



**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the  
Irish Prison Service (Vote 21)  
2015**

June 2016

## **Introduction**

The policy introduced by the Irish Prison Service under the terms of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 is designed to facilitate and encourage all workers to raise internally genuine concerns about possible 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 Disclosure Act 2014 requires public bodies to prepare and publish, by 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year, a report in relation to the previous year in an anonymised form.

## **Background to Protected Disclosures policy**

The Director of Staff and Corporate Services of the Irish Prison Service approved the Protected Disclosures Policy (which is published at [www.irishprisons.ie](http://www.irishprisons.ie)) for Vote 21 in October 2015. It was also published in the Irish Prison Service News Q4 edition 2015.

The Policy meets the requirements laid out in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Guidance document on Protected Disclosures which was made available in December 2015.

Responsibility for investigating disclosures under the policy was assigned through the management structure up to the Head of Internal Audit who reports to the Department's Audit Committee comprising an independent chair and four members, three of whom are independent of the Department.

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**Disclosures received in 2015**

**Table 1 - Summary of Disclosures Received 2015**

<b>Status of Disclosure</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Upheld</b>
Received in 2015	1	
Closed	1	0

In 2015, one anonymous report was submitted to Internal Audit that was inferred to fall under Protected Disclosure legislation.

The report was deemed a protected disclosure however evidence was not available to make a definitive determination on this report.

**Recommendations made in relation to 2015 disclosures**

Regardless of the outcome of the report an issue of concern or compliance may come to the attention of Internal Audit and an audit recommendation may be appropriate. Two such recommendations were made in 2015 in relation to the disclosure received and their implementation is tracked by the Internal Audit Unit and reported to the Irish Prison Service.

## Table 2 - Summary of 2015 disclosures

### 2015 Disclosures received

PD No	Addressed to:	Date Received	Relates to	General Area	Outcome
PD2015/05	Internal Audit Unit	26/10/2016	Irish Prison Service	Human Resources	Closed due to inability to obtain supporting evidence. 2 recommendations made regarding area of concern
Note: PD2015/01-04 and PD2015/06 relate to the Department of Justice and Equality and are reported separately.					