

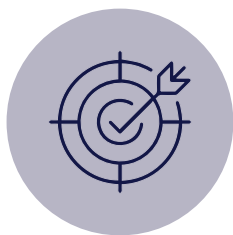


IEKŠĒJĀS DROŠĪBAS BIROJS  
INTERNAL SECURITY BUREAU



2015–2025

**10 YEARS  
IN ENSURING  
THE RULE OF LAW**



# PURPOSE AND NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHMENT

## From Ensuring the Principles of Legality and Objectivity to Building Public Trust in State Administration!

On 1 November 2015, the Internal Security Bureau Law entered into force with the aim of ensuring legality and objectivity in the detection, investigation, and prevention of criminal offences committed by officials and employees of law enforcement institutions, thereby promoting public trust in state administration.

### To what extent and how effectively has the objective set out in the Internal Security Bureau Law been achieved during the ten years of the institution's operation?

#### Minister of the Interior, Rihards Kozlovskis:

Establishing an institution independent from the State Police – one that not only investigates but also proactively prevents unlawful or illegal actions by employees of the internal affairs and justice services – was the right decision.

Over the course of ten years, the Internal Security Bureau has proven to be an effective mechanism that, in cooperation with colleagues within the internal affairs sector, helps to strengthen public trust and confidence in the foundations of a lawful and democratic Latvia.

It is precisely the public's attitude towards our services that best reflects the results of the Internal Security Bureau's work – year by year, trust in these services continues to grow, and society's belief that unlawful actions by law



Minister of the Interior  
**Rihards Kozlovskis**

enforcement officers are unacceptable has increased, while cooperation with the public is steadily improving.

Prevention and analytical work play important role in the activities of the Internal Security Bureau, ensuring the identification of criminal activities before they occur.

Thank you for the work you do for Latvia!



Over the course of ten years of operation, the Internal Security Bureau has ensured a unified approach and consistent practice in the investigation of criminal offences committed by officials of the Ministry of Interior. The Internal Security Bureau has also promoted the observance of individuals' rights – both those of victims and of suspects – to a reasonable time for investigation.

On average, pre-trial investigations conducted by the Internal Security Bureau are completed within approximately 260 days per criminal proceeding, while in cases involving alleged offences committed in the line of duty that are associated with violence, the average duration is around 175 days.

As of 1 January 2025, the competence of the Internal Security Bureau has been expanded to include the investigation of criminal offences committed by employees of the Prison Administration. This amendment to the Criminal Procedure Law allows to prevent potential conflicts of interest during the investigation of criminal offences committed by employees of both the Ministry of the Interior and the Prison Administration, as well as by officers of municipal police and port police, in cases related to offences involving violence committed in the performance of official duties.

### **Changes Following the Establishment of the Internal Security Bureau**

Before the establishment of the Internal Security Bureau, the European Court of Human Rights had delivered several judgments in cases against Latvia, consistently identifying systemic issues and shortcomings in the investigation of complaints concerning alleged violence by state officials.

In these rulings – including *Jasinskis v. Latvia*, *Vovruško v. Latvia*, *Timofejevi v. Latvia*, *Sorokins and Sorokina v. Latvia*, *Grimailovs v. Latvia*, *Holodenko v. Latvia*, *Bērziņš v. Latvia*, *Djundiks v. Latvia*, and *Emars v. Latvia*<sup>1</sup> – the European Court of Human Rights emphasized both the lack of hierarchical independence and deficiencies in the investigative process.

Accordingly, in 2015, by separating the competence of Internal Security Bureau from the State Police and establishing it as an independent institution under the supervision of the Minister of the Interior, Latvia effectively resolved the systemic problems identified by the European Court of Human Rights and ensured compliance with the obligations set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which require the state to carry out thorough and effective investigations into all allegations of violence.

As a result, the establishment of the Internal Security Bureau ensured the full independence of the institution from any individuals who might be involved in the investigated incidents.



<sup>1</sup> See, for example: *Jasinskis v. Latvia* (application no. 45744/08), judgment of 21 December 2010; *Vovruško v. Latvia* (application no. 11065/02), judgment of 11 December 2012; *Timofejevi v. Latvia* (application no. 45393/04), judgment of 11 December 2012; *Sorokins and Sorokina v. Latvia* (application no. 45476/04), judgment of 28 May 2013; *Grimailovs v. Latvia* (application no. 6087/03), judgment of 25 June 2013; *Holodenko v. Latvia* (application no. 17215/07), judgment of 2 July 2013; *Bērziņš v. Latvia* (application no. 25147/07), judgment of 25 February 2014; *Djundiks v. Latvia* (application no. 14920/05), judgment of 14 April 2014; *Emars v. Latvia* (application no. 22412/08), judgment of 18 November 2014.



The establishment of the Internal Security Bureau marked a significant step towards ensuring legality and objectivity in the detection, investigation, and prevention of criminal offences allegedly committed by officials and employees of law enforcement institutions<sup>2</sup>. It has contributed to improving Latvia's legal framework, institutional practices, and professional understanding, thereby strengthening the overall compliance of the investigative system with Latvia's international human rights obligations, including those arising under the European Convention on Human Rights. Indeed, this objective was among the principal reasons and aims behind the creation of the new institution<sup>3</sup>.

The role and contribution of the Internal Security Bureau in conducting high-quality, effective, independent, and internationally compliant investigations into cases involving alleged criminal offences by law enforcement officials and employees are undeniable.

Equally important, however, is the Internal Security Bureau's contribution to enhancing public trust in state administration – by educating officials, improving their practical skills, and ensuring the protection of public interests.



**Elina Luize Vitola, Latvia's Representative to International Human Rights Institutions**

*Photo: Laura Celmiņa*

**During its first decade of operation, significant progress has been made in improving the quality of investigations, strengthening institutional capacity, and developing professional standards.**

<sup>2</sup> Internal Security Bureau Law, Latvijas Vēstnesis No. 257, 30 December 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Initial Impact Assessment Report for the Draft Law "Internal Security Bureau Law", available at: <https://titania.saeima.lv/LIVS12/SaeimaLIVS12.nsf/0/61EF428010AB3625C-2257DA900462150?OpenDocument>



The establishment of the Internal Security Bureau has had a direct and proportional impact on processes at the international level, particularly regarding the enforcement of the aforementioned European Court of Human Rights judgments. The creation of the Internal Security Bureau was a direct cause of several resolutions by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which, in accordance with Article 46 of the European Convention on Human Rights, supervises the execution of European Court of Human Rights judgments in member states.<sup>4</sup> These resolutions addressed the execution of European Court of Human Rights judgments in which violations of the right to life or the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment were found in Latvia.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy that since the establishment of the Internal Security Bureau – over the past ten years – the European Court of Human Rights has not delivered any judgment finding a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights in connection with investigations conducted by the Internal Security Bureau. In comparison with 2014, the number of complaints regarding the independence, quality, and effectiveness of investigations in this area in Latvia has significantly decreased.<sup>5</sup> Currently, the European Court of Human Rights is considering only three cases on these matters, in which it will have the opportunity to evaluate the Internal Security Bureau and the present system in Latvia.

It is important to emphasize that although the European Court of Human Rights has issued certain judgments identifying shortcomings in the investigation of criminal offences involving violence by officials after the establishment of the Internal Security Bureau, these violations were based on deficiencies that occurred prior to the creation of the Internal Security Bureau (for example, *Balajevs v. Latvia*, *Ostroveņecs v. Latvia*, *Maļinovskis v. Latvia*)<sup>6</sup>.

In these cases, when reporting to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on measures taken to execute the judgments, Latvia's representative to international human rights institutions highlighted the Internal Security Bureau's role in ensuring effective investigations, its institutional development, the causal factors of its results, the achievements attained, and the average investigation durations.

As a result, the Committee of Ministers concluded that Latvia has effectively executed these judgments, which serves as further confirmation of the significance of the Internal Security Bureau's work<sup>7</sup>.

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4 Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Resolutions on the Execution of ECHR Judgments:

Resolution on the execution of the judgment in *Jasinskis v. Latvia*, available in English at: <https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng?i=001-203796>. Resolution on the execution of the judgments in *Holodenko v. Latvia*, *Bērziņš v. Latvia*, *Djundiks v. Latvia*, *Grimailovs v. Latvia*, *Sorokins and Sorokina v. Latvia*, *Timofejevi v. Latvia*, *Vovruško v. Latvia*, available in English at: <https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng?i=001-187382>. Resolution on the execution of the judgment in *Emars v. Latvia*, available in English at: <https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng?i=001-213102>

5 Initial Impact Assessment Report for the Draft Law "Internal Security Bureau Law", available at: <https://titania.saeima.lv/LIVS12/SaeimaLIVS12.nsf/0/61EF428010AB3625C2257DA900462150?OpenDocument>. During the drafting of the law, the office of Latvia's representative to international human rights institutions had 14 pending cases concerning these matters, as well as several judgments whose execution was still under supervision. Currently, Latvia has no cases under execution regarding the quality of such investigations, and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) is considering only three cases that fall within the competence of the Internal Security Bureau.

