

Ethics Line summary

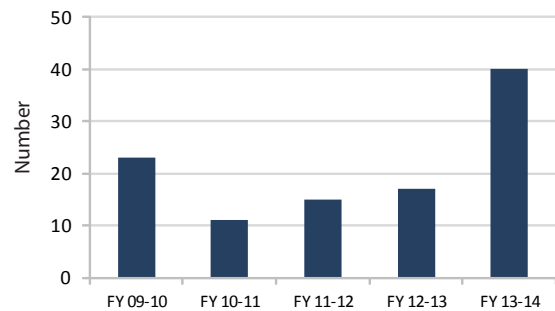
The Ethics Line gives employees and the public a way to report waste, inefficiency or abuse of resources. The Metro Auditor administers the Ethics Line in consultation with upper management and the human resources director. Cases may be handled by human resources personnel if it is possible that disciplinary action may occur. In some cases, upper management will assign an investigation to a department director if the report involves a service or program in that department. The Auditor reserves the right to conduct an audit on any report received.

Forty reports were received in FY 2013-14, more than in any other year. About one-half of the reports were related to the Oregon Zoo. There is a wide variety in the nature of the reports in terms of specificity and identified problem. As a result, they cannot be categorized or summarized easily. Twenty-seven of the reports were successfully investigated. In 12 cases, the information was confirmed and in 11 cases the information was unfounded. In four cases, the information was inaccurate and no determination could be made. The most frequent action that is taken in response to a report is to relay information to the person reporting the concern that explains why the incident occurred. In nine of the cases, some level of personnel action was taken.

Reports received

FY 2009-10 to FY 2013-14

The number of ethics line cases received each year varied. The highest number to date was 40 reports in FY 2013-14.



Average days to close

FY 2009-10 to FY 2013-14

According to best practices, cases should be resolved in 30 days or less to be responsive to the person reporting. Since FY 2010-11, this standard has mostly been met.

