



## **Report under Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 for the period 1st January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 became operational on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The legislation is intended to provide a robust statutory framework to protect workers who raise concerns regarding potential wrongdoing (whistleblowers) that has come to their attention in the workplace. The Act requires every public body to establish and maintain procedures for dealing with protected disclosures and to provide written information relating to these procedures to workers.

The legislation provides a comprehensive suite of employment and other protections to whistleblowers that are penalised by their employer or suffer a detriment from a third party on account of raising concerns regarding possible wrongdoing in their workplace. They will benefit from civil immunity from actions for damages and a qualified privilege under defamation law. Making a protected disclosure or reasonably believing a disclosure is protected is a defence to any offence prohibiting or restricting the disclosure of information.

The Act sets out a number of ways in which disclosures can be made – for example, to a person's employer and, in some circumstances, to an external 'prescribed' person.

### **Annual Report**

Each public body is required (under Section 22 of the Act) to publish an annual report setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). This report must not result in persons making disclosures being identifiable.

This is the third annual report of the Local Government Management Agency under Section 22 of the Act. It covers the period 1st January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

The Local Government Management Agency is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability. We aim to foster a working environment within which employees feel able to raise concerns relating to potential wrongdoing in the workplace and to provide the necessary support procedures for those that raise genuine concerns. The Agency issued written procedures (approved by the Board of the LGMA), to employees to advise them of the approach to take when seeking to make a protected disclosure; this document, entitled Local Government Management Agency – Protected Disclosure Policy, is available at the following link: [http://www.lgma.ie/sites/default/files/lgma\\_protected\\_disclosures\\_policy\\_and\\_procedures.pdf](http://www.lgma.ie/sites/default/files/lgma_protected_disclosures_policy_and_procedures.pdf)

No protected disclosures were received in the Local Government Management Agency between 1st January and the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.