

Protected Disclosures

Introduction

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 is legislation enacted to provide protection to employees (and not restricted to employees of the Dental Council) who wish to raise a concern relating to potential wrongdoing in the workplace. The Act sets out a number of ways in which disclosures can be made to employers as well as to external bodies.

Role of the Registrar of the Dental Council

Section 7 of the Protected Disclosures Act provides that protected disclosures may be made to certain external regulators, referred to as “prescribed persons” in the Act. These prescribed persons are listed in Statutory Instrument 339/2014 as amended by Statutory Instrument 448/2015.

The Registrar of the Dental Council is a prescribed person under section 7 of the Protected Disclosures Act and Statutory Instrument 339 of 2014. This means that he can receive protected disclosures to the Data Protection Commission regarding compliance with the registration, education and fitness to practise functions of the Dentists Act, 1985. The Protected Disclosures Act will only apply to disclosures made to the Registrar, Dental Council if:

- the person making the disclosure reasonably believes that the relevant wrongdoing relates to prescribed sections of the Dentists Act, 1985, and
- the person making the disclosure reasonably believes that that the information disclosed, and any allegation contained in it, are substantially true.

All disclosures, however made, are taken seriously and all efforts will be made to address the issues raised appropriately. In general, protected disclosures made to the Registrar are dealt with on a confidential basis. There are some exceptions to this, for example, if identifying the person making the disclosure is essential to the effective investigation of matters raised.

How to make a protected disclosure

A protected disclosure should contain the following information:

- Name of the individual making the disclosure and contact details
- Name of the organisation(s) involved
- As many details as possible regarding the concerns

To make a protected disclosure to the Registrar of the Dental Council please write to:

Dental Council
57 Merrion Square
Dublin 2

Please address your envelope to the Registrar and mark it 'Private and Confidential'. We will acknowledge disclosures within 14 days of receipt and will assess the information provided.

Report on Protected Disclosures Received

The Registrar of the Dental Council has received the following protected disclosures:

2015 - 0

2016 - 0

2017 - 0

2018 - 1

Changes to this Statement

We keep this policy under regular review and place any updates on our website. This document was last updated on 30 April 2019.

How to contact us

If you need further information, please email info@dentalcouncil.ie or write to us at 57 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.