

**2017 Annual Report of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014**

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires:

22. (1) *Every public body shall prepare and publish not later than 30 June in each year a report in relation to the immediately preceding year in a form which does not enable the identification of the persons involved containing information relating to the matters specified in subsection (2).*

(2) *Those matters are—*

(a) *the number of protected disclosures made to the public body,*

(b) *the action (if any) taken in response to those protected disclosures, and*

(c) *such other information relating to those protected disclosures and the action taken as may be requested by the Minister from time to time.*

Statutory Instrument 339 of 2014 prescribes the Chief Executive of the HEA as a person to receive disclosures of relevant wrongdoings as follows:

<p>Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority</p>	<p>(a) All matters relating to the planning and development of higher education and research in the State.</p> <p>(b) All matters relating to funding for universities and certain institutions of higher education designated under the Higher Education Authority Act 1971 (No. 22 of 1971).</p>
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Having regard to the provisions of S.I. 339 of 2014, in **2017** the HEA received 11 protected disclosures.

One related to Dundalk of Institute of Technology (DkIT) and was examined by the HEA. Another relating to Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) was originally made to the Department of Education and Skills and is still the subject of ongoing examination by the HEA. The remainder relate to Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) and were received in the context of the HEA-commissioned review of the spin-out and sale of spin-out companies in WIT. The review also received other matters of concern. This review is proceeding with its work and will be brought to a conclusion as soon as is practicable.

The HEA has not received any protected disclosures from its own staff.