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**2022 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 367 of 2020 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 2022**

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 2022.

Having regard to the provisions of S.I. 367 of 2020, in the year up to 31 December 2022, the HEA received one report that it assessed to be a protected disclosure, and this was referred for investigation. One other disclosure made to the HEA prior to 2022 was also the subject of investigation in the period.

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