6 See, for example: *Balajevs v. Latvia* (application no. 8347/07), judgment of 28 July 2016; *Ostroveņecs v. Latvia* (application no. 36043/13), judgment of 5 October 2017; *Maļinovskis v. Latvia* (application no. 46084/19), judgment of 6 June 2024.

7 Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Resolutions on the Execution of ECHR Judgments:

Resolution on the execution of the judgments in *Balajevs v. Latvia* and *Ostroveņecs v. Latvia*, available in English at: <https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng?i=001-205878>

Resolution on the execution of the judgment in *Maļinovskis v. Latvia*, available in English at: <https://hudoc.exec.coe.int/eng?i=001-243598>



## Human Rights and the State's Duty

- Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights provides that no one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- The state has a duty to take all necessary measures to protect the life and health of persons under its jurisdiction.
- The state has a positive obligation to ensure a thorough, comprehensive, and independent investigation in cases where there are doubts regarding the legality of official conduct, particularly in matters concerning violations of the human rights protected under Article 3 of the Convention.





# OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE COMING DECADE

**The Internal Security Bureau – an institution trusted by society, effectively cooperating with partner agencies to achieve common objectives, and whose operational quality is evaluated by the prosecution and the courts.**



**Igors Jaunrodziņš,**  
Head of the Internal Security Bureau

The tenth anniversary of the Internal Security Bureau marks a significant milestone, allowing us to assess our achievements and set new goals for the future. During the first decade, we have demonstrated that the Internal Security Bureau is an independent, professional, and reliable law enforcement institution, whose work is valued by both law enforcement agencies and society.

Our primary mission has been, and will continue to be, to ensure justice through prompt and high-quality investigations, promoting the principle of legality and objectivity in every case. We strive to maintain public confidence in the integrity of state administration, while emphasizing that officials who act contrary to the law and public interest are held accountable.

In the coming decade, our work will be shaped by several strategic factors: the geopolitical context, the importance of internal security, crime trends, and the opportunities and challenges posed by the development of information technologies. Decision-making will increasingly rely on data-driven approaches, from strategic planning and budget allocation to day-to-day investigative operations. Achieving these goals will require the development of capabilities for processing large volumes of data, strengthening analytical capacity, and implementing modern solutions that enable rapid and accurate decision-making.

The Internal Security Bureau's work is increasingly characterized by a proactive approach – not only responding to consequences but also identifying and addressing causes in a timely manner. Therefore, it will remain crucial to maintain risk-based thinking and foster a culture of prevention. At the same time, public engagement will play an ever more important role: trust in state administration will be strengthened through transparent communication and the maintenance of a secure reporting channels.



Our vision remains steadfast: a safe and just state can only be ensured by officials whom society can trust. Integrity, professionalism, legality, and objectivity are the fundamental measures of our work. I am confident that, by maintaining this approach, in the coming decade the Internal Security Bureau will remain an institution whose strength lies in its people and values, trusted by society, cooperating effectively with partners, and relied upon by the rule of law.

Throughout its existence, the Internal Security Bureau has focused on prompt and high-quality investigations, ensuring that justice is restored as quickly as possible, dishonest officials are held accountable, and the reputations of the institutions involved are safeguarded.

Prompt and high-quality investigations entail not only the execution of investigative activities but also the continuous professional development of Internal Security Bureau personnel and daily cooperation with the prosecution, both prior to the initiation of criminal proceedings and during the investigation. The Internal Security Bureau will continue to uphold these principles of operation in the future.

## **E. L. Vitola, Latvia's Representative to International Human Rights Institutions**

*The Office of Latvia's Representative to International Human Rights Institutions wishes the Internal Security Bureau success in its development, capability effectively respond to emerging challenges, including geopolitical, professional, and technological, while maintaining a consistent and stable course toward an ensuring safe and lawful Latvia.*





# VALUES

**Our vision: State security and public order are ensured by honest and trustworthy officials!**



**Legality** is one of the cornerstones underpinning the legitimacy and trustworthiness of the Internal Security Bureau's decisions. Officials exercise their powers and conduct investigative activities in accordance with law. This ensures that the Internal Security Bureau's actions are not only legally correct but also understandable and transparent from the public's perspective.



**Professionalism** is reflected in the conduct of personnel, grounded in competence and a high standards of responsibility. Each employee operates within the scope of their authority, focusing on the quality of work and results. Regular professional development – through participation in training programs both in Latvia and abroad – is an essential part of personal growth and institutional advancement. Employee engagement in the Internal Security Academy also makes a significant contribution to strengthening the Internal Security Bureau's long-term capabilities.



**Objectivity** is a prerequisite for well-founded and fair decision-making. Decisions in the Internal Security Bureau are based on objective analysis rather than subjective views or pre-established positions. Given the Internal Security Bureau's mandate to evaluate the conduct of law enforcement officials, adherence to objectivity is particularly important for both professional integrity and public trust.



**Integrity** is closely linked to public confidence in the Internal Security Bureau's work. Officials strictly act in the public interest. Behavior that could raise suspicions of dishonest conduct or external influence is not tolerated. Integrity is essential for maintaining the Internal Security Bureau's independence and ethical standards.



**Confidentiality and loyalty** characterize the approach of Internal Security Bureau personnel to information obtained in the course of official duties. Such information is processed and used in accordance with legal regulations, ensuring the necessary care and protection. At the same time, personnel demonstrate loyalty to the institution and its objectives in public communication, thereby reinforcing the Internal Security Bureau's credibility with the public.

Observance of these values is closely aligned with the mission of the Internal Security Bureau – to conduct objective and independent investigations, ensuring that every decision is made based on facts, professional conduct, and the principles of legality. These values also form the foundation of the Internal Security Bureau's vision: a state whose security and public order are ensured by honest and trustworthy officials.





# COMPETENCE

Legality is one of the fundamental values of a democratic state and, in the context of the Internal Security Bureau's competence, is associated with the institution's accessibility to the public. This ensures that any potential violation of rights by its representatives is investigated independently and objectively, minimizing the risk of conflicts of interest and achieving a fair resolution of the rights violation as promptly as possible.

### **Igors Jaunrodziņš, Head of the Internal Security Bureau:**

*I believe that the purpose of establishing the Internal Security Bureau – to conduct objective and independent investigations into criminal offences allegedly committed by employees of certain institutions – is closely linked to the need for differentiated oversight of the legality of specific functions. Public safety and order are ensured by individuals with specialized knowledge, which accordingly necessitates the application of a slightly different operational approach and pre-trial investigation methodology. The successful execution of these functions is possible only if there is specialization in specific areas of activity.*

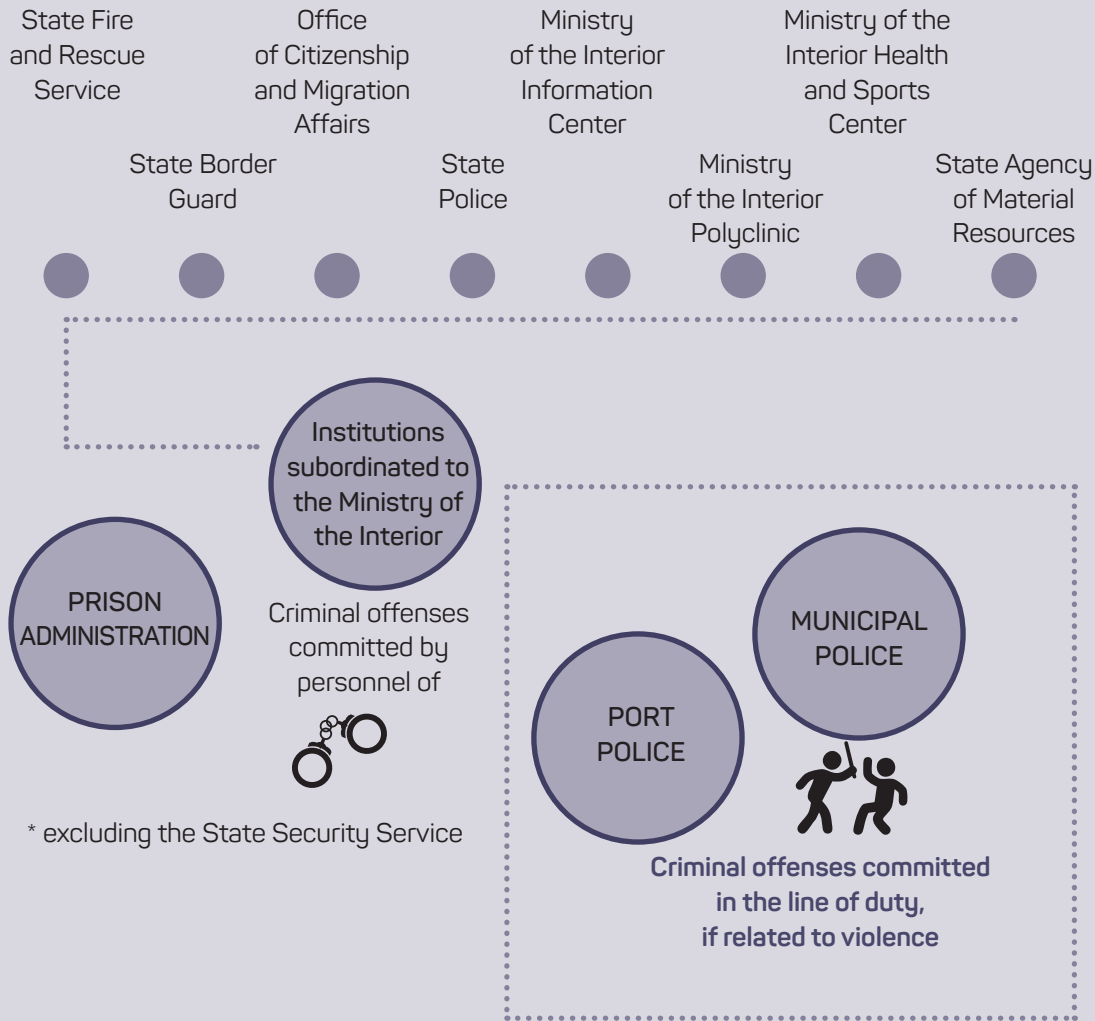
During the ten years of the Internal Security Bureau's existence, several discussions have taken place, not only regarding the expansion of the Internal Security Bureau's competences, but also concerning the potential improvement of the entire law enforcement system, which included debates on the merger of services.

