



2022 Protected Disclosures Annual Report



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Introduction

A protected disclosure is made when a person or worker discloses certain information in relation to a potential wrongdoing to a particular person in a particular way.

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (“the Act”) provides for the protection of persons from certain actions as a result of disclosures made by them in the public interest.

Section 22 of the Act places an obligation on the Medical Council to publish an annual report setting out the number of disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any) in response to such disclosures. This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2022.

The Act sets out a number of ways in which disclosures may be made – for example, to a person’s employer and, in some circumstances, to a prescribed person.

Section 6

Section 6 of the Act relates to the Medical Council’s role as an employer.

The Medical Council received one protected disclosure in this regard during the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. This disclosure has since been closed.

Each protected disclosure is assessed in accordance with standard Medical Council policy and procedures and, after assessment, appropriate actions including investigations, as and where relevant, are taken.

Section 7

Subject to section 7 of the Act, Statutory Instrument 367 of 2020 provides that the CEO of the Medical Council is a prescribed person to receive disclosures under the Act. These disclosures can be broadly defined as;

All matters within the functions of the Medical Council relating to the regulation of the medical profession in the State, including the quality of undergraduate education of doctors and of postgraduate training of specialists, the registration of doctors and disciplinary procedures, and guidance on professional standards and ethical conduct, as provided for by the [Medical Practitioners Act 2007](#). (S.I. No 367 of 2020)

Any disclosures received by the CEO as a prescribed person can only be dealt with in a way that is consistent with, and appropriate to the role, statutory rights and duties of the Medical Council.

No protected disclosures were received by the CEO as a prescribed person for the year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Reporting on the Act is also included within the Medical Council annual reports which are available on the Medical Council [website](#).



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