

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

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So far

- Drakes 2005 – commissioned by MoJ internal audit following Whistleblower programme
- Marston 2009 and 2013
- Rossendales 2014
- Swift Credit 2014/15

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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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