



**Report on Protected Disclosures received in the  
Irish Prison Service (Vote 21)  
2016**

## Introduction

Under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosure Act 2014 each public body is required to publish an annual report setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). This report must not result in persons making disclosures being identifiable.

## Background to Protected Disclosures policy

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. The policy is published at:

[IPS Protected Disclosures Policy \(2015\)](#)

**Table 1 - Summary of Disclosures Received 2016**

<b>Status of Disclosure / Correspondence</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Upheld</b>
Correspondences purporting to be Potential Disclosures Received	7	
Disclosure closed on preliminary assessment	5	
Correspondences investigated	2	1*
* One disclosure was upheld, the second one was initially not upheld but 3 recommendations made. This result was overturned on external file review by the independent person appointed for this purpose under the IPS policy.		

In 2016, seven reports were received by the Irish Prison Service/Minister purporting to be or having the characteristics of a Protected Disclosure. Of these 5 were deemed not to be protected disclosures on assessment.

Of the remaining two, one was upheld on investigation. The second one was initially not upheld but 3 recommendations were made. This decision was overturned on external file review by the independent person appointed for this purpose under the IPS Policy.

### **Recommendations made in relation to 2016 disclosures**

Regardless of the outcome of the protected disclosure assessment or investigation, the process may highlight an issue of concern or compliance and an audit recommendation may be appropriate. Eight such recommendations were made in 2016.

### **S18 Taoiseach appointed recipient**

In May 2017 the Taoiseach appointed Judge Cooke as the recipient under S18 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 which relates to security, defence, international relations and intelligence. The Irish Prison Service has amended it's procedures and checklists to take account of the appointment.