# **VIGIL MECHANISM / WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY**

Version: 1.0

Effective Date Immediate

# **Version History**

Version	Date	Description of Changes
1.0	30.07.2019	First Version Released
2.0	22.04.2024	Amendment in policy pursuant to change in Whistle Blower Officer approved by the Board of Directors in meeting held on April 22, 2024

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Description	Signature
Proposed By:	
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Company Secretary & Compliance Officer	
Reviewed By:	
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Chief Financial Officer	
Approved By:	
Amit Sharma	
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer	

## VIGIL MECHANISM

## VIGIL MECHANISM / WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

#### **PREFACE**

Pursuant to provisions of section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013, certain class of companies shall establish a Whistle Blower policy / Vigil Mechanism for the directors and employees to report genuine concerns or grievances about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's Ethics. Such a vigil mechanism shall provide for adequate safeguards against victimization of directors and employees who avail of such mechanism and also make provisions for direct access to the Chairperson of Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

#### POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Company is committed to adhere to the highest standards of ethical, moral and legal conduct of business operations. To maintain these standards, the Company encourages its employees who have concerns about suspected misconduct to come forward and express these concerns without fear of punishment or unfair treatment. A Vigil (Whistle Blower) mechanism provides a channel to the employees and Directors to report to the management concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Codes of conduct or legal or regulatory requirements incorrect or misrepresentation of any financial statements and reports, etc.

## SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This Policy intends to cover serious concerns that could have grave impact on the operations and performance of the business of the Company and malpractices and events which have taken place / suspected to have taken place, misuse or abuse of authority, fraud or suspected fraud, violation of company rules, manipulations, negligence causing danger to public health and safety, misappropriation of monies, and other matters or activity on account of which the interest of the Company is affected and formally reported by whistle blowers concerning its employees.

The policy neither releases employees from their duty of confidentiality in the course of their work, nor is it a route for taking up a grievance about a personal situation.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- "Audit Committee" means the Audit Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Company in accordance with Sec 177 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- "Employee" means every employee of the Company, including the Directors in the employment of the Company.
- "Protected Disclosure" means a concern raised by a written communication made in good
  faith that discloses or demonstrates information that may evidence unethical or improper
  activity. Protected Disclosures should be factual and not speculative in nature
- "Subject" means a person against or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure has been made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation.
- "Whistle Blower" means an Employee making a Protected Disclosure under this Policy.
- "Company" means Satin Housing Finance Limited

## **ELIGIBILITY**

All Employees of the Company are eligible to make Protected Disclosures under the Policy in relation to matters concerning the Company.

#### RECEIPT AND DISPOSAL OF PROTECTED DISCLOSURES:

- All Protected Disclosures should be reported in writing by the complainant as soon as possible
  after the Whistle Blower becomes aware of the same so as to ensure a clear understanding of
  the issues raised and should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English.
- The Protected Disclosure should be submitted in a closed and secured envelope and should be super scribed as "Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy". Alternatively, the same can also be sent through email with the subject "Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy". If the complaint is not super scribed and closed as mentioned above, it will not be possible for the Audit Committee to protect the complainant and the protected disclosure will be dealt with as if a normal disclosure. In order to protect identity of the complainant, the Whistle Blower Officer will not issue any acknowledgement to the complainants and they are advised neither to write their name/address on the envelope nor enter into any further correspondence with the Whistle Blower Officer. The Whistle Blower Officer shall assure that in case any further clarification is required he will get in touch with the complainant.
- The Company shall not entertain anonymous/pseudonymous disclosures.
- The Protected Disclosure should be forwarded under a covering letter signed by the
  complainant. The Whistle Blower Officer or to the Chairman of the Audit Committee as the
  case may be, shall detach the covering letter bearing the identity of the Whistle Blower and
  process only the Protected Disclosure.
- All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Whistle Blower Officer of the Company or to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases. The contact details of the Whistle Blower Officer are as under:-

Name and Address –

Mrs. Komal Sharma

Satin Housing Finance Limited

Plot no. 492, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, B Wing, Udyog Vihar, Phase-III, Gurugram-122016

E-mail: komal.sharma@satinhousingfinance.com

Protected Disclosure against the Whistle Blower Officer should be addressed to the Chairman
of the Company and the Protected Disclosure against the Chairman of the Company should be
addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Address of Chairman of Audit Committee

Plot no. 492, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, B Wing, Udyog Vihar, Phase-III, Gurugram-122016

E-mail: compliance@satinhousingfinance.com

On receipt of the protected disclosure, the Whistle Blower Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee, as the case may be, shall make a record of the Protected Disclosure and also ascertain from the complainant whether he was the person who made the protected disclosure or not. The record will include:

- Brief facts;
- Whether the same Protected Disclosure was raised previously by anyone, and if so, the outcome thereof;
- Whether the same Protected Disclosure was raised previously on the same subject;
- o Details of actions taken by Whistle Officer / Chairman for processing the complaint;
- o Findings of the Audit Committee;

- The recommendations of the Audit Committee/ other action(s).
- The Audit Committee, if deems fit, may call for further information or particulars from the complainant.

