

**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the
Department of Justice and Equality (Vote 24) 2016**



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Introduction

Under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosure Act 2014 each public body is required to publish an annual report setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). This report must not result in persons making disclosures being identifiable.

Background to Protected Disclosures policy

The policy introduced by the Department of Justice and Equality under the terms of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 is designed to facilitate and encourage all workers to raise internally genuine concerns about possible wrongdoing in the workplace so that these concerns can be investigated following the principles of natural justice and addressed in a manner appropriate to the circumstances of the case. The policy is published at :

[DJE Protected Disclosures Policy March 2015](#)

Table 1 - Summary of Disclosures Received 2016

Status of Disclosure / Correspondence	2016	Upheld
Correspondences purporting to be Potential Disclosures Received	10	
Of the above, do not relating to D/Justice (Vote 24)	7	
Correspondences assessed as not being Protected Disclosures and Closed	2	
Ongoing	1*	
*received end December 2016		

In 2016, ten reports were received by the Department/Minister purporting to be or having the characteristics of a Protected Disclosure. Of these 7 did not relate to the Department or any Body under the Minister's remit. Of the

remaining three, on examination two were deemed not to be Protected Disclosures. The final correspondence is being treated as a Protected Disclosure.

Recommendations made in relation to 2016 disclosures

Regardless of the outcome of the protected disclosure assessment or investigation, the process may highlight an issue of concern or compliance and an audit recommendation may be appropriate. No such recommendations were made in 2016.

S18 Taoiseach appointed recipient

In May 2017 the Taoiseach appointed Judge Cooke as the recipient under S18 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 which relates to matters of security, defence, international relations and intelligence. The Department of Justice and Equality has amended its procedures and checklists to take account of the appointment.

Appendix 1 – Details of Offices/Agencies that have adopted the policy

The Executive Offices or Agencies which come under the aegis of Vote 24 –which have adopted the Department’s policy are as follows:

Unit/ Agency	Date Adopted
Charity Regulation Authority	29/04/2015
Criminal Assets Bureau	15/03/2017
Garda Inspectorate	13/06/2017
Forensic Science Ireland	29/04/2015
Irish Film Classification Office	29/04/2015
Insolvency Service of Ireland	23/04/2016
National Property Services Regulatory Authority	08/05/2015
Office of the Data Protection Commissioner	23/04/2015
Office of the State Pathologist	05/05/2015
Private Security Authority	26/06/2015
Probation Service	29/04/2015
Reception and Integration Agency	20/05/2015
Refugee Appeals Tribunal*	18/05/2015

Note: The Legal Aid Board, the National Disability Authority, the Ordnance Survey Ireland, and Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, are responsible for having their own Protected Disclosures Policy in place and will report separately.