

Scouting Ireland  
National Office  
Larch Hill  
Dublin 16

T +353 (0)1 495 6300

F +353 (0)1 495 6301

questions@scouts.ie



The Daily Mail article published today is regrettable for a number of reasons, not least the concern it has raised among the scouting community that assets may be sold. This was based on a presentation made by the former chair of the board last year using the limited information available at that time.

Since then the Board has undertaken extensive work to ensure that young people across Ireland can continue to benefit from scouting into the future and that our local and national assets are protected. The financial update and accounts which were presented by our Financial Controller and Board of Directors in Tullamore on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> last laid out the true position of our finances and was endorsed by Scouting Ireland's auditors. As a Board we will continue to support survivors of abuse in CBSI and SAI and have made provision for this in our accounts. There is no question of any assets being sold by our organisation.

It is not accurate to portray Scouting Ireland's response to survivors as obstructive or uncaring. Scouting Ireland has acknowledged that many in scouting were hurt by the actions of adult volunteers in CBSI and SAI. We have reported all reportable offences brought to our safeguarding team and we are co-operating fully with the relevant statutory authorities on their investigations. We are also working with the representatives of individual survivors.

The Board regrets that an anonymous source felt it necessary to speak to a newspaper and chose to create a picture of dissent and division within Scouting Ireland, particularly when we have made considerable progress over the past 18 months. We all, as members, cannot allow such attempts to divide us or distract us from our key mission. This Board is always open to hearing people's concerns and we have provided many opportunities to our members to make their views known to us.

The changes which have taken place in Scouting Ireland have been very significant and the speed at which we have needed to move on them has been challenging for some. However, our new governance structures are necessary and provide greater accountability, transparency and openness within our organisation. We are fortunate to have a strong team of professional staff who have continued to provide essential services to our 500 groups while supporting the Board and our organisation through this period of substantial change.

We continue to experience a healthy growth in our membership and the support we receive from the parents and guardians of our youth members is greatly appreciated by our leaders, executive and Board. We are determined to continue to act in a manner which justifies this trust in us.

Our organisation continues to focus on supporting the 13,000 trained adult volunteers in our local scout groups whose dedication and commitment is central to everything we do. It is through their volunteerism that we can give young people the opportunity to engage in and benefit from a high quality education programme through scouting activities.

Yours in scouting

Adrian Tenant  
Chair of the Board

Dr John Lawlor  
Chief Executive



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement