

REALITIES OF SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA WHEN WHISTLEBLOWING

For many whistleblowers, speaking to the media can feel like the only remaining option after internal reporting processes have failed. Journalists can play an important role in exposing wrongdoing, holding organisations to account and bringing issues of public interest into the spotlight.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS



Raising Public Awareness

Media coverage can shine a light on issues that might otherwise remain hidden, helping the public understand the impact of serious wrongdoing.

Driving Accountability

Public scrutiny can encourage organisations, regulators and government bodies to investigate concerns more thoroughly or act more quickly.

Encouraging Others to Speak Up

Seeing someone share their experience may give others the confidence to report similar concerns, particularly where there is evidence of a wider pattern of misconduct.

Influencing Policy and Reform

Some whistleblowers have helped bring about changes to legislation, organisational policies and public services after media attention highlighted systemic failures.



POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Loss of Privacy

Once information is reported publicly, it can be difficult or impossible to regain your privacy. Your name, photographs or personal history may become widely accessible online.

Emotional Impact

Media attention can be stressful. Interviews, public scrutiny and online commentary can affect your wellbeing, particularly if you are already experiencing the effects of workplace conflict or trauma.

Legal Considerations

Depending on your circumstances, there may be legal issues to consider before sharing information publicly. These could include confidentiality obligations, ongoing investigations, court proceedings or defamation risks. Independent legal advice may help you understand your position before speaking to the media.

Public and Social Media Attention

Media coverage may bring both support and criticism. Some whistleblowers experience online abuse, misinformation or unwanted attention alongside messages of encouragement.