### **Competence of the Internal Security Bureau:**

 <p>Since 1 November 2015, the Internal Security Bureau's competence covers all criminal offences allegedly committed by employees of institutions under the Ministry of the Interior's authority (excluding the State Security Service), as well as criminal offences involving violence committed in the course of duty by employees of the Prison Administration, municipal police, and Port Police, including their detection, investigation, and prevention.</p>	 <p><b>To date, 10,893 submissions have been reviewed.</b></p> <p><b>1,030 criminal proceedings concerning the alleged misconduct of officials from these institutions have been investigated.</b></p>
 <p>Since 1 January 2025, the Internal Security Bureau's competence has additionally covered the investigation of all criminal offences allegedly committed by employees of the Prison Administration.</p>	 <p>In 2025, the number of submissions reviewed more than doubled, and the Internal Security Bureau initiated four criminal proceedings concerning the alleged criminal conduct of employees of the Prison Administration.</p>



# COMPETENCE



The issue of the investigative competence of certain institutions remains relevant, as specific risks of conflicts of interest may be identified. The Internal Security Bureau sees opportunities to expand its competences in the next decade, which, however, would need to be linked to an assessment of the Internal Security Bureau's personnel and other resource capacities.





# PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES

**One of the cornerstones of the Internal Security Bureau's operations is a motivated, professional, and development-oriented personnel.**

## Leadership of the Internal Security Bureau

From 1 November 2015 until the summer of 2023, the Internal Security Bureau was led by Valters Mūrnieks, who prioritized strengthening the internal control system within the Ministry of the Interior, crime prevention, high-quality investigations, analytical capacity, and international cooperation.

Since 1 June 2023, the Internal Security Bureau has been effectively led by Igors Jaunrodziņš, who was officially appointed as Head of the Internal Security Bureau on 20 May 2025. He continues to advance the Internal Security Bureau's defined strategic priorities, while setting tangible objectives to enhance crime detection, prioritizing the development of effective internal processes, and maintaining cooperation with partner agencies.

To ensure independent and objective investigations, the highest levels of integrity, knowledge, and skills are required. The daily tasks are complex, extensive, and demand the ability to work under high-stress conditions.

The Internal Security Bureau recognizes professionalism, integrity, diligence, cooperation, significant contributions, and the promotion of public trust with the Internal Security Bureau's Medal of Honour. This award is presented on formal ceremonial occasions.

Over the past ten years, the Medal of Honour has been awarded to more than 50 employees and partner collaborators. The medal features the emblem of the Internal Security Bureau, clearly reflecting the institution's core values.

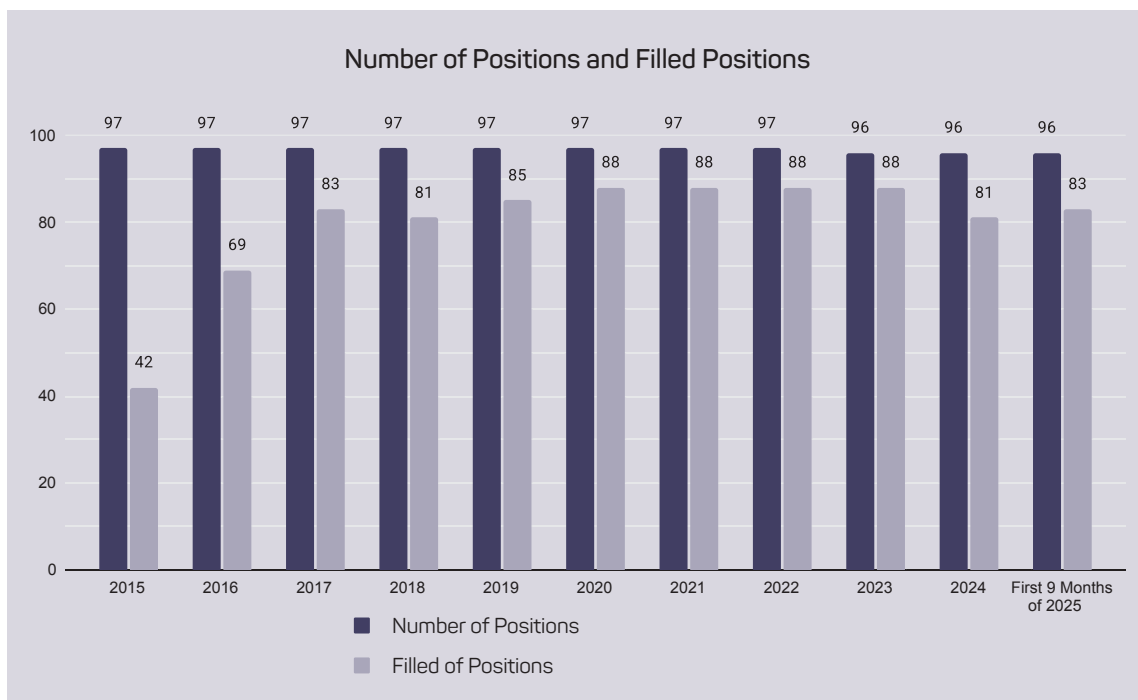


## Personnel

The Internal Security Bureau employs 83 highly skilled specialists in their respective fields. To become an employee of the Internal Security Bureau, candidates undergo a comprehensive selection process, which includes document verification, background checks, and, if necessary, physical fitness, medical, and psychological tests.

In addition, candidates must obtain special clearance for handling state secrets, which involves a detailed personal assessment.





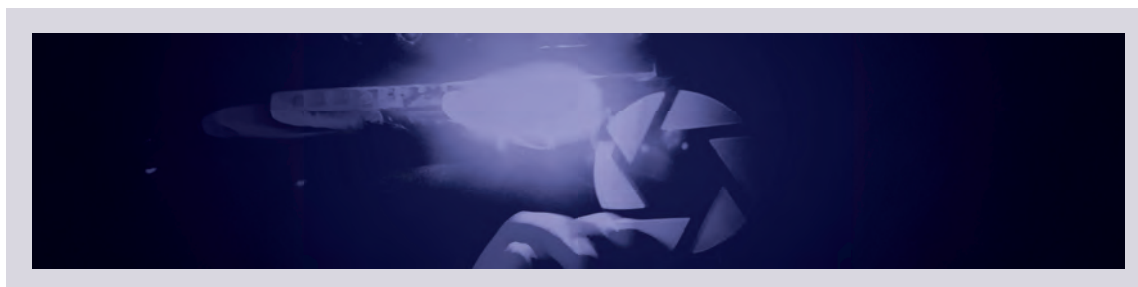
Filling positions remains a persistent challenge.

Over the past ten years, amendments to external regulations have been made with the aim of increasing employees' salaries and social guarantees.

