



Dr Minh Alexander
minhalexander@aol.com

FOI: 69625
30 May 2022

Dear Requestor,

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 April 2022, in which you ask for information regarding John Penrose MP's support for Mary Robinson MP's whistleblowing Bill and his engagement with both her and the APPG on whistleblowing regarding the Bill.

You specifically request:

The Prime Minister's Anti Corruption Champion's support of a whistleblowing Bill to establish an Office of the Whistleblower

The Prime Minister's Anti Corruption Champion John Penrose MP recently lent his support to a Bill proposed by Mary Robinson MP to establish an Office of the Whistleblower which was read in under the ten minute rule on 26 April.

Mr Penrose gave an interview to GB News about this matter and his support for the Bill was also reported by other media outlets.

Please can the Home Office disclose:

- What consultations took place between Mr Penrose and Ms Robinson and or the Whistleblowing APPG which she chairs, or its secretariat the organisation WhistleblowersUK, which led up to Mr Penrose's decision to support the Bill?

Were there meetings and or correspondence? Please give details

- Please indicate at what point Mr Penrose had sight of the proposed Bill in question, and which version of the Bill informed his decision to support the proposed legislation?

- Please disclose a copy of the version of the Bill of which Mr Penrose had sight

- If Mr Penrose did not actually see the Bill proposed by Mary Robinson, please also disclose this

- Please disclose if Mr Penrose discussed the possible future location of the proposed Office of the Whistleblower with Ms Robinson and or the Whistleblowing APPG or its secretariat, WhistleblowersUK

- Please advise if any possible government Departments were identified to oversee the putative Office of the Whistleblower, for example, was the Home Office discussed as a possible location for the new whistleblowing regulator?

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Mr Penrose's [role](#) as the Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Champion is to challenge and coordinate Government's response to corruption, in this role he is supported by officials in the Joint Anti-Corruption Unit, based in the Home Office. However, it is not a Ministerial appointment and he remains formally outside the Government.

I am able to disclose the email set out in **Annex A** which includes a brief correspondence between Mr Penrose and Ms Robinson which he forwarded to Home Office officials and attached the version of the Bill Mr Penrose supported. Any further consultations, correspondence or meetings pertaining to the Bill that may have taken place were not organised by the Home Office and we therefore do not hold any information regarding them. We also do not hold any information on discussions regarding the proposed Office of the Whistleblower.

Mr Penrose previously met with members of the APPG and other stakeholders on 1st December as reported [here](#). He also attended a panel discussion on whistleblowing on 24th February which will be reported in the next publication of transparency returns.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference 69625. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information
Home Office**

Annex A

Freedom of Information request (reference 69625)

Disclosed information

From: PENROSE, John <john.penrose.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 21 April 2022 12:13

To: <redacted>

Subject: FW: Whistleblowing Bill - Ten Minute Rule Motion

Do you trust this email? This email originated from outside the Home Office, or came from a Home Office system that has not been certified. Please exercise caution before opening attachments or clicking on links within this email or any suspicious email, particularly from unknown senders.

Hi All FYI I have just agreed to be a co-signatory to this 10-minute rule Bill next week, as a way of getting it onto the Government agenda in advance of ECB2. No need for any of you to do anything in particular, but wanted you to know so you aren't blindsided or surprised!

Best wishes

John Penrose

MP for Weston, Worle & the villages; Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Champion; Chair of Conservative Policy Forum

From: PENROSE, John

Sent: 21 April 2022 12:07

To: ROBINSON, Mary <mary.robinson.mp@parliament.uk>

Cc: <redacted>

Subject: RE: Whistleblowing Bill - Ten Minute Rule Motion

Hi Mary yes of course please count me in & I will endeavour to be there in the 'doughnut' around you on the day!

Best wishes

John Penrose

MP for Weston, Worle & the villages; Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Champion; Chair of Conservative Policy Forum

From: ROBINSON, Mary <mary.robinson.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 20 April 2022 17:51

To: PENROSE, John <john.penrose.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: Whistleblowing Bill - Ten Minute Rule Motion

Dear John,

It was good to catch up earlier.

As I mentioned, I have secured what will be one of the last Ten Minute Rule slots for this session on Tuesday 26th April.

It would be great if you could be a co-signatory to this Bill and help demonstrate to Government the need for change. I have attached a copy of the Bill for you to review. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like further details. If you do feel able to co-sign the Bill, I would be grateful if you could confirm by email.

Best wishes,
Mary

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