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## **Annual Report of Protected Disclosures Received in 2021**

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Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report by public bodies about the number of Protected Disclosures received in the preceding year and of actions taken in response. This is the annual report of Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (“the Agency”) for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

### **1 2021 cases**

In 2021, the Agency received one disclosure under its Protected Disclosures policy, in accordance with section 6 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. The disclosure was screened in under preliminary evaluation. The matter is being addressed internally.

### **2 Other disclosures received**

In 2021, the Department of Justice received a disclosure which named a number of bodies, including Tusla. Tusla committed to address any alleged wrongdoing and to full cooperation with any review or investigation by the Department of Justice.

### **3 Matters concluded**

Final reports were issued in respect of 3 protected disclosures investigations; a further matter was concluded under the protected disclosures policy by the implementation of corrective actions in relation to a social work practice.

### **4 Policy and structure**

In 2021 the Board approved a revised policy for protected disclosures. It also approved restructuring of the management of protected disclosures by an Internal Investigations Unit within Tusla’s Office of Legal Services.