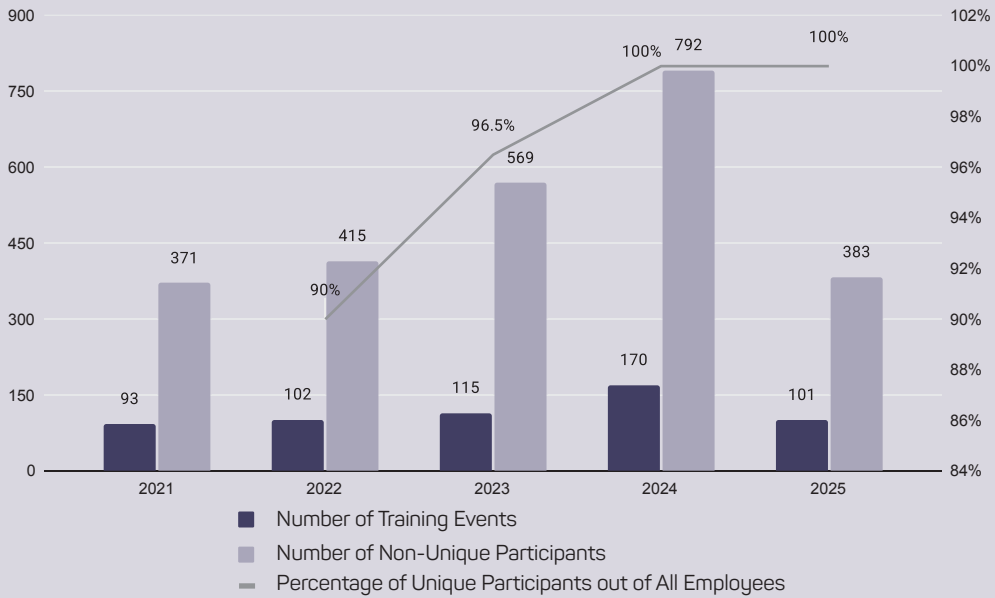
Staff turnover over the past ten years has remained around 10%, which is an acceptable rate given labor market trends and personnel renewal. Approximately 5% of colleagues have worked at the Internal Security Bureau since its establishment in 2015.

Almost all employees of the Internal Security Bureau has a higher education degree, predominantly in the field of law.

Changing external factors require the Internal Security Bureau's personnel to continuously enhance their qualifications through training. The main areas of training include investigations, corruption prevention, personnel management, procurement, and data analysis.



Number of trainings and number of participants attended.



The concept for establishing the Internal Security Bureau originally envisaged the creation of regional structural units. However, considering that Latvian regions can be reached within a few hours by vehicle, and that it is possible to provide temporary support points in the regions and collaborate with other law enforcement institutions, such regional units were not established.

## Premises

When deciding to establish a new law enforcement institution – the Internal Security Bureau – the question of the potential location for the newly created public administration body became relevant. For this purpose, a two-story Neo-Gothic masonry building was selected, which had previously housed other public administration institutions. Construction of the building began in 1875 and was completed in 1877 as an administrative building for customs purposes on the Daugava embankment. It should be noted that the building is architecturally significant and constitutes a cultural and historical heritage, belonging to the historic center of Riga and included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Therefore, any renovation work must be carried out in accordance with the city’s historical architectural forms.

In 2019, restoration works commenced, preserving the building as a historical heritage site that maintains the cityscape while serving practical purposes for the Internal Security Bureau’s offices.





Source: <https://zudusilatvija.lv/objects/object/47875/>

Until 2019, the building's facade indicated a need for renovation. Partners and visitors to the Internal Security Bureau often questioned whether the address was correct, as the facade did not reflect the building's purpose. In 2019, extensive renovation works were carried out, and the building restored its original appearance.



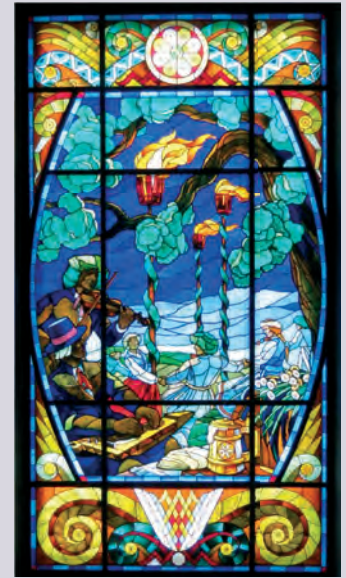
Screenshot from LTV news.



IEKŠĒJĀS DROŠĪBAS BIROJS  
INTERNAL SECURITY BUREAU



Renovation. Photo:ISB



The premises of the Internal Security Bureau are adorned with a stained glass window titled “Jāņi”, created in 1958 by Egons Cēsnieks, depicting the celebration of the Ligo festival. The artistic beauty and fragility of the stained glass not only prompt staff to lift their eyes in the rush of daily work, but also serve as a daily reminder to the Internal Security Bureau’s personnel of the importance of safeguarding values





# OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

## From Investigating criminal offenses to Reducing the Risk of Unlawful Actions

In accordance with the tasks defined in Article 4 of the Internal Security Bureau Law, the Internal Security Bureau's core activities are the detection, investigation, and prevention of criminal offences. For each of these three main functions, quality indicators are equally established, and the results achieved are systematically monitored.

The work of the Internal Security Bureau has brought noticeable changes to the operations of the Ministry of the Interior's subordinate institutions and the Prison Administration, promoting higher discipline among officials and enhanced standards of task performance.

In the investigation of criminal offences within state institutions, the Prosecutor's Office observes significant improvements both in how internal service checks are conducted and in the quality of their implementation.

Additionally, the Internal Security Bureau's informative and educational activities have helped to strengthen theoretical knowledge and prepare officials for professional conduct.

Particularly notable are the Internal Security Bureau's measures related to the prevention of abuses of authority by officials involving violence, which not only involve the objective and independent investigation of the relevant criminal offences, but also promote cooperation, clear understanding, and the consolidation of professional conduct at the institutional level.



**Jānis Omuls** – Chief Prosecutor  
for Investigations of Criminal  
Offences within State  
Institutions.



## CRIME PREVENTION

Within its competence, the Internal Security Bureau carries out activities aimed at preventing criminal offences. This is one of the Internal Security Bureau's key functions, implemented through data-driven analysis, inter-agency cooperation, and diverse preventive measures.

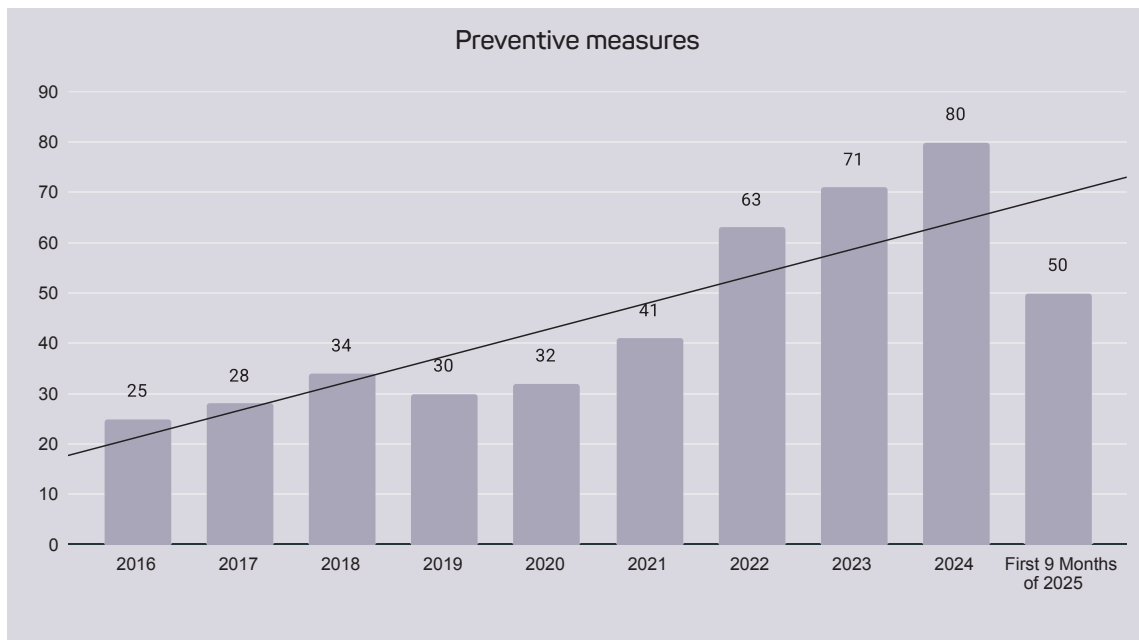
The Internal Security Bureau's approach to crime prevention is based on strengthening internal control systems within institutions, identifying the causes and contributing factors of unlawful actions, and enhancing the knowledge and understanding of employees of the institutions referred to in Article 4 of the Internal Security Bureau Law. In parallel, the Internal Security Bureau also focuses on public education to increase trust in and recognition of the Internal Security Bureau.

**Over the past ten years, 454 preventive measures have been implemented.**

**These measures focus on:**

- Educating officials;
- Educating the public;
- Informing institutions about identified risks of unlawful conduct.





## A Proactive Internal Control Environment as a Cornerstone of the System for Reducing Unlawful Conduct

The improvement of internal control systems within institutions has been a continuous focus throughout the past decade. Beginning in 2016, the Internal Security Bureau collected and analyzed information on institutional internal control systems, identified internal security risks, and evaluated the measures implemented to mitigate them. The Internal Security Bureau also developed and presented a methodology for assessing internal security risks to the relevant institutions.

In the following years, the Internal Security Bureau monitored the internal control systems of institutions, particularly regarding current risk management practices. In 2021, as the responsible authority, the Internal Security Bureau conducted an evaluation of the system for identifying and managing significant risks of unlawful conduct within the Ministry of the Interior's subordinate institutions.

