

**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the
Department of Justice and Equality (Vote 21)2017**



**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the
Irish Prison Service (Vote 21)
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 Irish Prison Service 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: [Irish Prison Service Protected Disclosures Policy 2015](#)

The Irish Prison Service issued a new Protected Disclosures Policy on 1st July 2018. The policy states that the assessment and investigation of protected disclosures will be carried out by an external assessor and an external investigator. Protected Disclosures will be received and managed by the Irish Prison Service Protected Disclosures Manager.

The policy is published at: [Irish Prison Service Protected Disclosures Policy 2018](#)

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Table 1 - Summary of Disclosures Received in 2017

Status of Disclosure / Correspondence	2017
Correspondences purporting to be Potential Disclosures	6
Disclosure closed on preliminary assessment	4
Correspondences investigated	2

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

In 2017, six reports were received by the Irish Prison Service/Minister purporting to be or having the characteristics of a Protected Disclosure. Of these four were deemed not to be protected disclosures on assessment. The remaining two were under investigation at the end of 2017.

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.