



Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security

Inspector-General's Q & A on protected disclosures

Q Who can I make a protected disclosure to within my organisation?

A Your organisation will have an internal procedure for protected disclosures. This will detail who a protected disclosure can be made to. You should try to follow this procedure. If you don't, your disclosure still may be protected.

Q Who can I make a protected disclosure to?

A Generally, a protected disclosure must be made to a designated person within your organisation in the first instance.

You can make your disclosure directly to the head of your organisation if:

- you think the designated person is involved in the serious wrongdoing;
- you think it's not appropriate to disclose the wrongdoing to the designated person because of their relationship or association with the alleged wrongdoer.

You can make your disclosure directly to the Inspector-General if:

- the matter is urgent;
- the head of your organisation is or may be involved in the serious wrongdoing;
- you've already made the disclosure to your organisation but there has been no action or recommended action within 20 working days;
- there are some other exceptional circumstances (ie if the appropriate people in your organisation do not hold adequate security clearances).
- you can make your disclosure directly to a Minister responsible for an intelligence and security agency or the Prime Minister if you've already made the same disclosure to the head of your organisation or the Inspector-General.

Q What if I am unsure if a disclosure constitutes a protected disclosure?

A You can seek information and guidance from the Inspector-General at any time about any aspect of the protected disclosure process or what might constitute a protected disclosure.

Q Can I make an anonymous disclosure to the Inspector-General?

A Yes you can, however, it can be more difficult to investigate anonymous disclosures. If you choose to remain anonymous, please provide the Inspector-General with all of the information you have.

Q If I make a disclosure, how long will it take for you to respond to me?

A We will respond to any disclosure as a matter of priority.

Q How will the Inspector-General ensure that my confidentiality is protected?

A The Inspector-General is independent of the agencies that she or he oversees. We will talk to you about the different things we can do to both investigate your disclosure and protect your identity and interests.

Q What will happen at the end of the investigation into my disclosure?

A If we decide to investigate your disclosure, and we identify issues requiring attention, we may make recommendations to the relevant agency Chief Executive.