

Protected Disclosures of Information



Annual Report Protected Disclosures 2020

Under the 2014 Protected Disclosures Act, disclosures can be made by workers to any manager and also to a range of other parties including relevant Government Ministers, prescribed bodies and other parties. The concerns are raised by workers who provide information which came to their attention in connection with their employment and which in their reasonable belief tends to show one or more relevant wrongdoings.

While disclosers, in most cases are not fully clear about the relevant wrongdoing heading under which their concern relates, in general terms they tend to fall within the following wrongdoing headings:

1. that the health or safety of any individual has been, is being or is likely to be endangered;
2. that an unlawful or otherwise improper use of funds or resources of a public body, or of other public money, has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur;
3. that an act or omission by or on behalf of a public body is oppressive, discriminatory or grossly negligent or constitutes gross mismanagement; or
4. a combination of those outlined above.

The breakdown below is a reflection of the Protected Disclosures made under the heading which is more relevant to the concerns raised though in many cases, as can be seen; the Protected Disclosures span a number of relevant wrongdoings. The broad nature of the relevant wrongdoings in the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 makes it difficult to classify the disclosure and some disclosures could fit under a number of headings. That is why “combination” accounts for the highest percentage of disclosures

The list below reflects information related to 2020, provided in returns received up to 4 March 2021.

Protected Disclosures 2020	
Disclosure Heading	Number
Alleged misuse of resources	4
Health and safety of an individual	6
Alleged mismanagement	10
Combination of the above	29
Other contacts/ notifications	5
Total	54
Number of disclosure open as at 4 March 2021	32