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 fourth annual report of the Department of Health. It covers the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

There have been 23 individual 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, did not meet the criteria as set out under the Act.

Three disclosures were concluded following investigation.

There are 11 protected disclosures active and ongoing. Five of these have been referred to a State Body under the aegis of the Department for consideration/investigation and six are under consideration by the Department. In the case of the five disclosures referred, the relevant bodies will report to the Minister/Department on the outcome of assessments/investigations of the issues raised.

29 April, 2019