



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Whistleblower Investigation Report

Department of Corrections

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July 20, 2017

Stephen Sinclair, Secretary
Department of Corrections

Report on Whistleblower Investigation

Attached is the official report on Whistleblower Case No. 17-023 at the Department of Corrections.

The State Auditor's Office received an assertion of improper governmental activity at the Department. This assertion was submitted to us under the provisions of Chapter 42.40 of the Revised Code of Washington, the Whistleblower Act. We have investigated the assertion independently and objectively through interviews and by reviewing relevant documents. This report contains the result of our investigation.

If you are a member of the media and have questions about this report, please contact Assistant Director for Communications Kathleen Cooper at (360) 902-0470. Otherwise, please contact Whistleblower Manager Jim Brownell at (360) 725-5352.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

cc: Governor Jay Inslee
Liana Dupont-Smith, Interim Audit Director
Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Executive Ethics Board
Jennifer Wirawan, Investigator

WHISTLEBLOWER INVESTIGATION REPORT

Assertion and results

Our Office received a whistleblower complaint asserting a Department of Corrections (Department) employee (subject) failed to use leave for all of her absences from work.

We found no reasonable cause to believe an improper governmental action occurred.

About the Investigation

The subject works in a secure corrections facility that requires staff to sign in and out daily. Additionally, the facility uses a key watcher system requiring employees to enter an assigned code and scan their thumbprint to retrieve and return their keys each day.

We compared sign in/out sheets, key watcher system records, emails and leave slips submitted by the subject from February 15, 2016, through February 15, 2017. We found the subject consistently used leave for her absences, and communicated regularly with her supervisor regarding time away from work.

Therefore, we found no reasonable cause to believe an improper governmental action occurred.

State Auditor's Office Concluding Remarks

We thank Department officials and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

WHISTLEBLOWER INVESTIGATION CRITERIA

We came to our determination in this investigation by evaluating the facts against the criteria below:

RCW 42.52.160 Use of persons, money, or property for private gain.

(1) No state officer or state employee may employ or use any person, money, or property under the officer's or employee's official control or direction, or in his or her official custody, for the private benefit or gain of the officer, employee, or another.