



Ms Sarah Cremin
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts

19 July 2022

Your Reference: S0899 PAC33

Dear Ms Cremin,

I refer to your letter of 27 June 2022 and the Committee's request for further information from the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) following the Committee's meeting on 26 May 2022.

The following information is provided in response to the Committee's request:

1. Clarification of the number of protected disclosures made against GSOC.

In accordance with its statutory obligations under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, GSOC is required to publish an annual report outlining the number of protected disclosures made to GSOC under section 6 of the Act, i.e. from employees of GSOC, in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). This annual report is published in addition to the annual report regarding the number of disclosures received under sections 7 and 8 of the Act.

A copy of GSOC's latest Protected Disclosures Annual Report in relation to section 6 of the Act for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 is attached for the Committee's information. As set out in the report, there were no matters within the meaning of the Protected Disclosures Act made to GSOC from employees in the period covered by the report. I can further confirm that there have been no protected disclosures made to GSOC by employees from the commencement of the Act in 2014 to 31 December 2020.

2. An information note clarifying if GSOC availed of services of an independent or external consultant to assist in dealing with protected disclosures and, if so, the related costs.

GSOC has not availed of the services of an independent or external consultant to assist in dealing with protected disclosures made to the Ombudsman Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

George O'Doherty

Deputy Director of Administration



Annual Report of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) 2021

(In accordance with section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014)

Under section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014 each public body is required to publish an annual report outlining the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). This report must not result in the identification of persons making disclosures.

This is the sixth annual report of GSOC and it covers the period of 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

There have been no disclosures made to GSOC under section 6 of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014, i.e. from employees of GSOC, in the period covered by this report.

05 April 2022