

Report on Protected Disclosures received by the Data Protection Commission in 2024

The policy operated by the Data Protection Commission (DPC) under the terms of the Protected Disclosures Acts 2014 and 2022 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, substituted by Section 30 of the Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022, requires public bodies to prepare and publish, by 1 March in each year, a report in relation to the previous year in an anonymised form.

Pursuant to this requirement, the DPC confirms that in 2024:

Fifty-two (52) 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). Nineteen of the disclosures were accepted as valid protected disclosures.

Reference Number	Type	Date Received	Status	Outcome
01/2024	Section 7 (external, to ‘prescribed person’)	3 January 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.

02/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	12 January 2024	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, referred as a potential complaint.
03/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	21 January 2024	Closed	Submission was not a protected disclosure. DPC not the intended authority.
04/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	2 February 2024	Closed	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
05/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	8 February 2024	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, redirect to the Info Unit.
06/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	7 February 2024	Folded into preexisting case.	The report was incorporated as a part of an existing protected disclosure case.
07/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	21 February 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
08/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	1 March 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
09/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	5 March 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.

10/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	5 March 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
11/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	19 March 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
12/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	28 March 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
13/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	10 April 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
14/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	19 April 2024	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, redirect to the Info Unit.
15/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	30 April 2024	Closed	Reporting person requested that their case be closed.
16/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	9 May 2024	Closed	Accepted. DPC engaged with the organisation and were satisfied with their policies. Case was concluded.
17/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	27 May 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.

18/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	24 May 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
19/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	10 June 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
20/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	6 June 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
21/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	26 June 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
22/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	24 June 2024	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, redirect to the Info Unit.
23/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	3 July 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
24/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	4 July 2024	Closed	Accepted. DPC engaged with the organisation and were satisfied with their policies. Case was concluded.
25/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	28 June 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when

				requested.
26/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	16 July 2024	Closed	Accepted. DPC engaged with the organisation and were satisfied with their policies. Case was concluded.
27/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	19 July 2024	Closed	Accepted. DPC engaged with the organisation and were satisfied with their policies. Case was concluded.
28/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	23 July 2024	Closed	Accepted. Case was transferred to another supervisory authority (SA). The DPC concluded the case on its end.
29/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	27 July 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
30/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	29 July 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
31/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	31 July 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.

32/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	1 August 2024	Closed	Engaging with complainant at year end.
33/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	2 August 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
34/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	6 August 2024	Closed	Accepted. DPC engaged with the organisation and were satisfied with their policies. Case was concluded.
35/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	9 August 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
36/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	13 August 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
37/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	21 August 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
38/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	22 August 2024	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, redirect to the Info Unit.
39/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	3 September 2024	Closed	Reporting person requested that their case be closed.

40/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	11 September 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
41/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	23 September 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
42/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	9 October 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
43/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	14 October 2024	Open	Engaging with complainant at year end.
44/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	4 November 2024	Closed	Not accepted as a valid protected disclosure, redirect to the Info Unit.
45/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	6 November 2024	Closed	Insufficient detail provided, complainant did not follow up when requested.
46/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	13 November 2024	Open	Engaging with complainant at year end.
47/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	21 November 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
48/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	21 November 2024	Open	Engaging with complainant at year end.

49/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	25 November 2024	Open	Accepted and referred for potential investigation. Ongoing at year-end.
50/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	28 November 2024	Open	Engaging with complainant at year end.
51/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	11 December 2024	Open	Engaging with complainant at year end.
52/2024	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person'	19 December 2024	Open	Engaging with complainant at year end.