

# Newsletter



Latest News from the National Office for Safeguarding  
Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

October 2019

## National Office Staff

Chief  
Executive  
Officer

[Teresa Devlin](#)

Director of  
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Support

[Niall Moore](#)

Part time  
Director of  
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[Peter Kieran](#)

Administrators

[Imelda Ashe](#)

[Ann Cunningham](#)

Advice and  
Support

[Sister Colette Stevenson](#)

## Introduction

During summer 2019 the National Board said a fond “Slán agus beannacht” to Ann Doyle. Ann has worked in the National Office for 11 years and graced us all with her calm, gentle manner through good times and challenging times. While Ann is missed by us all, we are delighted that she is taking time with her family and grandchildren during this next phase of her life.

One door closes and another has opened to Ann Cunningham, our new Administrator. Ann may be well known to many of you as she has worked in various agencies of the Bishops’ Conference over the past 10 years. We welcome Ann and extend a warm “Fáilte” to her as she begins what we hope will be a fulfilling role in the National Board.



To you all, our readers, we hope you have had an opportunity for rest and a little sunshine over the summer months. National Office staff have started a detailed process of reviewing notification records, in line with our data destruction procedures. This is an intensive programme of work and will result in a letter to all Church authorities over the coming weeks and months advising about collection or destruction of these records by them as data controllers.

# GDPR, Information Sharing, MOUs and Deeds

Discussions have been taking place with Coimirce members regarding the National Board's access to personal sensitive information when a data controller seeks a service from the National Board. As previously stated in Newsletters, the National Board as a data processor clarified with the Data Commissioner that the execution of MOUs and Data Processing Deeds enables a data controller to share information when requesting (i) advice from a staff member of the National Office; (ii) advice from the National Case Management Committee; (iii) a review of child safeguarding practice; or (iv) assistance with case file structuring.

The National Board recognises how delicate sharing personal sensitive data is, and always encourages a data controller to advise the data subject that the advice of the National Board is being sought.

Of course, sharing information is an issue for the Church in general. The National Board has offered guidance in relation to the legal requirement to conduct a privacy impact assessment when seeking to share information, to read the guidance follow this link <https://www.safeguarding.ie/roles2?task=document.viewdoc&id=285>.

*Vos estis lux mundi* advises on the need to share information at various levels within the Church between Church authorities and with the Holy See. Further consideration will have to be given to how this can happen within the confines of domestic legislation following the introduction of GDPR.

## National Board's Data Destruction Process

Notifications that have been shared with the National Board since the inception of the National Office are being carefully assembled, by Church body. These records will be returned to the relevant Church authority, or destroyed if requested by the Church body. The National Board will write to Church authorities inviting them to collect the notifications once these have been compiled by National Office staff.

The National Board will retain a record of advice it has offered.

## Vos estis lux mundi

The National Board has participated in helpful discussions with the four Archbishops and with representatives of AMRI to consider whether these new norms add further requirements regarding safeguarding children and young people.

In addition, we have produced draft guidance on the management of allegations against Bishops and Supreme Moderators, which we will circulate and seek comment on prior to finalising. The laws within *Vos estis lux mundi* do not apply to other Church leaders. There is already canon law governing the abuse of office, which we have referenced in drafting revised guidance for the management of allegations against Church leaders not covered by *Vos estis lux mundi*. Again we will consult on this guidance prior to finalising.

To access a copy of the National Board's critique of *Vos estis lux mundi*, please contact [imeldaashe@safeguarding.ie](mailto:imeldaashe@safeguarding.ie)

# Reviews of Child Safeguarding Practice

Child Safeguarding reviews under *Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland* (2016) are now underway. One diocesan review is complete; another is underway, and planning meetings arranged with a number of other dioceses. One religious order has sought to be reviewed; but upon consideration of their ministry, it has been decided that the threshold for review by the National Board has not been met.

The process to initiate a review is through a letter of invitation by the Church authority to Teresa Devlin. This is then followed by an introductory planning meeting to agree the terms of the review, the dates for the review, and the reviewers to be deployed. Pre-review questionnaires are issued which gather information about personnel in the safeguarding structure; anonymised data on cases; and whether an agreement can be reached about how to access the views of children and their carers, complainants and respondents. It is the Church authority who decides whether and how to access these views.

Generally speaking, the reviews will start a few weeks after the initial planning meeting. Reviewers will be on site for 2/3 days and will provide the Church authority with a letter within two weeks, setting out their initial assessment of findings.

