

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## SUMMARY



# Foreword

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This is a report on the activities of the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2023, which is submitted to Parliament, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Government in accordance with Article 19(1) of the Intelligence Oversight Act.

This is the fifth annual report of the Intelligence Ombudsman and at the same time a kind of balance sheet of the first five-year term of office of the Intelligence Ombudsman, which ended on 30 April 2024. The Government appointed me as Intelligence Ombudsman for a five-year extension period starting on 1 May 2024, after hearing the Intelligence Oversight Committee of Parliament. The first Intelligence Oversight Committee of Parliament held its last meeting on 23 February 2023 and the second Committee held its first meeting on 22 September 2023.

Due to its balance sheet nature, the main theme of this annual report is the realisation of fundamental and human rights and legal protection in civilian and military intelligence activities. In previous annual reports, the emphasis has been on observations and remarks on the entirely new intelligence legislation – within the bounds of secrecy obligations – concerning the completely novel forms of civil and military intelligence activities and their application. These observations and remarks have also formed part of the advance supervision of the legality of civil and military intelligence activities and of proposals for improvements to the functioning of the legislation.

These observations and remarks have concerned, inter alia, the digital environment and the role of civilian and military intelligence in support of contingency planning and transition to emergency conditions. The latter theme has become increasingly important as the security situation has changed.



**Kimmo Hakonen**  
Intelligence Ombudsman



# Mission, Vision and Strategic guidelines

## MISSION

We supervise the legality of intelligence gathering methods and the use of intelligence, as well as the legality of other intelligence operations, and promote the realisation of legal protection and best practises in intelligence activities.

## VISION

For our part, we ensure that intelligence activities are lawful, comply with good administration and respect fundamental and human rights.

## STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

- We supervise effectively
- We communicate cogently
- We learn from international cooperation
- We network academically

## **We supervise effectively**

- In particular, we will ensure that intelligence is targeted only at activities that pose a serious threat to national security.
- We review all decisions on the use of intelligence gathering methods and participate in all court proceedings on such matters.
- We will carry out a targeted review of other intelligence documentation relevant to the supervision of the legal protection of the persons targeted by the intelligence and of the rights of non-targets.
- We carry out thematic inspections, where appropriate, in cooperation with other intelligence overseers.
- We will make use of the wide range of forms and means of legality control available to the Intelligence Ombudsman as far as possible without compromising the independence and autonomy.

## **We communicate cogently**

- We provide relevant, adequate and timely information on the tasks and activities of the Intelligence Ombudsman, taking into account the different target audiences for communication, both at home and abroad.
- We present information through the main communication channel of the Intelligence Ombudsman – the website – in clear language and using visual illustration.

## **We learn from international cooperation**

- We gain knowledge and build understanding of the new supervision targets and methods used by our oversight partners.
- We adopt and share good practices, in particular between the Nordic countries.

