



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SUMMARY

Foreword

This is a report on the activities of the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2024, which is submitted to Parliament, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Government in accordance with Article 19(1) of the Intelligence Oversight Act.

During the six-year period of the intelligence legislation, the geopolitical security situation has changed, and technological developments related to digitalisation have accelerated. The changing security situation has increased the importance of intelligence activities and international intelligence cooperation. A particular theme of this annual report is the impact of the changing operating environment on intelligence law and its application, as well as on the enforcement of intelligence law.



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

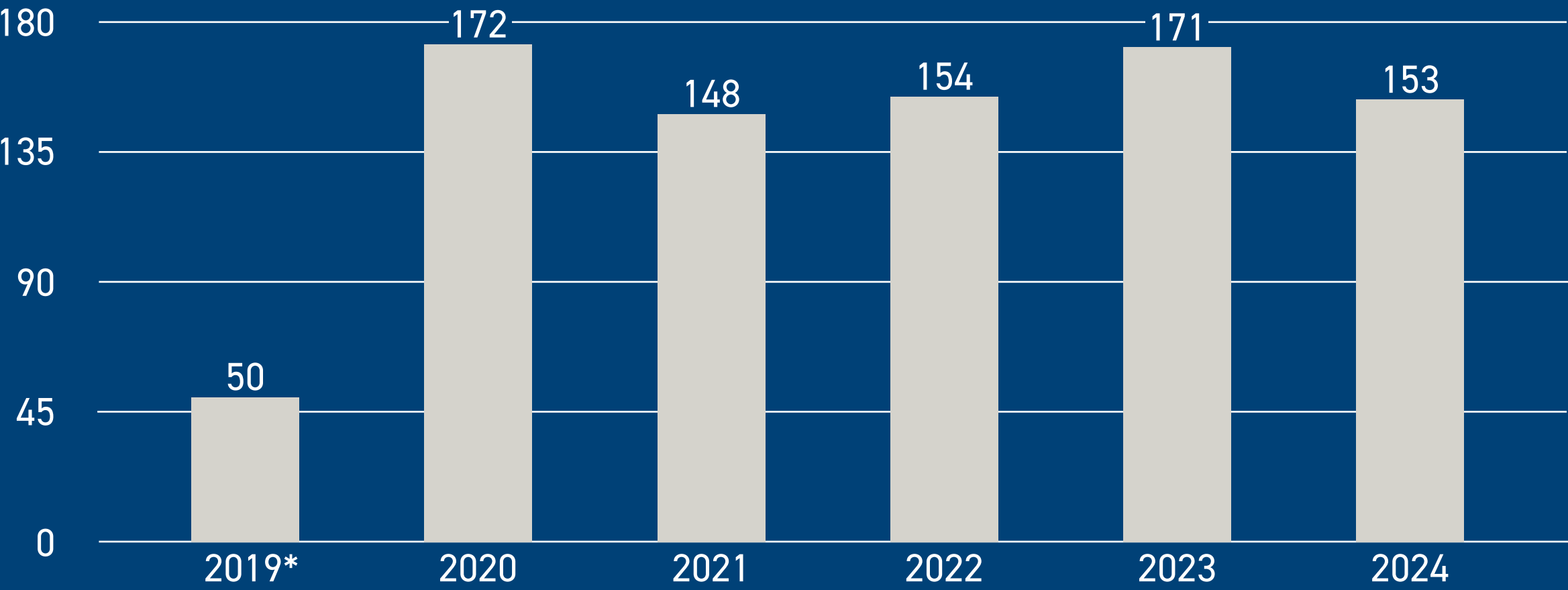
- We gain knowledge and build understanding of the new supervision targets and methods used by our oversight partners.
- We adopt and share good practices, in particular between the Nordic countries.

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.



