**APPG for Whistleblowing Annual Report 28th February 2024**

**Overview of the APPG and its work**

The APPG launched on 10th July 2018, its objective is to champion whistleblowers and whistleblowing through the introduction of new legislation. Following an initial call to evidence the APPG produced 2 reports, The Personal Cost of Doing the Right Thing, and the Cost to Society of Ignoring It”, and “Making Whistleblowing Work”. These reports concluded that existing legislation, while well intentioned had failed to protect whistleblowers or uphold the public interest.

As a result of the call to evidence the APPG commissioned the secretariat to develop an alternative draft bill to address the key issues exposed in the call to evidence:

* *Give whistleblower rights and protection to every citizen and normalise speaking up.*
* *Ensure that protected disclosures are properly investigated.*
* *Hold to account individuals and organisations who retaliate against whistleblowers or cover up wrongdoing.*
* *Establish a centre of expertise to set, communicate and evaluate the effectiveness of whistleblowing policy, procedure and platforms and to support public and organisational awareness and compliance.*

**Whistleblowing Bill Progress**

* The ‘Whistleblowing Bill’ was unanimously adopted by the APPG at the AGM in June 2022.
* This Bill was re presented to the HoC on 24th January as a PMB.
* The Bill is scheduled for a second reading on 22nd March?
* Since 24th January (the presentation of the bill) we have received over 200 letters of support from the Public.
* Work is being done to develop the regulations and Iain Mitchell KC will take us through this when I hand over to the Secretariat.
* We have received almost 200 letters of support for the Whistleblowing Bill this week alone.

**Government WB Framework Review**

The APPG sponsored the UK’s first Whistleblowing Awareness Week delivered by WhistleblowersUK on the Westminster Estate from 20-24th March 2023. This event resulted in the announcement by the Minister (former vice chair of the APPG) Kevin Hollinrake announcing the Framework review.

The Govt. planned to complete the review by November 2023 this has slipped and is now expected in April 2024.

I met with the team conducting the review and I am confident that it corroborates the findings in our call to evidence and the proposals in the whistleblowing bill.

The APPG has been approached by the media and are working with our secretariat to produce both TV and printed article to coincide with the report.

**Action since the last AGM**

* Changes to APPG rules – we have taken appropriate steps to comply.
* The call to evidence remains ongoing and we receive enquiries and new case studies every week.
* Round table discussions including - Dr Bill Kirkup, Speakers Conference
* Meetings with regulators including; CQC, Health Commissioner, MoD, CMA and FCA.
* Meetings with SEC, DoJ, CFTC and Onterio Securities Commission researching rewards and compensation. This work is ongoing. (Secretariat)
* Supported by WhistleblowersUK ran the UK’s first Whistleblowing Awareness Week in March 2023 and followed up with a second event over two days in November 2023.
* The events were attended by over 1000 members of the public, parliamentarians, regulators, academics and industry experts.
* Our members have participated in Westminster Hall and other debates raising whistleblowing and associated subjects, e.g. NDA’s, Tech, Bully & Harassment
* The British Computer Society voted to support the Whistleblowing Bill.
* Our work is being supported by groups representing Grenfell Tower and organisations including Can’t Buy My Silence.
* Submissions to select committees and other enquiries, Health and Court Fees next week.
* Support provided to MP offices by secretariat.
* Our work has been referenced on TV and in the Media. Both SkyNews and BBC are hoping to produce reports in the next 3 months.

1. **Call for action from members!**

* Recruit New Members
* Identify opportunities to promote our work.
* Develop a fundraising plan.

1. **Acknowledgements and thanks to:**

All members past and present, supporters and whistleblowers.

WhistleblowersUK for their support, professionalism and ongoing enthusiasm.