

Fujitsu defrauding the taxpayer and victimising whistleblowers

What's happened and what does it mean?

What is the dispute about?

Fujitsu has used the cover of redundancies to get rid of workers who blew the whistle on unethical and possibly illegal company behaviour. On 12 January 2018 Fujitsu dismissed Unite rep Ian Allinson. Ian and other Unite representatives have raised serious concerns.

Did whistleblowers raise concerns about defrauding the taxpayer?

Whistleblowers raised the following extremely serious and damaging issues with the company before Ian's dismissal, including:

- Defrauding a public-sector customer
- Service delivery problems, including putting public services at risk and data security / protection issues
- Failure to take action on allegations of sex discrimination, victimisation and bullying

What evidence do you have that Fujitsu defrauded the taxpayer?

When a public sector customer took a contract back in house from Fujitsu, Unite reps obtained documentation showing that HR encouraged a manager to decide who was included in the TUPE transfer of staff based on their desire to cut costs and Fujitsu headcount rather than whether employees were genuinely working on the contract, trying to dump Fujitsu's redundancy costs onto the taxpayer.

Did Fujitsu threaten Ian's colleagues?

Fujitsu threatened to stop bonuses for the entire year for anyone who took part in any strike action at all. For some staff this can be more than a third of their annual earnings.

Why does Unite believe whistleblowers are being unfairly targeted?

- Union reps, including Ian Allinson, have previously been targeted with spurious disciplinary allegations for legitimate union activity.
- Redundancy selection scoring directly referencing a union rep's role and disability.
- A fake selection pool, different to all others in the redundancy programme, and excluding many people doing similar work.
- Ian was dismissed without considering him for a redeployment opportunity he had applied for.

Unite believes that Fujitsu is trying to silence whistleblowers by dismissing some and by showing that it can make compulsory redundancies even when these are unjustified and in breach of its agreements, employees' contracts or the law.

Fujitsu's behaviour is a public concern

Taxpayers and clients need to know what is going on at Fujitsu. Allegations of fraud and poor delivery should not be covered up and those blowing the whistle should not be sacked.

What does Unite want?

1. Transparency on all issues related to taxpayer funded contracts.
2. Reinstatement for Unite rep Ian Allinson.
3. Reinstatement or suitable redeployment for the small group of unfairly-targeted Unite members fighting for their jobs in Fujitsu.
4. A voice for Fujitsu workers, including adherence to agreements and the UN Global Compact ethical standards.

If you have concerns call the 'Fujitsu Whistleblowers' Hotline on: 0800 852 7479 or Fujitsu.whistleblowers@unitetheunion.org