

[Table 3] Reports on Income, etc. (2012-2016)

CY	Category	Number of Reports	Consisting Solely of Regular Pay		Including Income other than Regular Pay	
			No. of cases	Rate (%)	No. of cases	Rate (%)
2012		1,340	884	66.0	456	34.0
2013		1,338	871	65.1	467	34.9
2014		1,368	897	65.6	471	34.4
2015		1,279	912	71.3	367	28.7
2016		1,330	940	70.7	390	29.3

Chapter 3. Strict and Prompt Response to Violation of the Ethics Act

1. Outline of Investigations and Disciplinary Procedures

As for investigations and disciplinary actions for violations of the Ethics Act, as in the case of violations of service discipline regulations in the National Public Service Act, relevant actions should be primarily taken by appointers. In taking such actions, the Ethics Act stipulates that the procedure shall be implemented with a certain amount of involvement on the part of the Ethics Board, so that strict actions shall be taken and there shall be no remarkable imbalance among actions in the Cabinet Office and each ministry.

Based on rules, when an appointer suspects there has been a violation of the Ethics Act, a preliminary report on the case will be submitted to the Ethics Board and the appointer shall investigate the case. When necessary, the appointer and the Ethics Board will jointly investigate the case. When a special need is recognized, the Ethics Board may independently investigate the case.

When, as a result of an investigation, the appointer decides to take disciplinary action against an employee who has been charged in relation to any conduct in violation of the Ethics Act, the appointer must obtain approval from the Ethics Board in advance. The Ethics Board strictly reviews the details of the violation and determines the appropriateness of the disciplinary action proposed by the appointer.

2. Status of Investigations and Disciplinary Actions for Suspected Violations of the Ethics Act

During FY2017, 19 cases involving alleged violations of the Ethics Act were newly investigated, while no ongoing investigations were carried over from FY2016. Of these cases, disciplinary actions were taken for 9 cases involving 14 employees (2 dismissals, 5 suspensions, 1 reduction in pay, and 6 reprimand) due to violations of the Ethics Act while admonishments or serious warnings (hereinafter referred to as “corrective measures”) were issued for 10 cases involving 50 employees under the internal rules of each ministry (1 case in which more than 1 employee was involved and for which both disciplinary actions and corrective measures were taken are counted in both categories). No investigation was carried over to FY2018.

Compared to FY2016, the number of cases of new investigations increased by 8, and the number of cases of disciplinary actions increased by 5.