

# Protected Disclosures of Information



## Annual Report

### Protected Disclosures 2021

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 allows workers to disclose information about wrongdoing in the workplace by ensuring workers who speak up are protected from penalisation. Disclosures can be made by workers to any manager and also to a range of other parties including relevant Government Ministers, prescribed bodies and other parties. A protected disclosure is a disclosure of information which in the reasonable belief of the worker tends to show one or more relevant wrongdoings.

While disclosers in most cases are not fully clear about the relevant wrongdoing heading under which their concern relates, in general terms they tend to fall within the following areas:

1. That the health or safety of any individual has been, is being or is likely to be endangered
2. That an unlawful or otherwise improper use of funds or resources of a public body, or of other public money, has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur
3. That an act or omission by or on behalf of a public body is oppressive, discriminatory or grossly negligent or constitutes gross mismanagement
4. A combination of the above.

In a small number of cases the communication received may not appear to fall within the framework for Protected Disclosures.

The breakdown below categorises the Protected Disclosures made under the heading which is most relevant to the concerns raised. In many cases Protected Disclosures span a number of relevant areas of wrongdoing. That is why the category 'combination of the above' accounts for the highest number of disclosures.

The information below reflects information related to 2021, provided in returns received up to 17 February 2022.

Protected Disclosures 2021	
Disclosure Heading	Number
Alleged misuse of resources	2
Health and safety of an individual	0
Alleged mismanagement	16
Combination of the above	38
Other contacts / notifications	1
Not within the Framework	8
<b>Total*</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Number of 2021 disclosures open as of 17.02.2022</b>	<b>38</b>

\*2020 total was 54