

Whistleblowing Disclosures

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Introduction

The Children's Commissioner is named in the Prescribed Persons Order 2014 as someone to whom whistle-blowers can raise concerns relating to the rights, welfare and interests of children. Whistle-blowing arrangements offer a framework of protection against victimisation or dismissal for workers who blow the whistle on criminal behaviour or other wrongdoing.

The Children's Commissioner's role as a prescribed person is to provide those working with children with a mechanism to make their public interest disclosure to an independent body. The Children's Commissioner is not a regulatory body and does not have enforcement powers, but will consider concerns, ensure they are passed to the responsible bodies and will seek reassurance that the correct processes have been followed.

The Children's Commissioner's Office (CCo) whistle-blowing procedures are consistent with the Public Interest Disclosure Act and have been in place throughout 2025-26.

The CCo receives whistleblowing disclosures in letters, emails, via the advice helpline (Help at Hand) and employment tribunal claims, that are sent to the CCo when a claimant states they want CCo to be alerted. Sometimes, the information is provided anonymously.

The Children's Commissioner's office recognises, in accordance with established protocols, that whistleblowing is an important avenue for those with genuine concerns about an organisation and its conduct towards children to raise concerns so that they can be addressed without that individual being concerned for their employment or position.

The Children's Commissioner office website has published [policy and guidance for whistleblowers](#).

Activity in 2025-26

During 2025-26 the Children's Commissioner's office received 17 whistle-blowing concerns. This is three more than last year.

Breakdown of disclosures received from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Service the disclosure relates to	Number of disclosures received
Children's homes and supported accommodation	3
Local authority children's services.	6
Health service or setting (eg care agency)	1
Education setting (school, colleges	6
Other	1
Early years setting	0
Total	17

Action taken in the reporting period	Number of disclosures received
All concerns were sent to the appropriate bodies, including the local authority, police and Ofsted	8
Not taken forward as matter had already been referred to appropriate agencies or not enough information provided to refer	9