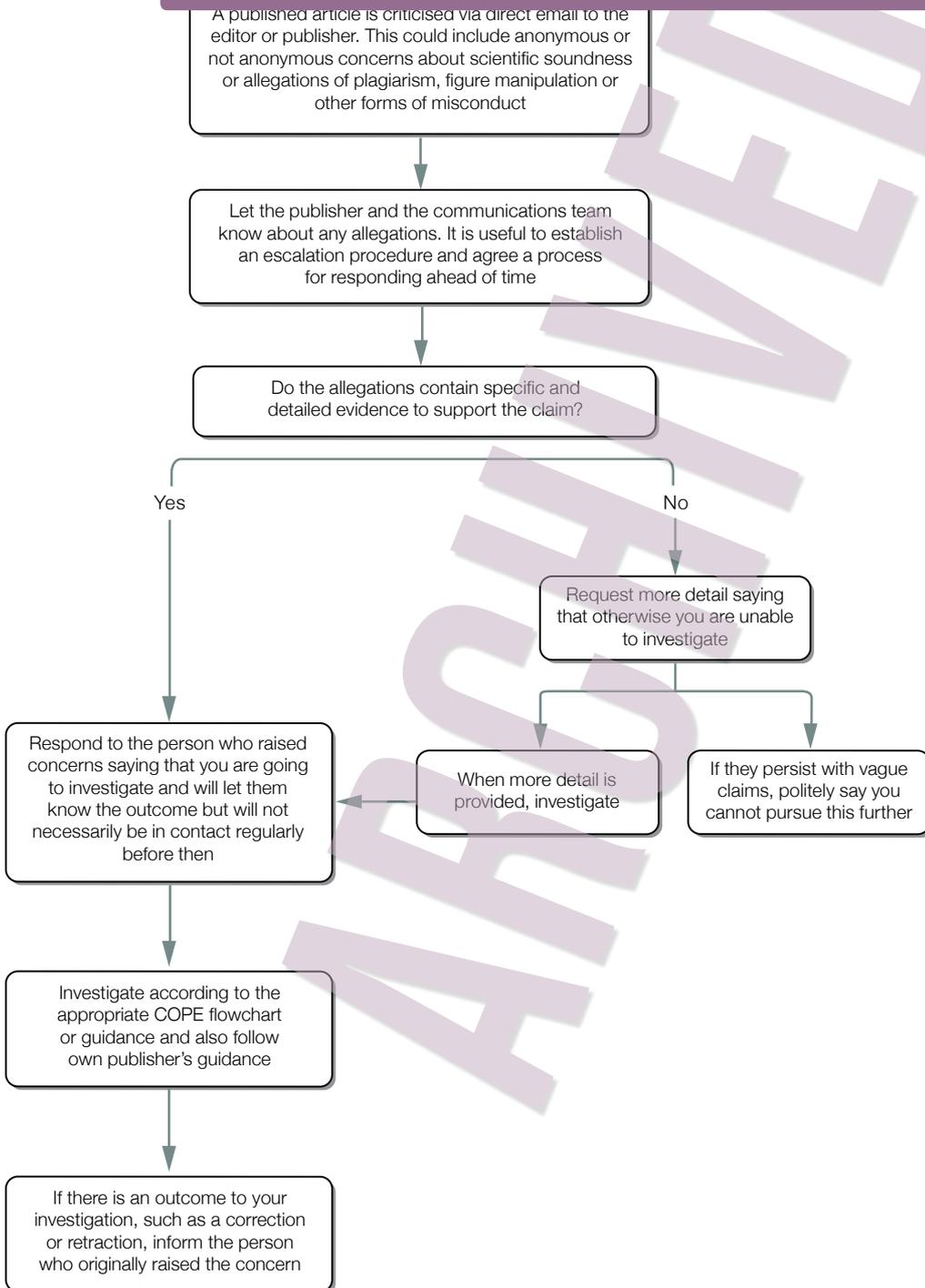




# How to respond to whistle blowers when concerns are raised directly

**YOU ARE VIEWING AN ARCHIVED VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT**  
View the latest version at  
<https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.2.25>



**Note**  
The tone of the allegations may be aggressive or personal. Respond politely; don't get drawn into personal exchanges

**Note**  
Sometimes the whistle blower may prefer to remain anonymous. It is important not to try to "out" people who wish to be anonymous

Developed in collaboration with BioMed Central

© 2015 Committee on Publication Ethics and BioMed Central

**Version one**  
Published November 2015

A non-exclusive licence to reproduce these flowcharts may be applied for by writing to: [cope\\_administrator@publicationethics.org](mailto:cope_administrator@publicationethics.org)