

**Vigil Mechanism / Whistle Blower**

**Mechanism Policy**

One 97 Communications Limited

<b>Version</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Revision Notes</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>
1.0	July 10, 2021	New document created	Compliance Team	Urvashi Sahai	Board of Directors
1.1	January 19, 2024	Amendment/ Update	Mayank Kakkar and Inder raj Gill	Urvashi Sahai	Board of Directors

## 1. PREAMBLE

One 97 Communications Limited (the “**Company**”) is a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, as amended. Section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 7 of the Companies (Meeting of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014 mandates every listed company to constitute a Vigil Mechanism/ Whistle Blower Mechanism. Further, Regulation 4 (2)(d) (iv) read with Regulation 22 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (“**SEBI Listing Regulations**”) stipulates a mandatory requirement for all listed companies to establish a Vigil Mechanism/ Whistle Blower Mechanism for directors, employees (and their representative bodies) and Other Persons (as defined below; collectively or individually referred to as “**Eligible Person(s)**”) to report concerns of unethical behaviour, actual or suspected, fraud or violation of *inter-alia* the Company’s Code of Conduct (“**COC**”) or Anti Bribery and Corruption (“**ABAC**”) Policy. This Vigil Mechanism/ Whistle Blower Mechanism Policy (“**Policy**”) shall also apply to subsidiaries and affiliates of the Company, who have formally adopted this Policy.

The Company believes in conducting its business / affairs in a fair and transparent manner, with highest standards of professionalism, honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour. In pursuit of the same, the Company encourages Eligible Persons to raise genuine concerns about any malpractices in the work place without fear of retaliation and will protect them from victimisation or dismissal.

The Vigil/Whistle Blower Mechanism established by the Company pursuant to this Policy, aims to provide a channel to the Eligible Persons to report genuine concerns about unethical behaviour of any employee of the Company or any other matter, who shall promptly report such concerns using the disclosure channels (set out in Section 4 below), as and when he/she becomes aware of any actual or possible violation of the Company’s COC, ABAC Policy or any other instance of misconduct, fraud, or act not in Company’s interest.

The functioning of the Vigil Mechanism/Whistle Blower Mechanism is subject to review by the Audit Committee established by the Board of Directors of the Company (“**Board**”), and recommendations (if any) made by them shall be implemented by the Company.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

In addition to the terms defined in the body of this Policy, the following capitalised terms used in the Policy shall have the meanings ascribed below:

- (i) “**Other Persons**” means and includes employees/directors of service providers, vendors, business partners, consultants, retainers, trainees or any individual engaged in providing services to the Company and other stakeholders (if any) of the Company.
- (ii) “**Protected Disclosure**” shall mean an oral or written communication of a genuine factual concern (containing as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment/investigation) made in good faith, which discloses or demonstrates information that may evidence an unethical or improper activity under “**Scope**” of the Policy with respect to the Company.
- (iii) “**Subject**” means a person or group of persons against whom or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure is made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation.
- (iv) “**Whistle Blower(s)**” can be any Eligible Person who makes a Protected Disclosure under this Policy and may also be referred in this Policy as the “**Complainant**”.

### 3. SCOPE

The Policy is in addition to the Code of Conduct and the Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy of the Company, and covers disclosures of any unethical, improper behaviour or malpractices and events, which have taken place or suspected to have taken place *inter-alia* involving:

- (i) Breach of *inter-alia* Company’s COC, ABAC Policy, the Codes governing disclosure of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information and prohibition of Insider Trading etc.;
- (ii) Financial irregularities, including fraud or suspected fraud; forgery; falsification or alteration of documents; manipulation of Company’s data and records; or any other deliberate violation of applicable laws/regulations;
- (iii) Gross and/or wilful negligence causing substantial and specific danger to health and safety of Eligible Persons or to the environment;
- (iv) Gross wastage/ misappropriation of Company’s funds and/or assets and/or resources;
- (v) Any incidence of harassment of any employee of the Company based on caste, colour, creed, religion, faith, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, sex, veteran or citizenship or other characteristics protected by law;
- (vi) Any other illegal, unethical or improper conduct, of any nature whatsoever.

All Eligible Persons can make Protected Disclosure(s) under the Policy in relation to any matter(s) concerning the Company and/or matters as laid down in above paragraph. Further, the Company has established a separate committee pursuant to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and any rules made thereunder, each as amended, which is specifically responsible to receive, investigate and conclude complaints pertaining to sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

### 4. PROCEDURE FOR MAKING PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

- (i) Protected Disclosures can be made by Whistle Blower(s) using the following reporting channels:

Third-party Ethics Helpline / Web portal:

The Company has appointed an independent third party “Navex Global” to facilitate reporting of Protected Disclosure(s) through following channels:

- **Toll free helpline number –**

Country	Telephone Number	Languages
India	000 80005 02403	English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu Kannada, Bengali and Tamil

- **Web portal –** <https://secure.ethicspoint.eu/domain/media/en/gui/108301/index.html>
- **App Access –** <https://paytm.navexone.eu>

In addition, the Complainant may also submit a Protected Disclosure by way of sealed cover mail addressed to the General Counsel at the Corporate Office of the Company, who is authorised by the Audit Committee *inter-alia* for maintaining and implementing this Policy and receiving Protected Disclosures.

