances of abuse, neglect or hardship to vulnerable individuals. As they have frequent interactions with individuals who may be at risk, designating healthcare professionals as prescribed persons may reinforce the importance of the part they play in recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns.

Or would the above be covered by inclusion in the further update of the Health & Care Professions Council?

- Educational Professionals such as teachers who are in a unique position to detect signs of abuse or neglect among children and young people.

Or is the above already covered i.e., Department of Education, Sport & Culture?

Question 5:

Do you have any other comments on prescribed persons?

No.