



Port of Tauranga

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Protected Disclosures – Whistleblowing Policy

August 2026



1. Purpose

The purpose of the Protected Disclosures Act 2022 (the Act) is to protect people who make an allegation of serious wrongdoing within Port of Tauranga Limited (POTL).

The Act applies to both public and private organisations. POTL has adopted this policy in order to meet its obligations under the Act. As a major supplier of essential services POTL believes that this policy is necessary for the benefit of POTL, shareholders, Directors, employees and customers.

The purpose of the policy is to provide an internal procedure for employees to report any serious wrongdoing at POTL. Employees will be protected from any retaliatory action by POTL if the report of serious wrongdoing is made in accordance with this policy and the Act.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, board members and contractors of Port of Tauranga.

3. Definitions

Terminology	Definition
Policy	A set of official rules, guidelines, and principles established by a company to govern its operations and employee behaviour.
Approver	The official or committee that authorises the policy.
Policy Owner	The official who has authority and control over the policy, including making decisions about its management and benefits. Corporate Policy Owners are Senior Management Team (SMT) members or are assigned by the SMT. The Policy Owner is ultimately accountable for the policy. Also responsible for initiating, advocating, and providing oversight for the policy within an organisation – champion of the policy.
Review Period	The period within which a Policy Owner must review a policy.
Director/Board member	A member of the Board of Directors of POTL, including the Chair. Directors are eligible to make a protected disclosure under this Policy and the Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022 where they have reasonable grounds to believe serious wrongdoing has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur.
Employee	A current employee, former employee, a homemaker within the meaning of section 5 of the Employment Relations Act 2000, a person seconded to POTL and a person concerned in the management of POTL.
Contractor	An individual who is engaged or contracted under a contract for services to do work for POTL.
Investigator	A person independent of the person or persons who is or are alleged to have committed serious wrongdoing.

Terminology	Definition
Serious wrongdoing	Includes any serious wrongdoing of any of the following types: • an unlawful, corrupt, or irregular use of POTL's funds or resources; • an act, omission, or course of conduct that constitutes a serious risk to public health or public safety or the health or safety of any individual, or to the environment; • an act, omission, or course of conduct that constitutes a serious risk to the maintenance of law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences or the right to a fair trial; • an act, omission, or course of conduct that constitutes an offence; or • an act, omission, or course of conduct by an employee that is oppressive, unlawfully discriminatory, or grossly negligent, or that constitutes gross mismanagement.

4. Policy statement

This policy covers the disclosure of serious wrongdoing within POTL and is not intended to replace the standard internal procedures for employment issues or complaints contained in any individual or collective employment agreements.

4.1 Disclosures

Before reporting any serious wrongdoing, you must:

- be a Director, employee or contractor of POTL;
- have information about serious wrongdoing by or at POTL;
- believe on reasonable grounds that this information is true or likely to be true;
- want the serious wrongdoing to be investigated; and
- want your disclosure to be protected.

If you report serious wrongdoing in accordance with the definition 'serious wrongdoing' then it will be a protected disclosure for the purposes of the Act.

You may report serious wrongdoing in writing by letter or email or by telephone or in person.

When reporting serious wrongdoing you must:

- identify the person or persons you believe is or are involved in serious wrongdoing; and
- specify the nature of the serious wrongdoing.

4.2 Procedures for disclosures

You must report any serious wrongdoing to the Chief Executive or the General Manager Corporate Services.

If you believe that the Chief Executive or the General Manager Corporate Services is or may be involved in the serious wrongdoing, then you must report the serious wrongdoing to the Chair of the POTL Board or to POTL's Independent External Auditors.

Alternatively, you can use the independent and anonymous Report it Now Whistleblowing hotline:

- 0800 2 ALERT (0800 225 378)
- <https://reportitnow-global.com/nz/>
- secure online portal - <https://ethicspro.reportitnow-global.com/POT>

4.3 Investigation

If you report serious wrongdoing, then an investigator must be appointed to investigate and report on the serious wrongdoing.

The investigator will be appointed by the person receiving the report of serious wrongdoing.

The investigator must use his or her best endeavours to keep your identity confidential unless:

- you consent in writing; or
- the investigator reasonably believes that disclosure of your identity is essential to an effective investigation.

All reports of serious wrongdoing will be investigated within 20 working days of the report of wrongdoing being received.

The investigation must comply with the principles of natural justice which include:

- the investigator must be unbiased and impartial;
- a decision must only be made once all parties have been given the opportunity to be heard;
- all parties must be given reasonable notice of any interview;
- all parties must be advised that he or she may be represented at any interview; and
- all parties must be given a reasonable opportunity and period of time to respond to the allegation.

The investigator must produce any report in writing outlining the allegation of serious wrongdoing, any responses to the allegation, any supporting evidence and an assessment of the allegation with recommendations.

The report must in the first instance be provided to the person appointing the investigator.

4.4 Protection for employees

- If you report serious wrongdoing in accordance with this policy then you will be protected under the Act.
- If you make a protected disclosure and claim to have suffered retaliatory action from POTL or other persons affecting your relationship with POTL then you may take a personal grievance under the Employment Relations Act 2000.

- POTL will not tolerate any attempt by any employee or contractor to apply any sanction or detriment to any person who has reported serious wrongdoing.
- POTL will treat any such sanction or detriment by its employees as a serious disciplinary matter.
- Where such sanction or detriment is undertaken by a contractor, POTL will regard this as a breach of contract.

4.5 Limits on protection and disclosure

- The protection you are given under the Act does not apply where you make an allegation which you know to be false or if you act in bad faith.
- You are not allowed under the Act to disclose any information protected by legal professional privilege. This includes legal advice given to POTL or reports commissioned by POTL for the purposes of litigation.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
General Manager Corporate Services	Develops, maintains and reviews the policy. Has the authority to approve minor revisions or amendments.
Chief Executive	Reviews the policy and has authority to approve minor revisions or amendments.
Board	Approves the policy.
Managers	Be aware of policy and processes within.
Employees	Being aware of and complying with this policy. Understanding the process on how to report possible serious wrongdoing.

6. Communication

The contents of this policy are explained to new employees in the Corporate Induction and is available on the intranet and Port of Tauranga website.

7. Related documents

- Code of Ethics
- Privacy Policy
- Conflict of Interest
- Fraud and Corruption Policy.

8. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Policy Owner, or sooner if required by legislative or operational changes.

Policy Owner:	General Manager Corporate Services
Effective date:	January 2026
Next review date:	January 2028 (or earlier if required)
Endorsed:	The General Manager Corporate Services or the Chief Executive has the authority to approve minor revisions or amendments
Approved:	Board