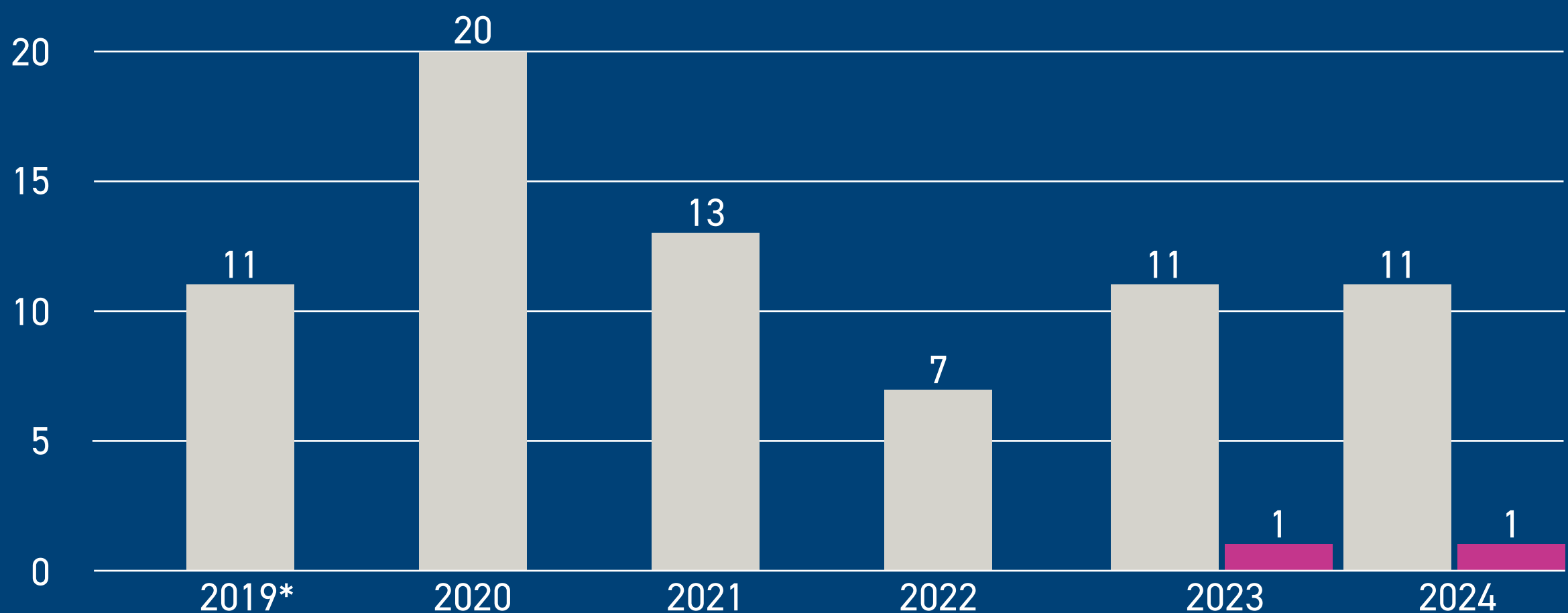
CONTROL VISITS



Number of control visits by the Intelligence Ombudsman to intelligence authorities in 2019–2024.

** The Intelligence Ombudsman became operational on 1.5.2019.*

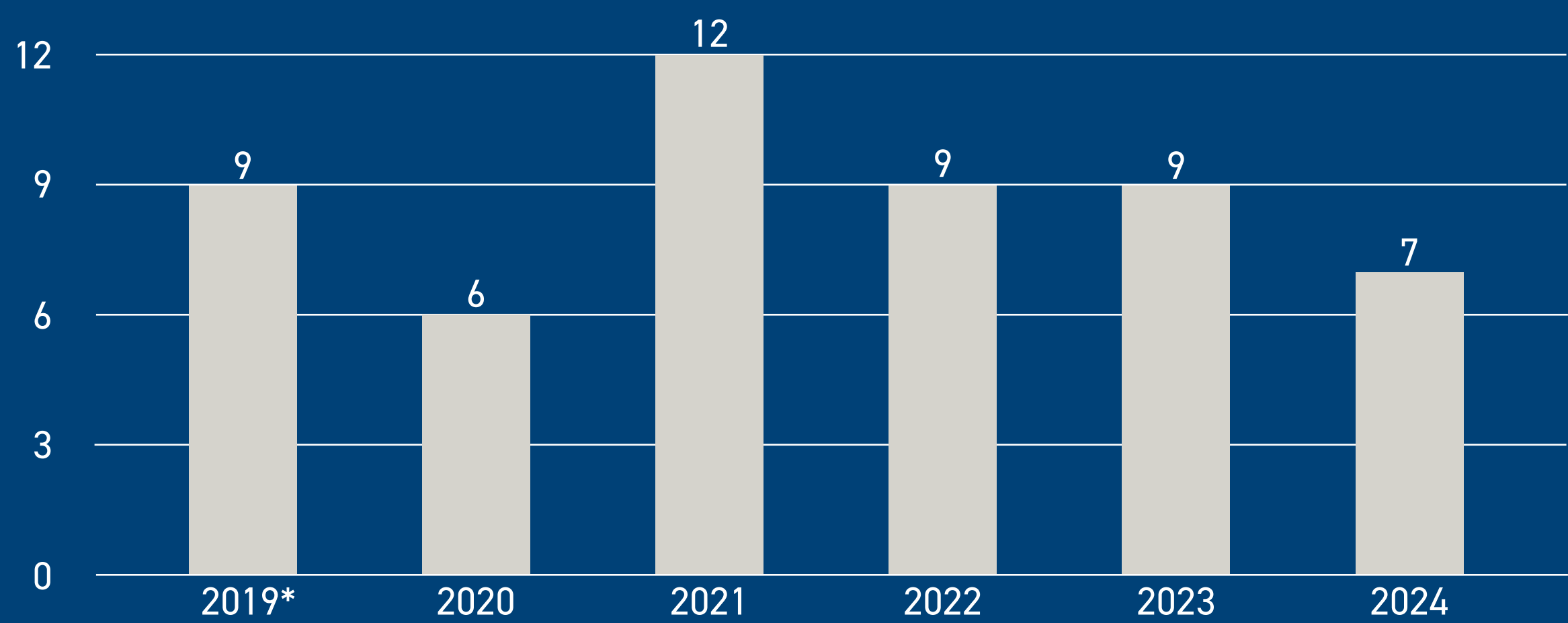
INVESTIGATION REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS



