
Annual Report of Protected Disclosures Received in 2022

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 2022 to 31 December 2022.

1 2022 cases

In 2022, the Agency received 6 disclosures under its Protected Disclosures policy, in accordance with section 6 of the *Protected Disclosures Act 2014*.

- One anonymous disclosure was concluded as the circumstances of the disclosure made further investigation not possible.
- Three disclosures were linked to previous ongoing investigations and were dealt with accordingly, with further investigation ongoing where required.
- Two disclosures were screened in under preliminary evaluation and are being addressed internally.

2 Other disclosures received

- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth received a disclosure involving a facility where children resided which was referred to Tusla in 2022. The disclosure was screened out by Tusla at Preliminary Evaluation (subsequently confirmed by an independent review). All associated child safety risk issues were addressed by Tusla.
- The Department of Justice referred a disclosure made to it in 2022 arising from family law proceedings. The matter is currently at Preliminary Evaluation stage.

3 Matters concluded

- A final report was issued in respect of one previous disclosure. A further matter was concluded through an external HIQA investigation process.

- One matter was concluded as the circumstances of the disclosure did not permit further investigation and one matter was screened out at Preliminary Evaluation (as above).

4 Policy and structure

- The day to day management of protected disclosures continues to be handled by the Tusla Internal Investigations Unit in accordance with the structural change effected by the Board in 2021.
- The Tusla Protected Disclosures Policy and Practice was reviewed in 2021 and approved by the Board. The Policy will be reviewed as against new legislation; the *Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act, 2022* which came into effect on 01 January 2023

April 2023