

THE PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF THE WITS INTEGRITY HOTLINE

The Integrity Hotline was established to provide a mechanism for persons with information of irregular and/or corrupt conduct to report same to the University.

The Integrity Hotline adopts a pragmatic approach and can be used by calling a dedicated number or by sending an email. The operation of the dedicated telephone number and the email is the responsibility of two law professors. Both professors are practising attorneys with extensive experience. These professors are suitably qualified to receive the reports submitted to the Integrity Hotline having regard to their general standing and since they are both Officers of the Court. The professors are not involved in the administration or the operation of the University. As such, a separation has been established between those operating the hotline and the executive. Due to this separation, the identity and safety of a whistle-blower is protected should they elect to use the Wits Integrity Hotline.

Where there is suspicion of irregular and/or corrupt activity, a report to the Integrity Hotline can be submitted anonymously. If need be, the Professors will redact or paraphrase the report to protect the identity of the 'whistle-blower'. Thereafter, an email containing the report is sent to the Registrar as a conduit to the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor then makes determination as to which person or department should investigate the report having regard to the information/documentation provided. Importantly, it is an established principle that the Vice-Chancellor may not refer the investigation of a matter to the superior and/or manager to which the complaint relates. Accordingly, a report of this nature would be referred to another senior party that is separate from the alleged wrongdoer.

The Integrity Hotline is fit for purpose and is a practical mechanism which protects the University and its community.

INTEGRITY HOTLINE (CURRENT PROCESS)

