



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

Protected Disclosures Annual Report

2024

Report on Protected Disclosures received in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for the year ending 31st December 2024

Under Section 22(5) of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014 (the Act) public bodies are required to publish an annual report setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and to detail any action taken, if any. The report must not contain information that may lead to the persons making the disclosures being identifiable.

This report for Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (the Department) for year ending 31 December 2024, is made pursuant to section 22(5) of the Act.

Following commencement of the Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022 on the 1 January 2023 and as required by the Act, the Department 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 2024 there was one report of a potential protected disclosure received through the Department's internal reporting channel and a further five reports were sent to the Department by the Office of the Protected Disclosures Commission (OPDC).

In summary the matters raised included:

- An anonymous report referred to the Department by the OPDC raising concerns in respect of a company allowing persons on Critical Skills Employment Permits to work from abroad in breach of the conditions of their permit. The Department assessed the report and based on the limited information provided found no prima facie evidence of wrongdoing within the meaning of the Act.
- Correspondence referred to the Department by the OPDC, raising concerns that a State body under the Department's remit does not support SMEs in claims of unfair competition against state bodies. Following the Department's assessment of the report, it was decided that this matter was not a protected disclosure within the meaning of the Act.
- Two separate reports were referred to the Department by the OPDC from two individuals raising allegations of immigration fraud and bribery at a named company. The Department assessed both reports and found there was no prima facie evidence of wrongdoing within the meaning of the Act.
- A report by a member of the public to the Department raised allegations of bias in a public body under its remit. The Department assessed the report and found there was no prima facie evidence of wrongdoing within the meaning of the Act.
- A report referred to the Department by the OPDC, concerning alleged breaches of Employment Permit Legislation. The report was returned to the OPDC who agreed that the matter to which the report related was more relevant to the Workplace Relations Commission.
- No protected disclosures were received from workers of the Department in the period covered by this report.

February 2025