## **We network academically**

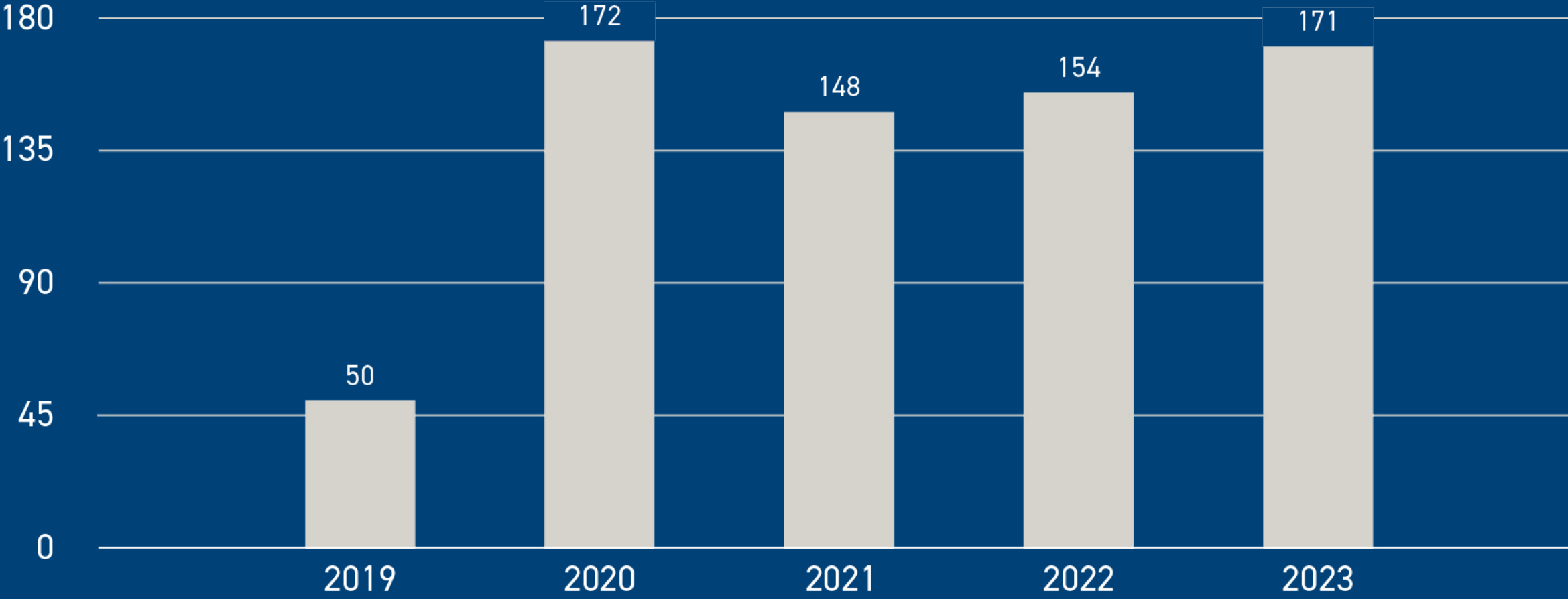
- We follow intelligence research and teaching and maintain a snapshot of ongoing research projects and theses.
- We contribute to the debate on intelligence by publishing news on intelligence research on the Intelligence Ombudsman's website and by participating in university collaborations.





