

**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the
Department of Justice and Equality (Vote 24) 2017**



**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the
Department of Justice and Equality (Vote 24)
in 2017**

Introduction

Under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures 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:

[Department of Justice and Equality, Protected Disclosures Policy March 2015](#)

Note: This Policy is under review with the intention to finalise a new Protected Disclosures Policy in 2018.

Table 1 - Summary of Disclosures Received 2017

Status of Disclosure / Correspondence	2017
Correspondences received in 2017 purporting to be Potential Protected Disclosures.	8
Do not relate to the Department of Justice and Equality (Vote 24)	2
Correspondence assessed as not being Protected Disclosures and closed	6

Note: One Disclosure, received in December 2016, was ongoing at the end of 2017.

**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the
Department of Justice and Equality (Vote 24) 2017**

In 2017, eight reports were received by the Department/Minister purporting to be or having the characteristics of a Protected Disclosure. Of these, two did not relate to the Department or any Body under the Ministers remit. The remaining six reports, following examination, were deemed not Protected Disclosures.

Recommendations made in relation to 2017 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 2017.

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

The Executive Offices or Agencies which come under the aegis of Vote 24 – Department of Justice and Equality who 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
International Protection 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.