In 2025, in collaboration with the State Chancellery, the Internal Security Bureau developed an analytical support tool for risk management – the Risk and Incident Management System, which is planned to be made available to all Ministry of the Interior subordinate institutions and the Prison Administration.

The Bureau's chosen approach to staff education focuses on:

Enhancing the knowledge and skills of personnel of the institutions listed in Article 4 of the Internal Security Bureau Law regarding the assessment of legal and factual circumstances. Understanding and recognizing unlawful conduct, and distinguishing it from legal and legitimate actions, in order to prevent misconduct and strengthen public trust in state administration;

Case analysis, identifying potential risks to guide preventive actions. Since 2016, when the first discussion on relevant European Court of Human Rights judgments took place, up to the 2025 seminar "Protection of Life: From the Duty to Protect Life to the Duty to Conduct Effective Investigations", the ISB has annually organized seminars, discussions, and conferences. These initiatives aim to address the causes rather than the consequences of criminal offences, deter both offenders and others from committing future violations, and educate both potential offenders and the wider public.

Over the past ten years, as technological capabilities have advanced, the number of participants in educational events has steadily increased (reaching up to 2.5 thousand participants), and participation in these events has become possible regardless of the region of Latvia in which a person is located. Increasingly often, educational events are organized by combining in-person and remote participation, thereby reaching an ever wider audience.

**Latvia's representative in international human rights institutions, E. L. Vitola**

*Alongside the contribution of the Internal Security Bureau in practice – ensuring the independence and effectiveness of investigations in cases involving possible violence by officials – the Bureau's now traditional annual conference on current human rights issues deserves recognition. This conference has not only demonstrated that specific judgments of the European Court of Human Rights have been implemented in Latvia, but has also helped to enhance officials' understanding of human rights and their importance in everyday life and professional duties.*

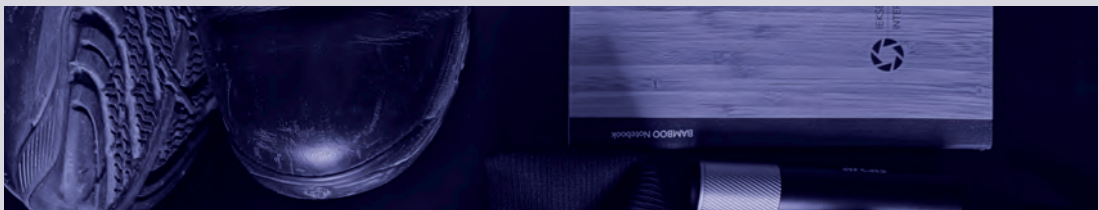
- **A total of 55 conferences, seminars, and discussions have been organized.**
- **19 cooperation events with non-governmental organizations.**
- **Participation in 16 public educational seminars, conferences, and discussions.**

Public education and engagement are essential not only to increase public satisfaction with the work of the Internal Security Bureau but also to reduce latent crime. Since 2016, the Internal Security Bureau's website has been established, and an informational trust hotline has been in operation. The website provides information about the Bureau's performance results, initiated and investigated criminal proceedings, as well as tried cases, acquitted and convicted officials, and the penalties imposed on them – with the aim of deterring other officials from committing criminal offenses and strengthening public trust, encouraging people not to fear or avoid reporting crimes committed by officials. The informational trust hotline is open for conversations, reporting, and consultations to help individuals understand how to act, not be afraid, and report wrongdoing.

## DETECTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES

**A total of 1,059 criminal offenses have been detected, including 390 serious and especially serious crimes:**

- **340 offenses committed in the service of state institutions, of which 250 were serious or especially serious;**
- **113 cases of bribery (111 classified as serious or especially serious crimes);**
- **59 cases of abuse of office (all serious or especially serious crimes), involving violence or committed for personal gain.**



As an investigative authority and a subject of operational activity, the Internal Security Bureau relies on the professionalism, motivation, experience, and creative, non-standard approach of its officials in carrying out their delegated functions to effectively detect and prevent criminal offenses.

Over the past ten years, the Internal Security Bureau has grown and developed as an institution, forming a team of professionals dedicated to the targeted detection and objective investigation of complex and large-scale crimes.

The detection of criminal offenses is one of the cornerstones of public trust in state governance and in its ability to guarantee the right to a safe environment. Unlawful actions – especially when committed by representatives of state authority whose duties involve combating crime or protecting public interests – undermine confidence in the state.

During its ten years of operation, the Internal Security Bureau's detection of more than a thousand criminal offenses highlights systemic issues within institutions subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior. The purposeful and timely detection of such crimes and the prosecution of offenders in accordance with the law demonstrate the state's commitment to protecting the rights of society and ensuring that criminal conduct is not tolerated.

The indictments brought forward and subsequent court rulings in cases investigated by the Internal Security Bureau attest to the high quality of the Internal Security Bureau's



**Edgars Podgaiskis,**  
Deputy Head  
of the Internal Security Bureau

work – both in the operational and pre-trial investigation stages. This serves as a strong signal to dishonest employees of institutions under the Ministry of the Interior, as well as the Prison Administration, about the inevitability of punishment for unlawful conduct.

Looking ahead, the Internal Security Bureau will continue to enhance its professional capacity, modernize work processes, and strengthen cooperation with other institutions to ensure the effective and high-quality detection, prevention, and investigation of criminal offenses. The Internal Security Bureau's ongoing goal is to maintain high standards and promote public trust in a lawful and accountable system of state governance.

Since 2023, in line with the Internal Security Bureau's Strategy for 2023–2027, performance indicators for operational activity quality control have been approved, and these indicators are monitored quarterly.

## INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Over the years, the work of the Pre-Trial Investigation Division has demonstrated the Internal Security Bureau's capacity to effectively respond to internal security threats and successfully achieve its strategic objectives in combating corruption and service-related offenses.

Over the past decade, the Internal Security Bureau has established itself as a significant law enforcement institution, whose focused and high-quality work contributes to the effectiveness of criminal proceedings, crime prevention, and strengthening public trust in the rule of law. The experience and development trajectory of the Pre-Trial Investigation Division provide a solid foundation for further growth and the ability to address increasingly complex challenges in protecting legality. Looking ahead, the Division will continue to develop and maintain high standards of professionalism in its activities.

During its ten years of operation, the Internal Security Bureau has become a key component in ensuring national internal security and the rule of law, investigating criminal offenses committed in state institutions, the economy, against individuals' health, and in other areas. Throughout this period, the Pre-Trial Investigation Division has handled a wide range of criminal cases – from various instances of abuse of official authority to complex corruption schemes involving numerous individuals.



**Laura Daine,**

Head of the Pre-Trial Investigation Division,  
Internal Security Bureau.

The Internal Security Bureau's operational dynamics indicate a gradual and significant increase in the complexity of the investigation process. Each year, there is a noticeable trend of a growing number of individuals involved in criminal proceedings, alongside the increasing sophistication of criminal schemes under investigation.

This requires the investigative authority to pursue continuous professional development, methodological adaptation, and effective coordination of investigations with other law enforcement and oversight bodies, ensuring close inter-institutional cooperation, including at the international level.



In these circumstances, the human resources of the Division itself are of crucial importance. The most valuable asset of the Pre-Trial Investigation Division is, its investigators – highly qualified specialists with in-depth knowledge not only of legal matters but also of evidence collection and analysis. These officials are capable of adapting to changing legal and technological conditions, thereby ensuring public safety and adherence to the principles of the rule of law. Their experience, professionalism, objectivity, and ability to maintain independence and integrity – often while handling sensitive and high-profile criminal cases – are essential prerequisites for upholding legality in Latvia. The investigators ensure the quality, objectivity, and legality of criminal proceedings.

**J. Omuls, Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor’s Office for the Investigation of Criminal Offenses in State Institutions of the Republic of Latvia**

*The quality of investigations is closely linked to the competence, preparedness, and commitment of each individual investigator. Overall, the investigative quality of the Internal Security Bureau can be assessed as good, professional, and purposeful, which consistently reflects the individual performance of investigators, showing a positive trend of improvement. Most cases are investigated carefully and thoroughly, ensuring objectivity and leaving no grounds to doubt the professionalism, neutrality, or competence of either the institution or the individual case handlers. Although minor shortcomings in procedural decision-making are occasionally observed, the overall work is commendable – investigators and their supervisors perform their duties conscientiously and with high responsibility.*

Significant changes occurred on January 1, 2021, when the Prosecutor’s Office for the Investigation of Criminal Offenses in State Institutions began its operations. Its prosecutors supervise investigations, conduct criminal prosecutions, and represent the state in court in cases initiated by the Internal Security Bureau concerning criminal offenses committed across the entire territory of Latvia, as defined in Chapter XXIV of the Criminal Law: “Criminal Offenses in the Service of State Institutions.” The supervision of these investigations and related functions is carried out by prosecutors specialized in investigating criminal offenses committed by officials, resulting in a unified practice within the Pre-Trial Investigation Division for handling these types of crimes. It should also be noted that prosecutors actively oversee cases from the very start of criminal proceedings, which accelerates pre-trial investigations and enhances the effectiveness and quality of investigators’ work.

