

FULL PROGRAMME • MORNING

ACi 2026 Whistleblowing Investigations Forum

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026
EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND, 1 WOOD STREET, LONDON EC2V 7WS

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS & PANEL
8.30 – 9.00am	Arrival, registration, badging and arrival tea/coffee	
9.15 – 9.30am 15 mins	ACi welcome address Including house rules — Chatham House Rule, no video recording but photography is welcome, fire escapes, facilities and the agenda for the day — together with a welcome from the host.	Simon Scales Chief Education & Training Officer, ACi Greg Brandman Partner, Eversheds Sutherland
9.30 – 10.00am Keynote fireside 30 mins	Keynote: Investigations — from the boardroom to the Treasury Select Committee: the role of the press in public interest A fireside conversation on how internal investigations reach the front page and the select committee room, and what investigative journalism reveals about the way disclosures are handled inside organisations.	Simon Scales Chief Education & Training Officer, ACi, in fireside chat with: Lindsey Rogerson Rachel Wolcott Founding editors and investigative journalists, Compliance Corylated
10.00 – 10.45am Panel 45 mins	Learnings from when whistleblowing investigations governance fails: handling, reporting and investigations management 🗣️ This session explores how failures in whistleblowing investigations often begin long before a case reaches formal review — and continue after the investigation has concluded, through weak governance, ineffective reporting and poor oversight. 🗣️ We examine how a lack of training creates poor data at the point of disclosure, and how weak MI reporting, governance and oversight — from both a control and senior management perspective — drive inconsistent and unclear outcomes. 🗣️ Particular emphasis on the governance frameworks, management information and reporting that enable organisations to oversee investigations effectively, identify emerging risks, demonstrate accountability and drive continuous improvement — with practical examples of what good governance and case handling look like.	Moderator: Simon Scales Chief Education & Training Officer, ACi Greg Brandman Partner, Eversheds Sutherland Tim Morss Chief Executive Officer, SpeakUp
10.45 – 11.15am	Coffee break	
11.15am – 12.15pm Seminar 60 mins	Inside whistleblowing investigations: risks, pitfalls & Employment Tribunal scrutiny Whistleblowing investigations are increasingly being tested in Employment Tribunals. In this interactive seminar-style session, James Laddie KC shares practical insights into where investigations fail, the risks employers often overlook, and how to build robust, defensible processes from the outset — using case study examples and the latest statistics.	James Laddie KC Matrix Chambers
12.15 – 1.15pm	Lunch break	

FULL PROGRAMME • AFTERNOON

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TIME	SESSION	SPEAKERS & PANEL
1.15 – 1.45pm Fireside chat 30 mins	Opening fireside chat with a UN whistleblower Caroline Hunt-Matthes on raising concerns inside an international institution: how the disclosure was received, how the investigation was run, the personal cost of speaking up, and what she would have had the organisation do differently.	Caroline Hunt-Matthes International Human Rights Investigator, Author and Lecturer Interviewed by Basha Galvin , ACi
1.45 – 2.45pm Case study scenario 60 mins	Pause. Rewind. Review. The investigation interview debate This expert-led interactive session uses a recorded investigation scenario, played back to the audience and paused for debate, to examine the dynamics of interviewing vulnerable and complex whistleblowers. Combining a different expert at each stage to support audience debate, the discussion explores interviewer technique, behavioural responses, and the factors that influence the defensibility and effectiveness of investigative interviews.	Moderator: Simran Bharaj , ACi Kate Francis Whistleblowing & Compliance Manager, Nationwide Katherine Odendaal Managing Director, HKA Isabelle Mitchell Partner, Eversheds Sutherland
2.45 – 3.15pm	Comfort break and refreshments	
3.15 – 4.15pm Panel case study 60 mins	When the investigation becomes the headline - A case study interactive session with media, PR, legal and crisis management experts debating how an internal whistleblowing investigation escalates into a full-scale reputational and political crisis. - The session draws on learnings from high-profile public inquiries, with practical tips on how to ensure issues do not escalate — and what to do when they do. - We then explore how organisations respond when investigations attract media attention, regulatory scrutiny and parliamentary oversight — and the consequences when crisis management and investigative strategy fall out of alignment.	Moderator: Yamini Patel , ACi James Grant Senior Advisory Consultant, KLDiscvery Sarah Jones Partner, Eversheds Sutherland Marina Wheeler KC 1 Crown Office Row Zoe Thorogood OBE Partner, Trafalgar Strategy; former Head of Communications, Bechtel Civil Infrastructure
4.15 – 5.00pm Roundtable activity 45 mins	The bias factor: challenging assumptions in whistleblowing investigations Through a dynamic roundtable debate, attendees explore how conscious and unconscious bias can influence whistleblowing investigations. In facilitated groups, participants challenge perceptions of whistleblowers, test real-world assumptions and assess the impact bias may have on investigative outcomes. A series of statements is put to the room on screen, with live polling to capture agreement or disagreement, before experts respond — and delegates see whether their own viewpoint changes.	Moderator: Simran Bharaj , ACi Rachel Bass Head of Whistleblowing, Lloyds Banking Group Ruth Steinholtz Author and ethics leader; former General Counsel, Borealis AG and Allergan Inc Julia Neal Partner, Eversheds Sutherland
5.00pm	Closing remarks	Simon Scales Chief Education & Training Officer, ACi Greg Brandman Partner, Eversheds Sutherland
5.10pm	Post-event drinks and networking	Hosted by Eversheds Sutherland