

2019/2020 Annual Report – Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act (PIDA)

The University of Manitoba (the “University”) is designated as a “government body” under the regulations to The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act, C.C.S.M., c.P217 (“PIDA”). All government bodies are required to implement Procedures to manage disclosures, as defined by PIDA, and the University is committed to meeting or exceeding the requirements of PIDA.

The University's Safe Disclosure (Whistleblower) Policy and Procedure is intended to detail how the University will manage disclosures under PIDA. A wrongdoing is a very serious act or omission that is an offence under another law, an act that creates a specific or substantial danger to life, health or safety of persons or the environment, or gross mismanagement, including the mismanagement of public funds or government property; or directing or counselling a person to commit wrongdoing.

A disclosure made by an employee in good faith, in accordance with PIDA, and with a reasonable belief that wrongdoing has been or is about to be committed, is considered to be a disclosure under PIDA whether or not the subject matter constitutes wrongdoing. All disclosures receive careful and thorough review to determine if action is required, and must be reported in the annual report.

The following is a report on the disclosures that were received under PIDA for the fiscal year April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020.

Disclosures Received	Disclosures Acted On	Disclosures Not Acted On
1	1	N/A
Investigations Commenced	Findings of Wrongdoing	Disclosures Closed
1	1	1

Summary

In the 2019/2020 fiscal year, the University of Manitoba received one (1) disclosure of alleged wrongdoing of financial mismanagement and conflict of interest under the University's Safe Disclosure (Whistleblower) Policy and Procedure. After investigation, wrongdoing was found.

The University received a disclosure of alleged wrongdoing by a senior employee. The University conducted an investigation and a fulsome review of all funds for which the employee was responsible.

The investigation concluded that wrongdoing had occurred with respect to the purchase of goods and services, conflict of interest, and mismanagement and misuse of funds. There were also findings that the employee directed other persons to commit wrongdoing.

The full findings of the investigation were reported to the Office of the Auditor General.

Recommendations

The review revealed some internal control weaknesses in the UM system of controls related to the use of discretionary funds, the Non-Purchase Order Invoice process, and the monitoring of spending patterns of expense claim submissions, that require corrective attention.

The review recommended that the VP (Administration) initiate further analysis of the internal control issues identified by this review through separate audit or review processes in order to identify necessary policy and procedure revisions, process improvements either within or outside the applicable financial systems, and additional management reporting tools.

The University has accepted the recommendation.