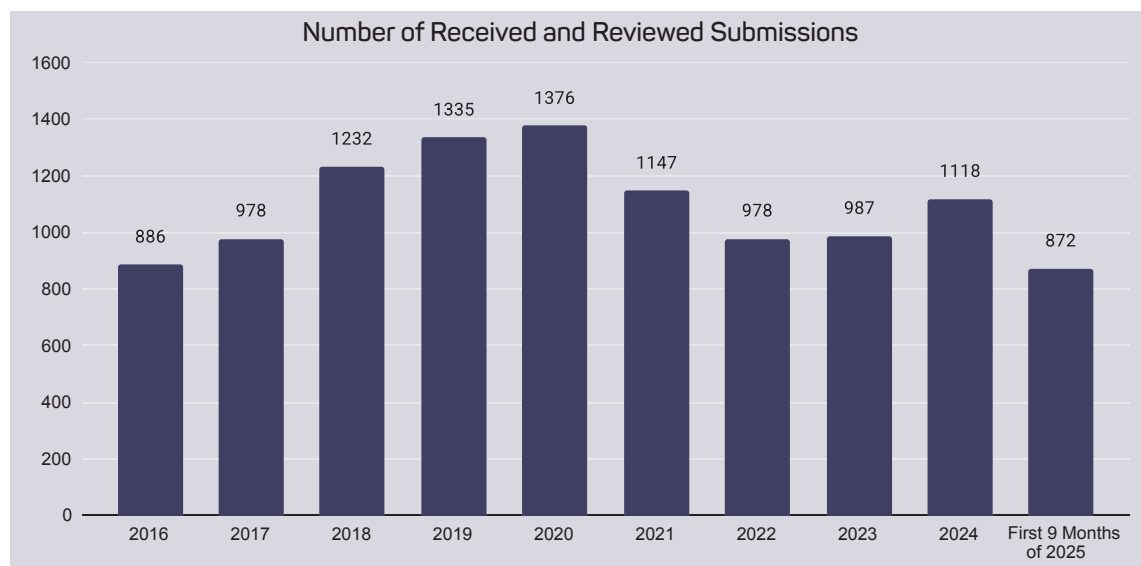


## J. Omuls, Chief Prosecutor of the Prosecutor's Office for the Investigation of Criminal Offenses in State Institutions of the Republic of Latvia

*The existing cooperation with the Internal Security Bureau is considered very successful and productive – both information exchange and communication with investigators are conducted in a timely manner, and collaboration functions efficiently and professionally. Investigators are keen to maintain regular contact with supervising prosecutors, and the overall collaborative climate is characterized as responsive and cooperative. Prosecutors highly value investigators' willingness to collaborate, as well as their readiness to consult, ask questions, or seek advice on practical matters. Such open and respectful communication is one of the most important components in ensuring the quality of the investigative process and its outcomes, and the Prosecutor's Office encourages this practice to be maintained. Trends in the investigation of criminal offenses committed by state officials increasingly reflect technological developments, including the use of foreign financial services in property-related crimes, which makes investigations more complex and time-consuming. Accordingly, to improve investigative efficiency, it is recommended that the Internal Security Bureau increase the involvement of technical tools and support personnel in addressing both legal and other interdisciplinary issues. While practical challenges such as resource workload, limited technical capacity, and staff turnover may sometimes slow the progress of complex cases, overall, the Internal Security Bureau's capacity and ability to adapt to changing investigative requirements are highly commendable.*

## Pre-Trial Investigation Performance Indicators

**The Internal Security Bureau has received and reviewed 10,909 submissions.**



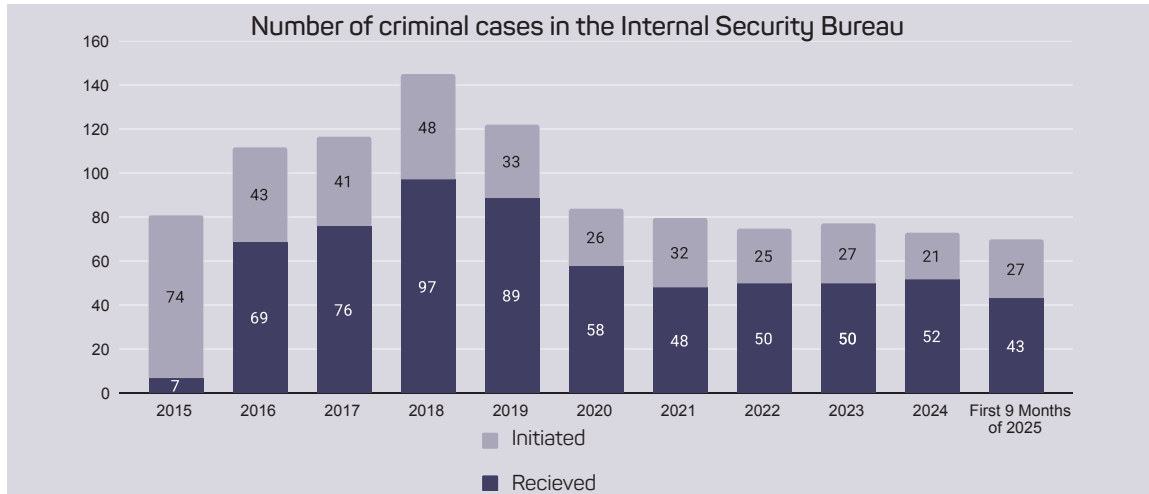
Over the past ten years, the Internal Security Bureau has reviewed more than 10,000 submissions, the majority of which come from individuals and legal entities, while a smaller portion consists of reports from other pre-trial investigation or state administration bodies regarding the potentially unlawful actions of officials.



In all cases, the information provided in a submission is verified, resulting in:

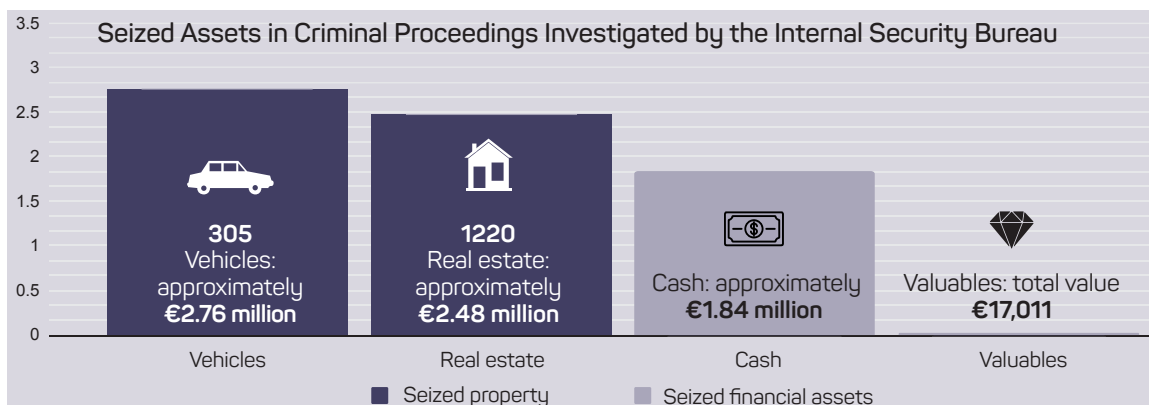
- Substantive responses being provided;
- Submissions forwarded to the competent authorities;
- In one-quarter of all submissions, the information obtained during the verification is assessed in accordance with Articles 369–373 of the Criminal Procedure Law, and a decision is made to decline the initiation of criminal proceedings;
- In 10% of cases, a criminal proceeding is initiated, or the submission is added to an ongoing investigation.

## Over the past ten years, the Internal Security Bureau has conducted investigations in 1,036 criminal proceedings:

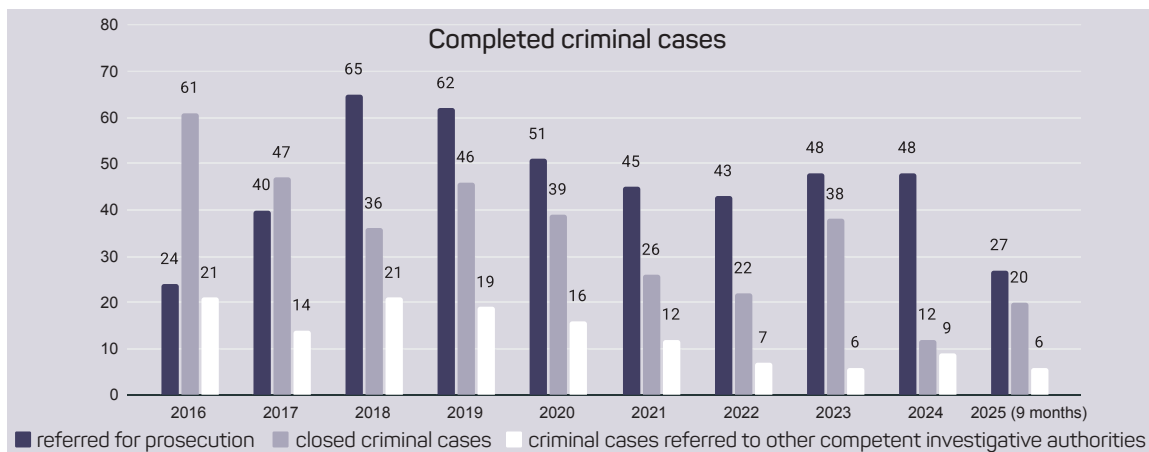


- 49% of criminal proceedings were forwarded to the Prosecutor’s Office for the initiation of prosecution;
- 37% of criminal proceedings were terminated;
- 14% of criminal proceedings were forwarded to other investigative authorities with jurisdiction.

