

# Workplace Investigations

## Contributing Editors

*Phil Linnard at Slaughter and May*  
*Clare Fletcher at Slaughter and May*

## 05. Can the employee under investigation bring legal action to stop the investigation?



### India

Author: *Atul Gupta, Kanishka Maggon, Kopal Kumar*  
at Trilegal

An employee has very limited ability to bring legal action to stop the investigation, as no disciplinary measure is taken against an individual during the investigation stage. The risk of claims or disputes generally arises after the employer has taken disciplinary measures against the individual.

An employee could, however, bring claims in some circumstances – for example, if the individual has been suspended without pay, or if the individual's assets have been seized as part of the investigation without following due process. Therefore, it is critical that robust internal guidelines are framed that lay out the framework to follow in investigations to mitigate the risk of legal claims or disputes.

Last updated on 15/09/2022



### Portugal

Author: *André Pestana Nascimento*  
at Uría Menéndez - Proença de Carvalho

The employee under investigation can only bring legal action after the investigation is finished and if the employer has applied a disciplinary sanction.

According to article 329(7) of the Portuguese Labour Code, the employee may submit a complaint to the immediate superior officer that applied the sanction or may resort to a dispute resolution procedure as provided for by the applicable collective bargaining agreements or the law (this is uncommon, however).

Furthermore, should a company dismiss an employee in breach of the legal requirements described above, the latter may take legal action against the company within 60 days of the date of termination of his or her employment agreement. The employee may also choose to file a preliminary injunction against the employer seeking immediate (albeit provisional) reinstatement.

Notwithstanding this, if the employee can prove that they suffered damages as a result of being subject to an abusive and illegal investigation, they may file a complaint with the Labour Authorities or bring a claim

against the employer and demand the payment of compensation for the damages caused.

Last updated on 15/09/2022

## Switzerland

Author: *Laura Widmer, Sandra Schaffner*  
at Bär & Karrer

The accused could theoretically request a court to stop the investigation, for instance, by arguing that there is no reason for the investigation and that the investigation infringes the employee's personality rights. However, if the employer can prove that there were grounds for reasonable suspicion and is conducting the investigation properly, it is unlikely that such a request would be successful.

Last updated on 15/09/2022

### Contributors



#### India

Atul Gupta  
Kanishka Maggon  
Kopal Kumar  
*Trilegal*



#### Portugal

André Pestana Nascimento  
*Uría Menéndez - Proença de Carvalho*



#### Switzerland

Laura Widmer  
Sandra Schaffner  
*Bär & Karrer*