Gaining Assurance - Ethical and Professional

Using Ethical Governance Audits to assess good governance and accountability

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Ethical Governance and its outcomes

• Doing the right things in the right way with the right people (Audit Commission)
• The qualities of good governance, such as integrity, legitimacy, accountability, and adherence to a commonly understood standard of behaviour (PASC)
• Seven principles of Public Life (Nolan)
• UK Corporate Governance Code (FRC)
• Good Governance Standard for Public Services

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Methodology

• Establish required ethical outcomes
• Document review (68 – from Whistleblowing policy to Board and Committee matrix)
• E-survey of staff (85% return rate)
• Fieldwork – Observations, interviews and focus groups with staff and external stakeholders
• Gap analysis and recommendations
• Implementation plan
So far

• Drakes 2005 – commissioned by MoJ internal audit following Whisteblower programme
• Marston 2009 and 2013
• Rossendales 2014
• Swift Credit 2014/15
Overall Findings

• Marston is an open and honest organisation that has significantly improved its transparency and accountability.

• We can confirm that Marston is doing the right things now and is finding ways to ensure it will do them in the right way both now and in the future.

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In Conclusion

• Assurance to clients
• Public sector values
• Best in class
• Ethical values throughout organisations
• Can be part of bidding and evaluation processes
• Transparency at its heart – PAC

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