



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

2023 Annual Report on Protected Disclosures

(Required under Section 22 Protected Disclosures Act 2014 as amended)

Introduction

Under Section 22(5) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, as amended (the Act), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is obliged to publish an annual report outlining the number of protected disclosures received in the previous calendar year and the action taken (if any).

All disclosures received by the organisation are assessed by the Protected Disclosures Recipient Panel (PDRP) and, where necessary, investigated in line with Inland Fisheries Ireland's Protected Disclosures Policy & Procedure.

The organisation has developed mechanisms for the receipt of disclosures both internal and external in nature. This report summarises all disclosures processed during 2023 by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Internal Reporting Channel

Six reports were received by the organisation in 2023.

- 5 reports were anonymous and 1 named
- 3 were progressed to investigation
 - o 1 report was closed in the reporting period with recommendations
 - o 2 reports remained under investigation at the end of the reporting period
- 3 were not progressed to investigation
 - o 1 was assessed as being appropriate for progression under HR policy
 - o 2 were not possible to progress to investigation

One report received in Q4 2022 was brought forward into 2023 and progressed to investigation. This disclosure remained open at the end of 2023.

External Reporting Channel

The CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland has been prescribed as a recipient of protected disclosures in relation to 'all matters relating to the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource and enforcement of the Fisheries Acts 1959 to 2019'.

There were no disclosures of this nature received during 2023.

Overleaf is the annual statistical return submitted to the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR) in relation to the reporting period as per Section 22(1) of the Act. This was submitted by the required deadline of 1st March 2024.

Protected Disclosures Act 2014 (as amended)

Form PDA-1

Annual Report of Statistics - Internal Reports made under section 6 of the Act

1 Identification

1.1 Name of Public Body:

Inland Fisheries
Ireland

1.2 Calendar year covered by this report:

2023

2 Reports received in calendar year

2.1 How many reports were received via internal reporting channels in the calendar year?

6

3 Assessment of reports

3.1 Of the total number of reports received in the calendar year, how many were:

3.1.1 Awaiting completion of assessment at year end?

(a)
Fully

(b) Partially

0

0

3.1.2 Assessed as warranting further follow-up?

2

0

3.1.3 Referred to another more relevant procedure?

1

0

3.1.4 Closed with no further action taken?

3

0

4 Follow-up of reports

4.1 How many follow-up procedures were opened in the calendar year?

3

4.2 How many open follow-up procedures were carried over from the previous year?

1

4.3 How many follow-up procedures were closed in the calendar year?

1

4.4 How many follow-up procedures remained open at the end of the calendar year?

3

4.5 Of the number of follow-up procedures reported as still open in response to Q4.4, how many are:

4.5.1 Open less than 1 year?

2

4.5.2 Open more than 1 year but less than 3 years?

1

4.5.3 Open more than 3 years but less than 5 years?

0

4.5.4 Open 5 or more years?

0

4.6 What was the **average** length (in weeks) of the follow-up procedures closed in the calendar year?

35

4.7 What was the **median** length (in weeks) of the follow-up procedures closed in the calendar year?

35

5 Matters followed-up

5.1 Of the follow-up procedures opened in calendar year reported in response to Q4.1, how many involved:

5.1.1	Criminal offences?	0
5.1.2	Breaches of a legal obligation?	1
5.1.3	Miscarriage of justice?	0
5.1.4	Endangerment of health and safety?	0
5.1.5	Damage to the environment?	1
5.1.6	Unlawful or improper use of public funds?	0
5.1.7	Acts or omissions that are oppressive, discriminatory or grossly negligent or constitute gross mismanagement?	0
5.1.8	Breaches of the EU laws within the scope of Article 2 of Directive (EU) 2019/1937 (the Whistleblowing Directive)?	0
5.1.9	Concealment or destruction of information tending to show any matter falling within items 6.1.1 to 6.1.8?	0

6 Follow-up of matters related to breaches of EU law

6.1 Of the follow-up procedures reported as opened in response to Q5.1.8 (breaches of EU law), if any, how many involved breaches of:

6.1.1	Public procurement?	0
6.1.2	Financial services, products and markets, and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing?	0
6.1.3	Product safety and compliance?	0
6.1.4	Transport safety?	0
6.1.5	Protection of the environment?	0
6.1.6	Radiation protection and nuclear safety?	0
6.1.7	Food and feed safety and animal health and welfare?	0
6.1.8	Public health?	0
6.1.9	Consumer protection?	0
6.1.10	Protection of privacy and personal data and security of network and information systems?	0
6.1.11	The financial interests of the EU?	0
6.1.12	The functioning of the EU Internal Market?	0

7 Outcome of follow-up procedures		(a) Fully	(b) Partially
7.1	Of the follow-up procedures reported as closed in response to Q4.3, how many were closed because no wrongdoing was found or insufficient evidence of wrongdoing could be found?	1	
7.2	Of the follow-up procedures reported as closed in response to Q4.3 and the result of the follow-up procedure was that a wrongdoing was found to have occurred, how many resulted in:		
7.2.1	Further proceedings or sanctions?		
7.2.2	Referral or transmission to another body for further follow-up?		
7.2.3	Changes to policies and/or procedures?		
7.2.4	Recovery of lost funds?		
7.3	Of the follow-up, procedures reported as closed in response to Q4.3, what (where relevant) is the estimated financial damage to the public body arising from the wrongdoing reported?		€ -
7.4	Of the follow-up procedures reported as closed in response to Q4.3, what (where relevant) is the estimated amount of funds recovered by the public body arising from its follow-up?		
8 Anonymous reports			
8.1	Of the total number of reports received in response to Q2, how many were made anonymously?	5	
8.2	How many follow-up procedures were opened in response to anonymous reports in the calendar year?	2	
8.3	How many anonymous reporting persons subsequently disclosed their identity to the Designated Person in the calendar year?	0	