



PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 as amended by the Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022, protects workers in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors from retaliation if they speak up about wrongdoing in the workplace. Persons who make protected disclosures, sometimes referred to as whistleblowers, are protected by this law. They should not be treated unfairly or lose their job because they have made a protected disclosure. The EPA has in place internal reporting channels and procedures for the reporting of wrongdoings by its workers.

Pursuant to Statutory Instrument No. 339 of 2014, the Director General of the EPA, is prescribed to be the recipient of disclosures of relevant wrongdoings in relation to all matters relating to the protection of the environment in the State. The EPA also has external reporting channels and procedures pursuant to this statutory provision.

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (as amended) requires the publication of an Annual Report each year relating to the number of protected disclosures made in the preceding year and any actions taken in response to such disclosures.

From 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023, the EPA confirms the following with respect to;

- disclosures received as an employer, under Section 6 of the Act and;
- disclosures received as a Prescribed Person from parties external to the EPA.

Reporting Year 2023	Disclosures reported to EPA as an Employer	Disclosures reported to EPA as a Prescribed Person
Number of reports received by the EPA	0	7
Number of reports transmitted to the EPA under the legislation	0	6
Total	0	13
Investigative Process		
Number of valid reports received by the EPA concerning a breach	0	13
Number of investigations/proceedings opened by the EPA	0	12
Number of reports awaiting assessment as of year-end	0	1
Number of investigations/proceedings carried over from the preceding year	0	0
Number of investigations/proceedings closed by the EPA during the year	0	11
Number of investigations/proceedings remaining open as of year-end	0	1
Outcome		
In all of the reported cases of wrongdoing set out above, the EPA utilised the wide range of enforcement powers available to it, including statutory powers that are contained in environmental law.		
No financial fraud/damages were identified in any of the investigated cases of disclosure of wrongdoing. However, all cases involved some level of environmental damage.		