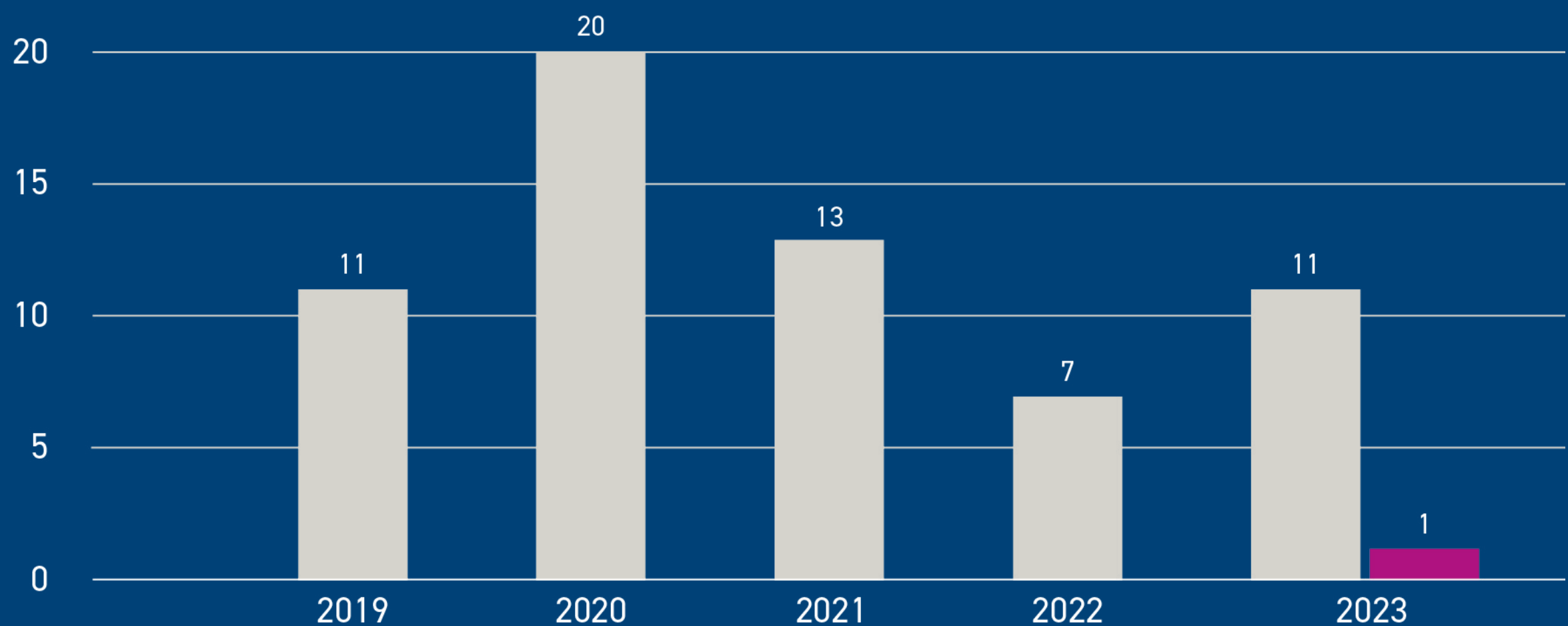


# CONTROL VISITS



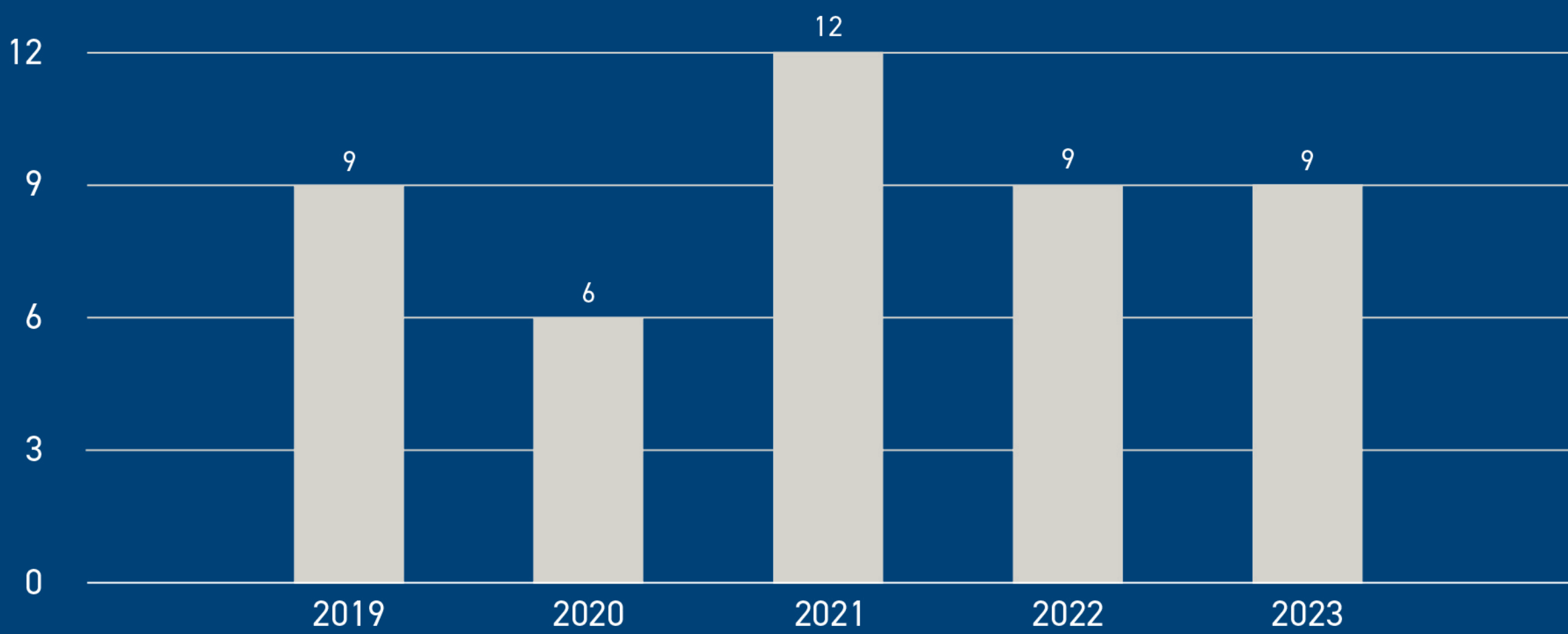
*Number of control visits by the Intelligence Ombudsman to intelligence authorities in 2019–2023.*

