



2021 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 2021.

Background

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. No protected disclosures were received under section 6 of the Act for the year 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Section 7

The CEO of the Medical Council is a prescribed person¹ to receive disclosures under the Act. This means the CEO may receive disclosures in relation to:

“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](#)”².

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 2021 to 31 December 2021.

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

¹ Section 7 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 and. S.I. No. 367/2020 - Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (Disclosure to Prescribed Persons) Order 2020

² S.I. 367/2020



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