Number on investigation requests (grey bars) and complaints deemed admissible (lilac bars) made to the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2024.

** The Intelligence Ombudsman became operational on 1.5.2019.*

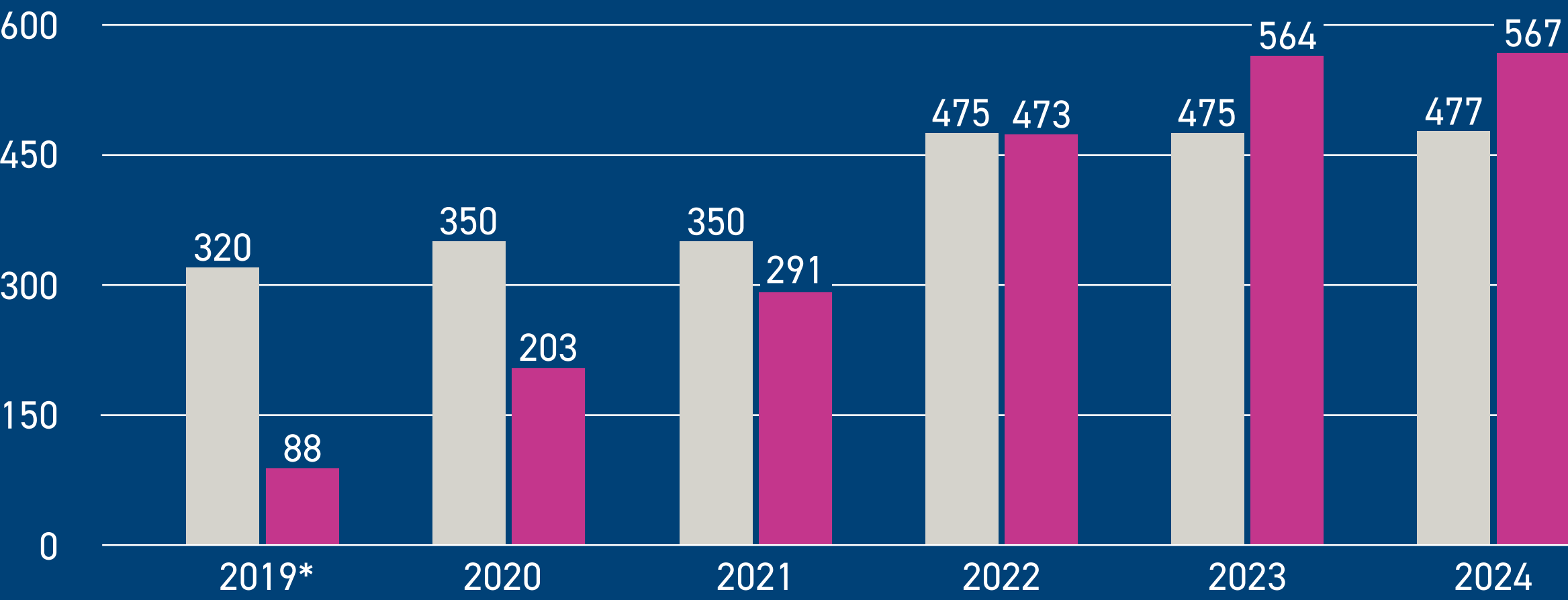
STATEMENTS



Number of statements issued by the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2024.

