

Report on Protected Disclosures received by the Data Protection Commission in 2022

The policy operated by the Data Protection Commission (DPC) under the terms of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 is designed to facilitate and encourage all workers to raise genuine concerns about possible internal 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.

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires public bodies to prepare and publish, by 30 June in each year, a report in relation to the previous year in an anonymised form.

Pursuant to this requirement, the DPC confirms that in 2022:

- No internal protected disclosures (from staff of the DPC) were received.
- 13 potential protected disclosures (set out in the table below) were received from individuals external to the DPC in relation to issues pertaining to data protection within other entities. These issues were raised with the DPC in its role as a 'prescribed person' as provided for under Section 7 of the Protected Disclosures Act (listed in SI 364/2020). Five of the disclosures were accepted as valid protected disclosures.

Reference Number	Type	Date Received	Status	Outcome
01/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	05 Jan 2022	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure. Referred as a potential complaint.

02/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	28 Jan 2022	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complaint did not follow up when requested.
03/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	22 Mar 2022	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complaint did not follow up when requested.
04/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	28 Mar 2022	Closed	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Case concluded.
05/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	05 Apr 2022	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
06/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	23 May 2022	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complaint did not follow up when requested.
07/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	19 Aug 2022	Closed	Complaint withdrawn.
08/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	25 Oct 2022	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, referred as a potential complaint.
09/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	26 Oct 2022	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, referred as a potential complaint.

10/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	27 Oct 2022	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
11/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	08 Nov 2022	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
12/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	15 Nov 2022	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
13/2022	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	08 Dec 2022	Under Consideration	Currently under consideration.