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**2021 Annual Report of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014**

**Background**

The Chief Executive Officer of the HEA is a prescribed person under the protected disclosures legislation.

Statutory Instrument 339 of 2014 prescribes the Chief Executive of the HEA as a person to receive disclosures of relevant wrongdoings falling within the description of the following matters:

1. All matters relating to the planning and development of higher education and research in the State.
2. 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).

**Protected Disclosure Reports in 2021**

Each public body is required under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 to publish a report, no later than 30 June each year, setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any) in response to those disclosures. This report must not result in persons making disclosures being identifiable.

This report by the HEA under Section 22 of the Act covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2021.

Having regard to the provisions of S.I. 339 of 2014, the HEA received three protected disclosures in the year up to 31st December 2021.

One disclosure was examined by the HEA and is now closed. Two other disclosures are the subject of ongoing examination by the HEA.

The HEA received nil disclosures from its own staff in the period.