

Washington State Auditor's Office
Whistleblower Investigation Report

Employment Security Department

Report No. 1011404

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WASHINGTON
TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR



**Washington State Auditor
Troy Kelley**

March 10, 2014

Dale Peinecke, Commissioner
Employment Security Department

Report on Whistleblower Investigation

Attached is the official report on Whistleblower Case No. WB 14-014 at the Employment Security Department.

The State Auditor's Office received an assertion of improper governmental activity at the Agency. 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.

Questions about this report should be directed to Whistleblower Manager Jim Brownell at (360) 725-5352.

Sincerely,

TROY KELLEY
STATE AUDITOR

cc: Victoria DeBoer, Internal Audit Manager
Governor Jay Inslee
Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Executive Ethics Board

Whistleblower Investigation Report

State of Washington Employment Security Department

ASSERTION AND RESULTS

Our Office received a whistleblower complaint asserting an Employment Security Department employee recycled state property for his personal financial gain.

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

ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION

In September 2013 the Employment Security Department (Department) relocated its Seattle office to Lacey. Pursuant to City code the Department was required to remove telecommunication wiring from the Seattle office. In September 2013 the Department entered into a contract to have this work completed.

We interviewed the contractor who stated their company removed and disposed of the wire from the Seattle office. We also interviewed a Department contract specialist who stated that, in most cases, contractors will retain wiring after removal, recycle it and use the proceeds to offset their costs.

STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE REMARKS

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

Whistleblower Investigation Criteria

State of Washington Employment Security Department

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.

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