

Report on Protected Disclosures received by the Data Protection Commission in 2020

The policy operated by the Data Protection Commission (DPC) under the terms of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 is designed to facilitate and encourage all workers to raise internally genuine concerns about possible wrongdoing in the workplace so that these concerns can be investigated following the principles of natural justice and addressed in a manner appropriate to the circumstances of the case.

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires public bodies to prepare and publish, by 30th June in each year, a report in relation to the previous year in an anonymised form.

Pursuant to this requirement, the DPC confirms that in 2020

- No internal protected disclosures (from staff of the DPC) were received.
- Nine protected disclosures (set out in the table below) were received from individuals external to the DPC in relation to issues pertaining to data protection within other entities. These cases were raised with the DPC in its role as a 'prescribed person' as provided for under Section 7 of the Protected Disclosures Act (listed in SI 339/2014 as amended by SI 448/2015, replaced in September 2020 by SI 364/2020).

<i>Reference Number</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date Received</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
09/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	09 December 2020	Under Consideration	
08/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	16 September 2020	Under Consideration	

07/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	09 July 2020	Under Consideration	
06/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	26 May 2020	Closed	Made anonymously and not a protected disclosure - referred to consultation function to follow up.
05/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	12 May 2020	Closed	Not a protected disclosure –referred to standard complaint handling.
04/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	28 April 2020	Closed	Not a protected disclosure - referred to standard complaint handling
03/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	22 February 2020	Closed	Not a protected disclosure- referred to standard complaint handling
02/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	03 February 2020	Closed	Complainant did not pursue matters.
01/2020	Section 7 (external, to 'prescribed person')	06 January 2020	Closed	Complainant did not pursue matters.