# INVESTIGATION REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS



*Number of investigation requests (grey bars) and complaints (red bar) made to the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2023.*

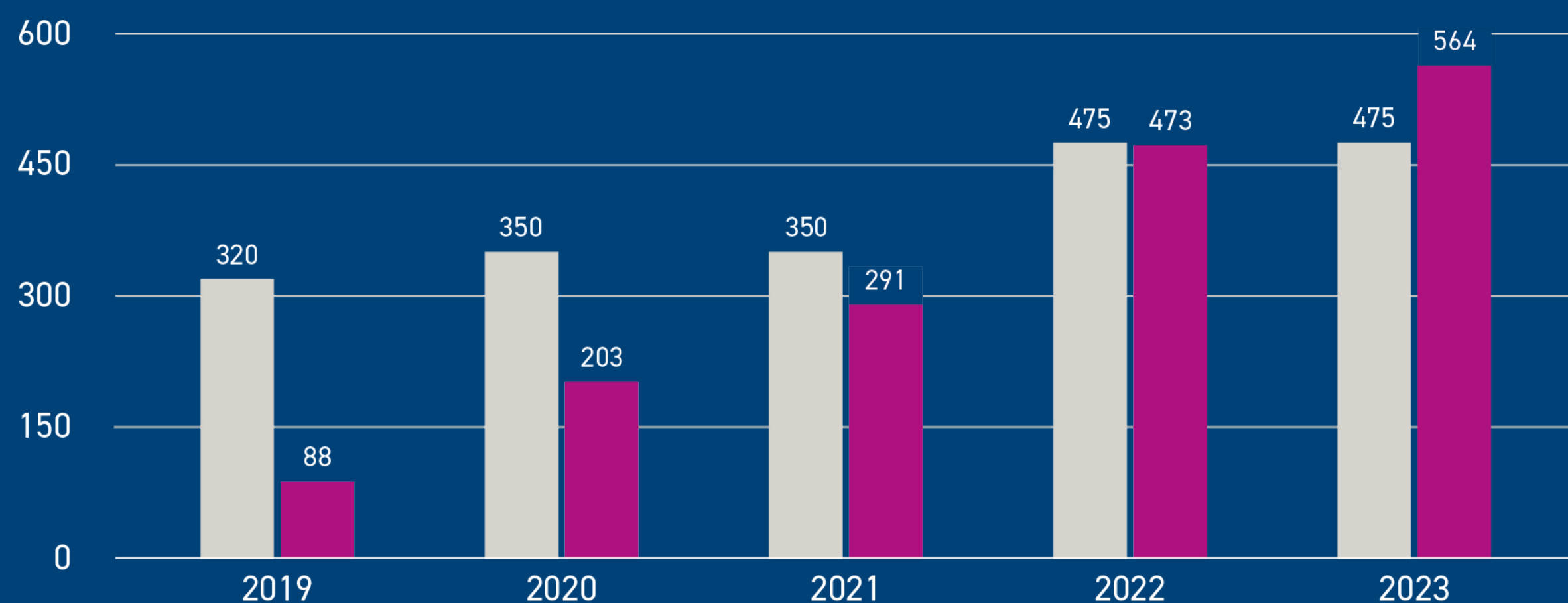
# STATEMENTS



*Number of statements issued by the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2023.*

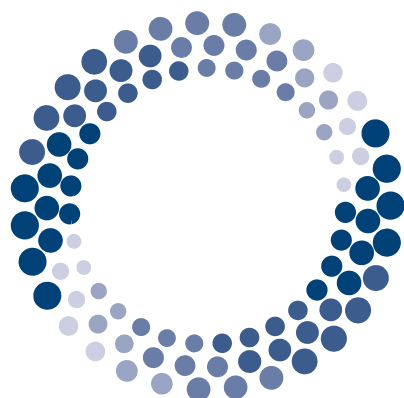


# FUNDING



*The budget (grey bars) and actual operating expenditure (red bars) of the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2023.*

- \* Funding in thousands of euros*
- \*\* The Intelligence Ombudsman became operational on 1.5.2019*
- \*\*\* Premises costs for the Intelligence Ombudsman were covered 2019–2021 from the Data Protection Ombudsman’s budget.*



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