A fuller report which considers all evidence will be issued at a later date.

The Review Methodology is available on the National Board's website on page 46 of the Guidance on Standard 7, at [www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Standards/Standard%207.pdf](http://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Standards/Standard%207.pdf)

**Invitations to conduct a Review should be submitted by letter from a Church authority to Teresa Devlin, CEO NBSCCCI, New House St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.**

# Training and Support Strategy

A new Training and Support Strategy will be released in the next few weeks. Thank you to all who contributed your ideas to the strategy. You can read the strategy when it is released by following this link [www.safeguarding.ie/index.php/what-we-do/advice-on-effective-practice/training](http://www.safeguarding.ie/index.php/what-we-do/advice-on-effective-practice/training).

## Training Manual

Work started over the summer on revising the safeguarding training manual. A small working group comprising of a diocesan and religious trainer from each of the four ecclesiastical provincial areas of Ireland met with Niall Moore, the Director of Training and Support, to begin the process of redeveloping the training manual.

A draft was presented to some trainers in September, and a slightly amended draft will be presented to trainers and to tutors with a view to receiving feedback and incorporating this into the final draft. The revised manual will be designed and printed and given to trainers in January/February 2020.

The manual will now include 5 Training Programmes; these are:

1. Full-day training: this training lasts 5 hours and covers the following four areas:
  - Who and how we safeguard
  - Creating and maintaining safe environments
  - Recognising, Responding, Recording and Reporting
2. Information sessions: these sessions are shorter in length (three hours), and cover topics including the reporting procedures required under Standard 2.
3. Refresher sessions: These are shorter in length (three hours) and cover the topics listed in the full day training for those who have previously attended the full day training.
4. Mandated Persons' Training: This is a short one and a half hour session specifically for those who are defined as mandated persons in the Republic of Ireland. The content can be delivered as part of the other sessions above.
5. Training for Young Leaders: This is three hours in length and covers the same content as the information sessions but has been designed for young people who are taking on a leadership role with other children or young people.

If you are a trainer and have ideas for the manual that you would like to contribute, please email [niall.moore@safeguarding.ie](mailto:niall.moore@safeguarding.ie), or give the office a call.



# Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meeting

In the coming months the National Board will be facilitating a series of Ecclesiastical Provincial Area meetings. These meetings are an opportunity for staff from the National Office and Church safeguarding personnel to discuss issues of common interest, to further develop best practice in relation to safeguarding children. To find out more and to book your place please click on the following links:

- 15/10/2019- Armagh Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meeting- [www.safeguarding.ie/events/armagh-ecclesiastical-provincial-area-meeting-2019](http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/armagh-ecclesiastical-provincial-area-meeting-2019)
- 24/10/2019- Dublin Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meeting- [www.safeguarding.ie/events/dublin-ecclesiastical-provincial-area-meeting-2](http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/dublin-ecclesiastical-provincial-area-meeting-2)
- 20/11/2019- Cashel Ecclesiastical Provincial Area Meeting- [www.safeguarding.ie/events/cashel-ecclesiastical-provincial-area-meeting-2](http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/cashel-ecclesiastical-provincial-area-meeting-2)

Additional meetings will be held in Tuam, and with AMRI. When dates and venues have been confirmed, the National Board will notify the relevant Church personnel.

## Forthcoming Training Events

- **19/10/2019 - Annual Trainers' Update Day**- This session is for those who are currently registered as trainers with the NBSCCCI. The purpose is to provide trainers with the opportunity to contribute to the work of redeveloping the training manual. To book your place please follow this link [www.safeguarding.ie/events/annual-trainers-update-oct-2019](http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/annual-trainers-update-oct-2019)
- **06/11/2019 - Help for the Helper**- This training will be facilitated by representatives of Towards Healing and will focus on understanding trauma and its impact on Church safeguarding personnel who are working for dioceses and religious orders. This training is recommended for Church authorities, DLPs and those involved in providing support for Church safeguarding personnel. To book your place, please follow this link [www.safeguarding.ie/events/help-for-the-helper-understanding-trauma](http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/help-for-the-helper-understanding-trauma)
- **12/11/2019 - Self Audit Training for Category 3 Church Bodies** - this training is for Church authorities who have no ministry with children and are not managing child protection cases, but who need to be aware of their Church bodies' safeguarding responsibilities. The purpose of this training is to help those in religious congregations understand the purpose of annual self-audits and to provide practical advice on how to do this well. To book your place, please follow this link [www.safeguarding.ie/events/self-audit-training-for-category-3-church-bodies-no-ministry-with-children-or-cases](http://www.safeguarding.ie/events/self-audit-training-for-category-3-church-bodies-no-ministry-with-children-or-cases)