**Within the criminal proceedings investigated by the Internal Security Bureau, assets valued at €7,096,427 have been seized.\***



\* In criminal proceedings investigated by the Internal Security Bureau, assets were seized from 169 suspects, including both property and financial resources.



Each year, half of the completed criminal proceedings are forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office for the initiation of prosecution. Some of these cases are concluded at the prosecutor's level without being sent to court:

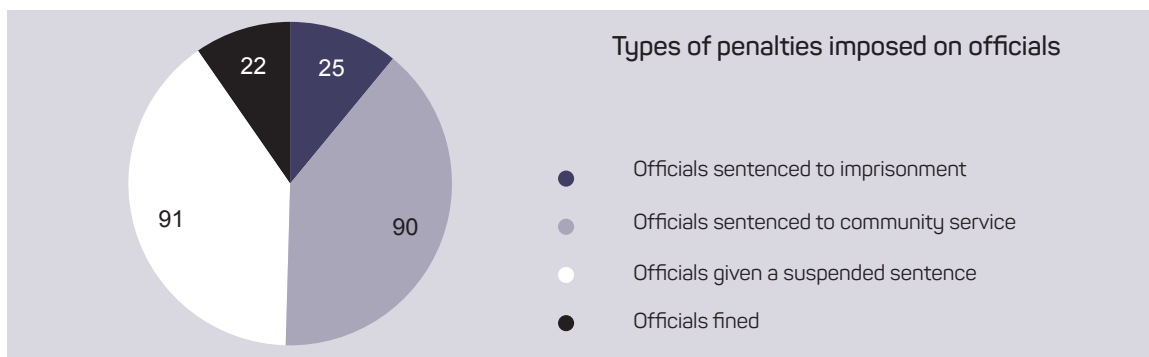
- 56 cases concluded with a punishment order
- 46 cases concluded with conditional release from criminal liability
- 63 cases terminated

Other cases are concluded by decisions to transfer the case to court, either under the general procedure or the plea agreement procedure.

**Of the 455 criminal proceedings investigated by the Internal Security Bureau and sent to the Prosecutor's Office, involving 708 individuals, including 564 officials:**

- In 218 cases, the court has issued a final judgment;
- In 111 cases, court proceedings are ongoing.

**From the criminal proceedings investigated by the Internal Security Bureau, 210 cases resulted in convictions, with 239 officials found guilty.**



**The Internal Security Bureau has investigated and terminated 347 criminal proceedings.**

Not only at the prosecutor's level but also within the Internal Security Bureau, on average, one-third of cases are terminated. In these **347** cases, investigations were carried out, and circumstances precluding criminal proceedings were identified, which led to the termination of the cases. In the majority of terminated cases, it was determined that the acts did not constitute a criminal offense, or that no crime had been committed. Despite these outcomes, investigations were conducted over an average of **336** days, fulfilling the state's duty to investigate every case.

Over the past ten years, the number of terminated cases shows a long-term downward trend with occasional increases. Notably, 2023 saw a percentage increase in terminated cases, due to the Internal Security Bureau's prioritized focus that year.

The Internal Security Bureau has initiated 48 criminal proceedings concerning the deliberate provision of false information.

**The Internal Security Bureau's goal is not only to detect criminal offenses committed by officials but also to protect employees of the institutions mentioned in Article 4 of the Internal Security Bureau Law when they are falsely accused.** It is well known that law enforcement officials, while performing their duties diligently, can become targets of revenge or slander, or may be subjected to illegal influence.

In practice, several criminal proceedings have been initiated against persons who submitted false reports accusing law enforcement officials of illegal conduct. Of these: 10 cases continue to be investigated by the Internal Security Bureau; 38 cases have been transferred to other pre-trial investigation authorities (State Police or Prison Administration) according to institutional jurisdiction.

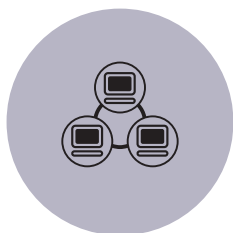
Analysis of the Internal Security Bureau's information shows that 8 criminal proceedings on deliberate false reporting have been adjudicated:

- 2 cases resulted in a prosecutor's punishment order;
- 3 cases resulted in short-term imprisonment;
- 2 cases resulted in community service of 80 and 160 hours.

The convicted individuals sought to initiate criminal proceedings against state officials out of revenge, falsely accusing State Police, municipal police, or Prison Administration officers of using physical force or causing bodily harm. **For example, one person filed a deliberately false report to the State Police claiming that municipal police officers, during a call at a local council building, punched them in the stomach, humiliated and insulted them, threatened physical retaliation, and forced them to sign documents and provide false explanations.** In another case, an attack on a State Police officer resulted in a €6,000 fine for the convicted person.

The Internal Security Bureau's mission is to uphold honesty and justice. In such cases, criminal proceedings are initiated, and individuals who committed slander are prosecuted and punished.





# IT FIELD AND PROCESSES

With the establishment of the Internal Security Bureau, organizational requirements within state administration institutions were assessed, and internal processes were implemented to promote not only strategic but also rapid, efficient, and systematic approaches. Process management is influenced by both internal and external factors, which increasingly demand highly qualified and professional personnel, appropriate technological solutions, and effective planning and implementation.

## **To ensure effective internal process organization within the Internal Security Bureau:**

Strategic planning capabilities have been developed to link the performance indicators included in the operational strategy with the Internal Security Bureau's strategic priorities and the state budget expenditures.

Organizational adjustments have been made to ensure the execution of functions and improve internal process efficiency, including evaluating structural optimization options, enhancing functional and control management of structural units, and making structural changes such as:

- forming investigator groups specialized by types of criminal offenses;
- expanding the Analytical Group by increasing the number of analysts;
- establishing a Prevention Group and a Supply Section within the Administrative Division.
- Measures were implemented to improve procedural task execution and operational information analysis – including increasing staff involved in analytical work and creating technical solutions for unified data processing, along with reusable data import templates in analytical software, standardizing certain data analyses and optimizing data imports.
- Necessary information systems have been introduced, maintained, and improved to store, analyze, and identify relationships in acquired information, ensuring analytical and control functionality. The Internal Security Bureau has created and maintains three information systems with different classification levels, used within internal processes.
- Internal processes have been digitalized, such as annual work plans, document management, support for parallel financial investigations, and electronic risk management in a testing phase.
- Equally important for the Internal Security Bureau's functions is the continuous improvement of internal processes regarding: motivated, knowledgeable, and sufficient personnel, material-technical and informational support, and process optimization.

Key factors ensuring the execution of the Internal Security Bureau's functions include:

- Professional approach by unit leaders in implementing new technologies and innovations, e.g., to enhance information analysis capabilities;
- Motivation systems for existing specialists to continue service at the Internal Security Bureau, considering salary and other attractive employment offers. Measures have been taken to align the remuneration of criminal investigators with that of district prosecutors.





# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Over time, the Internal Security Bureau has significantly developed international cooperation with counterpart institutions from Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Spain, the United States, and other countries. High-level international collaboration helps to prevent, investigate, and detect criminal offenses much faster and more effectively.

During its 10 years of operation, the Internal Security Bureau has established cooperation with partner agencies in 16 countries: Estonia, Morocco, the USA, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Lithuania, Norway, Ireland, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Georgia, Sweden, Poland, Germany, and Spain.

The cooperation has included a wide range of activities on current topics, such as investigation and detection of corruption-related crimes, organized crime trends, operational activities, combat medicine, various investigative procedures, and prevention measures. Collaboration has also focused on training; for example, in 2023, the Internal Security Bureau gained valuable knowledge and enhanced tactical skills in cooperation with colleagues from the USA.



In 2022, the Internal Security Bureau became a member of the international organizations EPAC/EACN (European Partnership Against Corruption / European Contactpoint Network Against Corruption) and ICIN (Internal Criminal Investigations Network).

EPAC and EACN are independent practitioner forums with a common goal: preventing and combating corruption. EPAC includes anti-corruption and police oversight agencies from Council of Europe member states, while the EACN format brings together anti-corruption agencies from EU member states. These two networks largely operate together due to their shared objectives and mission.