#### INVESTIGATION

- All Protected Disclosures reported under this Policy will be thoroughly investigated by the Whistle
  Officers of the Company who will investigate / oversee the investigations under the authorization of the
  Audit committee. Chairman of the Audit Committee /Whistle officer may at its discretion consider
  involving any investigators for the purpose of Investigation.
- The decision to conduct an investigation taken into a Protected Disclosure by itself is not an acceptance of the accusation by the Authority and is to be treated as a neutral fact-finding process because the outcome of the investigation may or may not support accusation.
- The identity of a Subject will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the legitimate needs of the investigation.
- Unless there are compelling reasons not to do so, Subjects will be given reasonable opportunity for hearing their side during the investigation. No allegation of wrong doing against a Subject shall be considered as maintainable unless there is good evidence in support of the allegation.
- Subjects shall have a duty to co-operate with the Whistle Officer(s) / Audit Committee during investigation to the extent that such co-operation sought does not merely require them to admit guilt.
- Subjects shall have right to access any document/information for their legitimate need to clarify/defend themselves in the investigation proceedings.
- Subjects shall have a responsibility not to interfere with the investigation. Evidence shall not be
  withheld, destroyed or tampered with, and witnesses shall not be influenced, coached, threatened or
  intimidated by the Subjects.
- Subjects have a right to be informed of the outcome of the investigation. If allegations are not sustained, the Subjects shall be consulted as to whether public disclosure of the investigation results would be in the best interest of the Subject and the Company.
- Whistle Officer shall normally complete the investigation within 60 days of the receipt of protected disclosure.
- In case of allegations against subject are substantiated by the Whistle Officer in his report, the Audit Committee shall give an opportunity to Subject to explain his side.

## **PROTECTION**

• No unfair treatment will be met out to a Whistle Blower by virtue of his/her having reported a Protected Disclosure under this policy. The company, as a policy, condemns any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimization 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. The Company will take steps to minimize difficulties, which the Whistle Blower may experience as a result of making the Protected Disclosure. Thus, if the Whistle Blower is required to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings, the Company will arrange for the Whistle Blower to receive advice about the procedure, etc.

- A Whistle Blower may report any violation of the above clause to the Chairman of the Audit Committee,
   who shall investigate into the same and recommend suitable action to the management.
- 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.

## SECRECY / CONFIDENTIALITY

The complainant, Whistle Blower Officer, Members of Audit Committee, the Subject and everybody involved in the process shall:

- Maintain confidentiality of all matters under this Policy.
- Discuss only to the extent or with those persons as required under this policy for completing the process of investigations.
- Not keep the papers unattended anywhere at any time.
- Keep the electronic mails / files under password and safe custody.

#### **DECISION**

- If an investigation leads the Whistle Blower Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Whistle Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee shall recommend to the management of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action as he may deem fit. It is clarified that 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 personnel or staff conduct and disciplinary procedures.
- If the report of investigation is not to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant has the right to report the event to the appropriate legal or investigating agency. A complainant who makes false allegations of unethical & improper practices or about alleged wrongful conduct of the subject to the Whistle Officer or the Audit Committee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the rules, procedures and policies of the Company.

#### REPORTING

The Whistle Blower Officer shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Audit Committee on a regular basis about all Protected Disclosures referred to him/her since the last report together with the results of investigations, if any.

#### ACCESS TO CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Whistle Blower shall have right to access Chairman of the Audit Committee directly in exceptional cases and the Chairman of the Audit Committee is authorized to prescribe suitable directions in this regard.

## **COMMUNICATION**

A whistle Blower policy cannot be effective unless it is properly communicated to employees. The policy should be published on the website of the company.

## RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

All Protected disclosures in writing or documented along with the results of Investigation relating thereto, shall be retained by the Company for a period of 7 (seven) years or such other period as specified by any other law in force, whichever is more.

## ADMINISTRATION AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY

Annual status report on the total number of compliant received if any during the period with summary of the findings of Whistle Officer / Audit Committee and corrective steps taken should be send to the Chairman of the company.

#### **AMENDMENT**

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