



# **Westwood Training and Consultancy**

## **Malpractice & Maladministration Policy**

### **Purpose**

This policy sets out our commitment to malpractice and maladministration to our learners and stakeholders, who are delivering/registered on WTC / NCFECACHE training approved qualifications or units.

### **Statement of intent**

It sets out the steps WTC, and learners or other personnel must follow when reporting suspected or actual cases of malpractice/maladministration and our responsibilities in dealing with such cases. It also sets out the procedural steps we will follow when reviewing the cases.

It is important that our staff involved in the management, assessment and quality assurance of our qualifications, and our learners, are fully aware of the contents of the policy and that our centre has arrangements in place to prevent and investigate instances of malpractice and maladministration. A failure to report suspected or actual malpractice/maladministration cases or have in place effective arrangements to prevent such cases, may lead to sanctions being imposed on our centre.

### **Scope**

Learner and staff who are involved in any courses delivered by WTC. It is also for use by our staff to ensure they deal with all malpractice and maladministration investigations in a consistent manner.

### **Definition of Malpractice**

Malpractice is essentially any activity or practice which deliberately contravenes regulations and compromises the integrity of internal or external assessment processes and/or the validity of certificates. For the purpose of this policy this term also covers misconduct and forms of unnecessary discrimination or bias towards certain groups of learners. The categories listed below are examples of WTC and learner malpractice. Please note that these examples are not exhaustive and are only intended as guidance on our definition of malpractice:



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- Denial of access to resources (premises, records, information, learners and staff) by any authorised WTC Training representative and/or the regulatory authorities
- Failure to carry out delivery, internal assessment, internal moderation or internal verification in accordance with our requirements
- Deliberate failure to adhere to our learner registration and certification procedures
- Deliberate or persistent failure to continually adhere to our centre recognition and/or qualification approval criteria or actions assigned to WTC
- Deliberate failure to maintain appropriate auditable records eg learner files
- Persistent instances of maladministration within our centre
- Fraudulent claims for certificates
- The unauthorised use of materials/equipment in assessment/exam settings (eg mobile phones/cameras)
- Intentional withholding of information from us which is critical to maintaining the rigour of quality assurance and standards
- Forgery of evidence
- Collusion or permitting collusion in exams
- Learners still working towards qualifications after certification claims have been made
- Contravention by our centres and learners of the assessment arrangements we specify for our qualifications
- Insecure storage of assessment materials and exam papers
- Plagiarism of any nature by learners
- Unauthorised amendment, copying or distributing of exam papers
- Inappropriate assistance to learners by centre staff (eg unfairly helping them to pass a unit or qualification)
- Submission of false information to gain a qualification or unit

## Definition of Maladministration

Maladministration is essentially any activity or practice which results in non-compliance with administrative regulations and requirements and includes the application of persistent mistakes or poor administration within a centre (eg inappropriate use of learner records).

## Process for making an allegation of malpractice or maladministration

Anybody who identifies or is made aware of suspected or actual cases of malpractice or maladministration at any time must immediately report their findings to the Principal. In doing so they should put them in writing/email and enclose appropriate supporting evidence.

All allegations must include (where possible) the:

- Centre's name, address and number



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- Learner's name and awarding organisation number
- WTC Training personnel's details (name, job role) if they are involved in the case
- Title and number of the WTC Training course/qualification affected or nature of the service affected
- Date(s) suspected or actual malpractice occurred
- Full nature of the suspected or actual malpractice
- Contents and outcome of any investigation carried out by the centre or anybody else involved in the case, including any mitigating circumstances
- Written statements from those informant's name, position and signature If a centre conducts an investigation before submitting it formally, the centre should:
  - Ensure that staff leading the investigation are independent of the staff/learners/function being investigated
  - Inform those who are suspected of malpractice that they are entitled to know the necessary details of the case and possible outcomes
  - Submit the findings of the investigation to us with your report to the head of WTC training centre.

In all cases we'll protect the identity of the 'informant' in accordance with our duty of confidentiality and/or and other legal duty.

Please refer to our privacy policy for details on what happens to your information and data.

## **Investigation timeliness and process**

WTC aim to action and resolve all stages of the investigation within 30 working days of receipt of the allegation/complaint.

Please complete the complaints/malpractice form which can be found in the policy folder on the website.

Please see complaints policy and procedure to follow the step-by-step process WTC follow when informed of a complaint or allegation.

The investigation may involve:

- A request for further information from the centre or WTC Training personnel
- Interviews (face to face or by telephone) with personnel involved in the investigation

Where a member of WTC's staff is under investigation they may be suspended, or they may be moved to other duties until the investigation is complete. Throughout the investigation our Head of Centre will be responsible for overseeing the work of



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the investigation team to ensure that due process is being followed, appropriate evidence has been gathered and reviewed for liaising with and keeping informed relevant external parties.

## **Associated policies**

Complaints Policy  
Appeals policy  
Complaints reporting form  
Conflicts policy  
Learners handbook  
Privacy Policy

## **Review arrangements**

We will review the policy annually as part of our annual self-assessment arrangements and quality plan. The policy will be revised as and when necessary in response to customer and learner feedback, changes in our practices, actions from the regulatory authorities or external agencies or changes in legislation or trends identified from previous allegations. In addition, this policy may be updated in light of operational feedback to ensure our arrangements for dealing with suspected cases of malpractice/maladministration remain effective.

The policy will be reviewed in September 2025

We will review this policy and its associated procedures annually as part of our self-evaluation arrangements and/or in response to customer, or regulatory feedback and any trends that may emerge in the types of queries we may have received.