ICIN unites organizations responsible for criminal investigations related to police misconduct. Currently, ICIN includes 32 member organizations from 27 countries.

Additionally, the Internal Security Bureau regularly participates in projects and programs of various international organizations, such as GRECO, CEPOL, EJTN, EMPACT, AFCOS, UN, OECD, and the European Commission, contributing to the evaluation of Latvia's compliance with international standards. Examples include UN Human Rights Committee evaluation of Latvia's report on the implementation of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Council of Europe Rule of Law report; European Convention reports on the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in Latvia.



# COOPERATION WITH PARTNER AGENCIES

## **I. Jaunrodziņš, Head of the Internal Security Bureau**

*For the successful implementation of the agency's functions, support from partner services is essential. Both internal affairs institutions and other law enforcement agencies are important cooperation partners for us, with whom we collaborate in the exchange of information, joint activities – including preventive measures – and in the material and technical domain. Recognizing the significance of such cooperation, special attention has been given to this issue in recent years.*

A significant portion of the Internal Security Bureau's preventive activities is conducted in cooperation with public administration bodies and non-governmental organizations. For example, in 2024, seminars aimed at preventing economic crimes were organized, with support provided by the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau and the State Revenue Service.

The previous cooperation between the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau and the Internal Security Bureau has been excellent. Colleagues from the Internal Security Bureau are responsive and professional, demonstrating that both institutions share a common goal in the fight against corruption.

The cooperation between the two institutions is multifaceted, in recent years particularly covering analytical functions and education. Joint activities carry added value, as they not only strengthen the institutional capacity of both institutions but also provide a comprehensive understanding of corruption risks and possibilities for their prevention.

From the perspective of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, the Internal Security Bureau demonstrates a high level of professionalism, competence, and purposefulness through its work. This contributes significantly to the strengthening of the rule of law in the country.



**Jēkabs Straume, Head of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau**

The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau wishes success to its geographically closest partners and reaffirms its readiness to continue working shoulder to shoulder to reduce the presence of corruption in Latvian society.

The Internal Security Bureau values the activities of the institutions within the Ministry of the Interior aimed at improving internal control systems and processes. Over the past ten years, both the system as a whole and the legal awareness of personnel within the Ministry of the Interior have gradually changed – criminal behavior is no longer tolerated, and institutions themselves increasingly report identified risks of unlawful conduct. Cooperation with the Financial Intelligence Service takes place in the field of preventing and combating economic crimes, which has become increasingly active each year – both in terms of information exchange and organized joint activities. For example, the Internal Security Bureau has provided support in the development of methodological materials, while the Financial Intelligence Service has conducted educational seminars for the institution's officials.





# NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

One of the facets of the Internal Security Bureau's graphical representation symbolizes public trust – one of the core values upon which the Internal Security Bureau's activities are based. The Internal Security Bureau's goal in detecting criminal offenses is to build public understanding and trust, thereby encouraging the reporting of unlawful conduct and eliminating criminal acts committed by officials.

Fear, uncertainty, and social condemnation often prevent victims from reporting crimes. The establishment of the Internal Security Bureau's informational trust hotline in 2016 aimed to provide every individual with a point of support to consult and share information regarding potentially unlawful conduct by officials.

Emphasizing violent and corrupt criminal offenses, which constitute a significant portion of investigations each year, the Internal Security Bureau cooperates with non-governmental organizations, including the associations "Skalbes," "Society for Open Governance – Delna," and the "Public Policy Center PROVIDUS." The Internal Security Bureau participates in discussions and other informational activities to enhance public understanding through the work of these NGOs.

Following the report prepared in 2019 by the United Nations Committee against Torture<sup>8</sup>, the involvement of NGOs in implementing preventive measures gained importance, for instance, in improving reporting opportunities, promoting the Internal Security Bureau's recognition and understanding of its competencies, and developing informational materials on individuals' duties to comply with lawful orders of officials and the rights of officials to use physical force and special equipment. This helps raise public awareness about preventing noncompliance, resistance, or attacks against law enforcement officers.

Public satisfaction with the work of the Internal Security Bureau serves as a criterion for quality and reliability. In developing preventive activities, the Internal Security Bureau actively strengthens cooperation with NGOs to reduce latent criminality through public participation.

By enhancing mechanisms for public involvement and promoting access to information about the progress of criminal proceedings – from initiation to a guilty verdict or case closure – the Internal Security Bureau maintains daily communication with the public through its website, [www.idb.gov.lv](http://www.idb.gov.lv), established on 1 March 2016. The website is regularly updated with information on current events, ongoing criminal proceedings, detained officials, and cases sent to the prosecution for criminal proceedings, thereby reinforcing a transparent and publicly accountable Internal Security Bureau.

<sup>8</sup> Periodic Report of the Republic of Latvia on the Implementation of the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the Republic of Latvia for the Period from 2014 to 2016



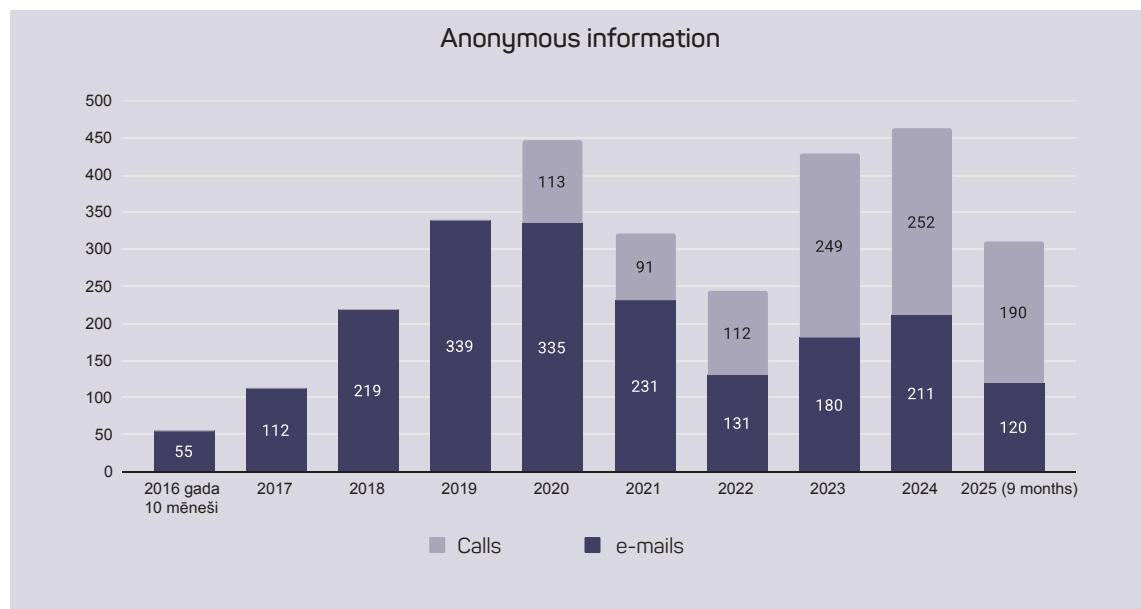
The website provides information about the competencies of the Internal Security Bureau, informational materials, and contact options, including the possibility to report anonymously and receive information regarding unlawful conduct by officials.

[www.idb.gov.lv](http://www.idb.gov.lv)

To ensure the ability to report planned or recently committed criminal offenses promptly, enabling rapid response and evidence preservation, as well as to maintain the anonymity of the reporter, the Internal Security Bureau's informational trust hotline can be used in two ways:

- speaking directly with an official;
- leaving a message on the answering machine.

The answering machine function of the Internal Security Bureau's informational trust hotline has been available since the establishment of the agency. Starting from 1 March 2016, the hotline's functionality was expanded to include the possibility of speaking directly with an Internal Security Bureau official while maintaining anonymity.



The Internal Security Bureau's explanatory activities regarding its competencies, public education initiatives, and the development of informational and educational materials have contributed not only to an increase in the proportion of submissions within the Internal Security Bureau's competence but also to reporting via the informational trust hotline and email.



Based on anonymously received information, the Internal Security Bureau initiates, on average, one or two criminal proceedings each year regarding possible unlawful conduct by officials. This demonstrates that even anonymous reporting is an important step in detecting potential criminal offenses and that public involvement is significant in ensuring justice.

Considering trends in crime development, including violence, corruption, economic offenses, and money laundering, the Internal Security Bureau maintains qualitative and results-oriented communication with non-governmental organizations to promote the Internal Security Bureau's recognition and enhance public understanding of its competencies.

Currently, an assessment of the impact of preventive measures on crime prevention in the institutions mentioned in Article 4 of the Internal Security Bureau Law has not been conducted. However, studying and understanding the causes of crime, combined with targeted control, yields effective results in preventing criminal offenses.



## **DON'T STAND ASIDE. ACT NOW!**

**Report possible unlawful  
conduct by officials to ensure  
that public security and order  
are maintained by honest and  
trustworthy officials!**

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION HOTLINE – 67209055**