## Guidance Updates

Since the last newsletter there have been a significant number of guidance amendments, mostly as a result of the *Motu Proprio Vos estis lux mundi* and GDPR. Some of the changes include:

- Redrafted Basic Awareness Training Guidance
- New Guidance on protection of persons reporting abuse
- New Guidance on Tusla Child Safeguarding Statements, following advice from Tusla
- New Guidance on those who facilitate Probation Service community service placements in Church property in the Republic of Ireland
- New Guidance on reporting allegations of abuse of children through child pornography
- Revised templates and definitions following *Vos estis lux mundi*
- Redrafted information sharing Guidance following GDPR
- New Data Protection Guidance following GDPR.

For a full page-by-page list of all of the changes to the Guidance and to access the new Guidance, please follow this link

[www.safeguarding.ie/guidance](http://www.safeguarding.ie/guidance).

It is important to remember for those Church bodies who have not taken the National Board's Guidance as their safeguarding procedures, the changes outlined above should be incorporated where applicable into the procedures that are in place within that Church body.

## GAP Papers

Over the coming months three new GAP papers will be issued on topics including Creating a Safe Church, and Communicating the Church's Safeguarding Message. To read the current GAP papers follow this link

[www.safeguarding.ie/publications](http://www.safeguarding.ie/publications).

## Anglophone 2019

A very successful final Anglophone Conference was hosted by the Bishops Conferences of Ireland and New Zealand in July in Rome. Following Pope Francis' meeting on Child Safeguarding in February 2019, there was a view taken that initiatives from that event may overtake the need for future Anglophone Conferences. In addition, it is now accepted that child abuse in the Catholic Church is not an 'Anglophone issue'. It is hoped that new opportunities for sharing practice will develop internationally so that countries can learn from each other how to improve everyone's understanding of how to safeguard children in the Church.

A detailed report on Anglophone 2019 can be found at

[www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Corporate\\_Publications/Report%20on%20The%20Anglophone%20Conference%20Rome%202019.pdf](http://www.safeguarding.ie/images/Pdfs/Corporate_Publications/Report%20on%20The%20Anglophone%20Conference%20Rome%202019.pdf)



## Practice Issue- Training Levels



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND



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A number of questions have been raised with the National Board around who should attend basic awareness training, and when should their training be updated. Child safeguarding training must meet a minimum time period and include a number of elements in order to comply with statutory guidance in both jurisdictions of Ireland, as set by Tusla and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland. For fuller details of how our training meets these requirements please click here [www.safeguarding.ie/roles2?task=document.viewdoc&id=308](http://www.safeguarding.ie/roles2?task=document.viewdoc&id=308).

Using the information gathered from the local audit, the Child Safeguarding Committee of each Church body must make a decision as to the level of training required for each role occupant, depending on the extent of their involvement with children. To do this, the following guidance should be used as a minimum requirement:

- For each Church activity that involves children, at least one leader/coordinator must attend the full-day training programme every 3 years; thereafter, they should attend a refresher session.
- All clergy/religious who are in active ministry with children must attend the full-day training programme every 3 years; thereafter, they should attend a refresher session.
- Any personnel with a key position of responsibility for child safeguarding must attend a full-day training programme (e.g. DLP, advisor, support person, Child Safeguarding Committee member, Advisory Panel member, local safeguarding representative) every 3 years; thereafter, they should attend a refresher session.
- All other Church personnel must be given the opportunity to attend an information session every 3 years.
- Those who are designated as Mandated Persons by law must have attended the mandated persons' session every 3 years (this content can be delivered as part of the full day, refresher or mandated persons training).
- Those who are young leaders should attend the Young Leaders Training every 3 years.

Regardless of the level of training required, all Church personnel must abide by good child safeguarding practice (5.1A Template 1).

Full-day training, refresher sessions and mandated persons' training can only be delivered by trainers who have been registered with the NBSCCCI (Guidance 5.3B).

Information sessions and training for young leaders are primarily delivered by trainers; but these can also be delivered by local safeguarding representatives who have been trained by trainers registered with the NBSCCCI.

Please remember to only attend the training that is relevant to you; one course is not better than the other, as each is designed to meet the specific requirements outlined by the statutory authorities.