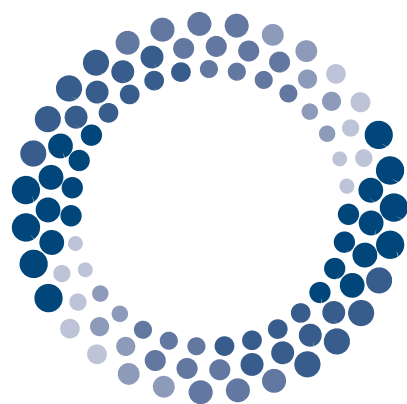
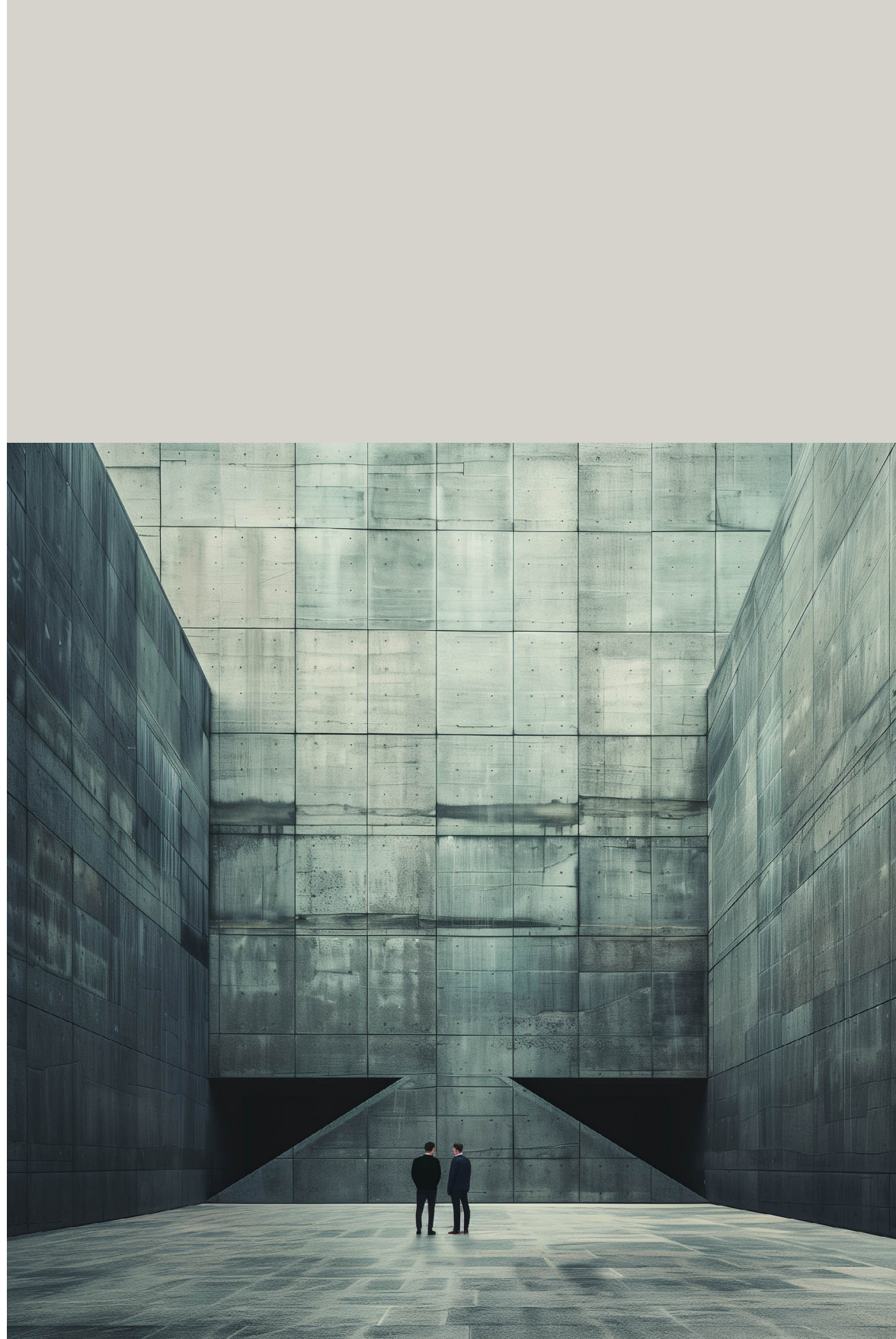
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FUNDING



The budget (grey bars) and actual operating expenditure (lilac bars) of the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2024 in thousands of euros. Premises costs for the Intelligence Ombudsman were covered 2019–2021 from the Data Protection Ombudsman's budget.

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