Workplace Investigations

Contributing Editors

Phil Linnard at Slaughter and May Clare Fletcher at Slaughter and May

04. Who should conduct a workplace investigation, are there minimum qualifications or criteria that need to be met?



Spain

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As set out in question 1, workplace investigations must be proportional and companies must use the least intrusive means to affect employees' rights. This translates into the following principles on who conducts the investigation:

- the enquiry must involve a minimal number of employees;
- only those employees with competencies on the investigated matters should be involved (normally human resources or compliance); and
- employees conducting the investigation must be qualified and have the power and seniority to do so proficiently (although a formal qualification is not required).

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The examinations can be carried out internally by designated internal employees, by external specialists, or by a combination thereof. The addition of external advisors is particularly recommended if the allegations are against an employee of a high hierarchical level[1], if the allegations concerned are quite substantive and, in any case, where an increased degree of independence is sought.

[1] David Rosenthal et al., Praxishandbuch für interne Untersuchungen und eDiscovery, Release 1.01, Zürich/Bern 2021, p. 18.

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