The General Counsel is authorized to delegate the day-to-day Policy functionalities to specific Company employees, and can be reached at the following coordinates:

General Counsel,

One 97 Communications Limited, Skymark One, Tower-D, Plot No H-10 B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301; E-mail ID: [whistleblower@paytm.com](mailto:whistleblower@paytm.com)

- (ii) All the Protected Disclosures should be reported using any one of the above reporting channels, by the Complainant as soon as possible, preferably not later than 30 days after the concern arises or the Complainant becomes aware of the same.
- (iii) A Protected Disclosure against the Chairman of the Company or the General Counsel should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee. A Protected Disclosure against the Chairman of the Audit Committee should be addressed to the Board of Directors.
- (iv) If any Protected Disclosure is received by any executive of the Company, they should report it to the General Counsel, who shall have the same duly investigated.
- (v) The Company also accepts anonymous complaints; however, the Complainant is encouraged to disclose his/her name and contact details for follow-up discussions and further investigations. It is the responsibility of officer(s) of the Company tasked with receiving and investigating the Protected Disclosures to protect the identity of the Complainant.

## **5. INVESTIGATION**

- (i) All Protected Disclosures under this Policy will be recorded and thoroughly investigated (by such internal teams as are best suited to conduct the investigation). If necessary, the General Counsel, with the prior approval/ concurrence of Chairman of the Audit Committee, would be at liberty to engage a suitable external agency.
- (ii) The investigation by itself does not tantamount to an accusation and is to be treated as a neutral fact finding process. The Subject shall have a duty to cooperate with the investigators during investigations, to such extent that such cooperation does not compromise the self incrimination protection (to the extent applicable) under applicable laws.
- (iii) The identity of the Subject shall be kept confidential to the extent possible, given the legitimate needs of the investigation. The Subject shall be informed of the allegations at the outset of a formal investigation (unless the circumstances involved and/ or the nature of investigation involved, require that the Subject not be informed of the allegations) and the Subject shall be given an opportunity to explain his/her side in keeping with the principles of natural justice (unless such opportunity to be heard can be dispensed with in accordance with applicable laws). No allegation of wrongdoing against the Subject shall be considered as maintainable unless there is adequate evidence in support of the allegation.
- (iv) The Subject(s) shall have a right to be informed of the outcome of the investigation, upon completion of the same.
- (v) The investigation shall normally be completed within 90 days of the receipt of the Protected Disclosure, and the said time period is extendable by the General Counsel (in consultation with Chairman of the Audit Committee, wherever required).

- (vi) Any officer of the Company tasked with investigation pursuant to the Protected Disclosure having any conflict of interest (*inter-alia* as set out in the Conflict of Interest Policy of the Company) with the matter shall disclose his/her concern forthwith and shall not deal with the matter.
- (vii) In case the concern does not fall within the ambit of this Policy, the sender shall be informed that the concern is being forwarded to the appropriate department/authority for further action, as deemed necessary.

## 6. DECISION AND REPORTING

If an investigation leads to a conclusion that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the investigation team shall make recommendations for appropriate disciplinary or corrective action as it may deem fit. Any disciplinary or corrective action initiated against the Subject, as a result of the findings of an investigation pursuant to this Policy, shall adhere to the applicable disciplinary procedures established by the Company.

The investigation shall be deemed as closed upon conclusion of the inquiry and implementation of recommended disciplinary action, if any, which may include recovery proceedings, initiation of legal proceedings, or reporting as required by the Company's policies. A quarterly report of complaints received under the Policy and their outcome shall be placed before the Audit Committee.

## 7. CONFIDENTIALITY

The Complainant, Subject, General Counsel, members of the Audit Committee, every officer of the Company tasked with investigation shall maintain confidentiality of all matters under this Policy; discuss the same only to the extent or with those persons as required under this Policy for completing the process of investigations or as required for the purposes of complying with applicable laws; and keep all related documents/papers in safe custody.

## 8. PROTECTION AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- (i) No unfair treatment will be meted out to / tolerated against a Whistle Blower on account of his/her having reported a Protected Disclosure under this Policy. The Company condemns any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimization, retaliation or any other unfair employment practice being adopted against Whistle Blowers. Complete protection will, therefore, be given to Whistle Blowers against any unfair practice like retaliation, threat or intimidation of termination / suspension of service, disciplinary action, transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion or the like including any direct or indirect use of authority to obstruct the Whistle Blower's right to continue to perform his duties / functions including making further Protected Disclosure(s).
- (ii) The identity of the Whistle Blower shall be kept confidential to the extent possible and permitted under law. Any other employee assisting in the said investigation shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistle Blower.
- (iii) While it will be ensured that genuine Whistle Blowers are accorded complete protection from any kind of unfair treatment, any abuse of the Whistleblower Mechanism will warrant disciplinary action. Protection under this Policy would not mean protection from disciplinary action in accordance with the rules, procedures and policies of the Company arising out of false or bogus allegations made by a Whistle Blower knowing it to be false or bogus or with a *mala fide* intention. This will also apply to any employees, who make false statements or give false evidence during the investigations.

**9. CONTACT DETAILS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

The Complainant shall have the right to access chairman of the Audit Committee directly in appropriate or exceptional cases, and the chairman of the Audit committee is authorised to prescribe suitable directions in this regard, as may be deemed fit.

The contact details of the Chairman of the Audit Committee are as under:

Chairman of Audit Committee

E-mail ID: [chairman.auditcommittee@paytm.com](mailto:chairman.auditcommittee@paytm.com)

**10. COMMUNICATION**

This Policy shall be published on the intranet and on the website of the Company.

**11. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS**

All Protected Disclosures received in writing or documented along with the results of investigation relating thereto, shall be retained by the Company for a period of 8 (eight) years or such other period as specified by any other law in force, whichever is more.

**12. REVIEW/ AMENDMENT AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM**

The Company reserves its right to amend or modify this Policy in whole or in part, at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever in accordance with applicable laws.

Anyone who wants to raise grievance relating to this Policy, regarding contents or provisions hereof, should reach out to the General Counsel at [whistleblower@paytm.com](mailto:whistleblower@paytm.com).