

2021

Enforcement

# Time limits for making complaints

## **Disclaimer**

The Irish Auditing & Accounting Supervisory Authority accepts no liability and disclaims all responsibility for the consequences of anyone acting or refraining from acting on the information contained in this document or for any decision based on it.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document. However, the Irish Auditing & Accounting Supervisory Authority accepts no responsibility or liability howsoever arising from any errors, inaccuracies, or omissions occurring in this document.

---

## Mission

To contribute to Ireland having a strong regulatory environment in which to do business by supervising and promoting high quality financial reporting, auditing and effective regulation of the accounting profession in the public interest.

---

## **Time limits for making a complaint**

### **Complaints concerning a prescribed accountancy body's investigation and/or disciplinary procedures (section 933 of the Companies Act).**

Complaints concerning whether a prescribed accountancy body has complied with its investigation and disciplinary procedures, should be submitted to the Authority as soon as possible after the matter has been concluded by the PAB, or at the latest within 12 months of the investigation and/or disciplinary process having been completed. The time limit may be extended as long as it is still possible to investigate the complaint. After 12 months the Authority may consider a complaint if there is good and sufficient reason for doing so. It will take into account any reason for the delay in referring the matter to the Authority, the length of time since the matters complained of had occurred or had been dealt with by the relevant body and any other circumstances that the Authority considers appropriate in all the circumstances.

### **Complaints where the Authority may commence an investigation (section 934 of the Companies Act).**

In cases where the Authority has the power to conduct its own investigation into a possible relevant contravention (for example, a breach of the standards of a prescribed accountancy body or certain contraventions by a statutory auditor) by a specified person who is a member or former member of a prescribed accountancy body, such an investigation can only be undertaken if the Authority is of the opinion that it is appropriate or in the public interest to do so. Further, the Authority may initiate a preliminary investigation into a possible relevant contravention by public interest entity auditors.

It would be expected that a complaint which would fall into this category would be made within 6 years from the event being complained about (that is, the alleged relevant contravention) or, if later, three years from when it was known – or ought reasonably to have been known, that there was cause to complain. After this period of time, the Authority may consider a complaint if there is good and sufficient reason for doing so and it is appropriate and proportionate in all the circumstances of the case.



**Irish Auditing & Accounting  
Supervisory Authority**

Willow House  
Millennium Park  
Naas, Co. Kildare  
W91 C6KT  
Ireland

Phone: +353 (0) 45 983 600  
Email: [info@iaasa.ie](mailto:info@iaasa.ie)

**[www.iaasa.ie](http://www.iaasa.ie)**