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Brigid McManus Governance Review

Dear Member,

I hope that this communication finds you and your family well amid the current Covid 19 crisis. You will recall that earlier this year the Minister for Health and Children appointed Brigid McManus to review the implementation of the recommendations in the Review of Scouting Ireland Report prepared by Jillian Van Turnhout in June 2018.

Minister Zappone has published the Report by Brigid McManus today. It can be viewed [here](#).

A copy of our letter to the Minister in response to the report can also be viewed [here](#).

Minister Zappone's Press Release can be found [here](#).

We are greatly encouraged by Ms McManus's findings and her conclusion that the recommendations of the 2018 report have been implemented satisfactorily. In benchmarking our progress to date, Ms McManus recognises 'the significant work and organisational effort by all involved in Scouting Ireland in the major changes already made'.

Good Corporate Governance is essential to developing a culture that is focused on our mission of delivering scouting to young people and putting our young people front and centre of everything we do.

Ms McManus has highlighted additional areas that need to be addressed from the perspective of good governance and the Board of Scouting Ireland is progressing each of these recommendations.

The introduction of new governance structures has been a significant cultural change for Scouting Ireland. For the first time in the history of Scouting we have appointed independent external directors to our Board. We have also appointed external experts to Board sub-committees. In this new culture, we have open calls to all our members for volunteers to join our teams. Volunteers are appointed based on their skills rather than their position. Transforming governance in our organisation over the past number of years has not been without its challenges but it is necessary and has strengthened Scouting Ireland for the future. I wish to acknowledge and thank all of our members for their support and hard work in getting to where we are today.

Reg. No. 397094
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PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



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Transforming governance and delivering organisational change in Scouting Ireland continues to be a strong priority and focus of the Board. We have made significant progress, as demonstrated by the McManus Review but we know that we must continue to engage with governance experts to make sure our structures are reviewed and updated regularly to meet legislative requirements and the standards expected.

We are also collaborating with state agencies and have established good working relations with Tusla, An Garda Síochána, Gateway and the PSNI.

We have also engaged extensively with the Minister and her officials in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and we will continue to do so. As recommended by Ms McManus we will submit an update on governance in Scouting Ireland to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in September and will share this update with our members.

As we continue our journey of change and transformation, we are committed to being open and transparent with all our stakeholders.

Despite some work still to be completed, this has been a huge journey thus far and I would like to thank you for your part in that journey. Congratulations on achieving such a positive external report and I look forward to continuing our work together to provide the very best experiences to our young people.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Tennant
Chairperson
Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland