



An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2023



Report on Protected Disclosures received in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for the year ending 31st December 2023

Under Section 22(5) of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014 (the Act) 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.

This is the report of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for year ending 31 December 2023.

Following the introduction of the new Protected Disclosures legislation on the 1 January 2023 and as required by the Act, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has established a dedicated internal reporting channel to facilitate staff to report potential wrongdoing. The Department also has comprehensive procedures in place to assist staff in making a report.

In 2023 there was one report of a potential protected disclosure received through the Departments internal reporting channel and a further six reports sent to the Department by the Office of the Protected Disclosures Commission (OPDC).

In summary the matters raised were;

- A report to the Minister from a former employee of a body under the remit of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, referred to the Department by the OPDC. The Department assessed the report and the report was closed as a repetitive report under Section 10 of the Act.
- An anonymous report referred to the Department by the OPDC, concerning alleged irregularities at a private company co-funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Department assessed the report and decided that this matter was not a protected disclosure within the meaning of the Act.
- Correspondence referred to the Department by the OPDC from a member of the public referencing a matter in which an Office of the Department had been involved. The Department assessed the report and decided that this matter was not a protected disclosure within the meaning of the Act.
- An anonymous report referred to the Department by the OPDC, concerning alleged irregularities at a private company co-funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The Department assessed the report and decided that this matter was not a protected disclosure within the meaning of the Act.
- Correspondence to the Department claiming alleged fraudulent activity by a State Company. No discernible wrongdoing could be established relating to any body

under this Departments remit. The report was closed and the reporting person notified.

- Correspondence referred to the Department by the OPDC from members of a Trade Union regarding governance issues within a Union. The Department assessed the report and determined that the Minister had no remit to investigate the matters raised. The report was returned to the Office of the Protected Disclosures Commission who agreed that the matter to which the report related did not come within the remit of the Department.
- An anonymous report referred to the Department by the OPDC, claiming possible fraudulent activity by persons using the Employment Permits system. The Department has sought additional information from the reporting person and is awaiting this information to determine if prima facie evidence exists to progress the report.

No protected disclosures were received from workers of the Department in the period covered by this report.

February 2024