

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR 2017 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22 OF THE PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ACT 2014**

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014 requires public bodies 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 who make disclosures under the legislation being identified.

This is the third annual report of the Department of Health. It covers the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

There have been 18 disclosures made to the Minister/Department in the reporting period. All were made under Section 6 or Section 8 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. This means the disclosures were not from employees of the Department and instead related to a worker or workers employed in a public body under the Minister/Department's remit, in the period covered by this report.

Nine of the disclosures, when assessed, were deemed not to be protected disclosures.

At 31 December 2017:

- Five disclosures had concluded following investigation.
- Four protected disclosures were active and ongoing. One was under consideration within the Department. One was submitted for legal advice. One was referred for independent review by the Department. The remaining active protected disclosure was referred to a State Body under the aegis of the Department for consideration/investigation. The State Body will report to the Minister/Department, in due course, on the outcome of the assessment/investigation of the issues raised.

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