

**Scouting Ireland
National Office
Larch Hill
Dublin 16**

**T +353 (0)1 495 6300
F +353 (0)1 495 6301
questions@scouts.ie**



Deputy Sean Sherlock TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

L13-2018

15th June 2018

Dear Deputy,

Further to the concerns you raised in the Dáil yesterday I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you of the widespread consultation we have been undertaking with Scouting Ireland members on our proposed new governance structures.

The new board structures have been developed to reflect the operations of Scouting Ireland and to ensure we meet the expected governance standards demanded of an organisation of our size and scale. They are critical to restoring confidence in Scouting Ireland and to providing the necessary assurance to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs that our governance structures are fit for purpose.

Development of our new governance structures began four years ago and after an initial 2 year period of substantial work undertaken by the Governance Review Group we began our consultation with Scouting Ireland members across the country in 2016.

We have:

- held 6 provincial consultation meetings attended by over 400 members in 2016
- held a briefing for members at our Scouters Conference in 2016 attended by over 150 people
- held a series of provincial consultation meetings attended by over 500 members in 2017
- held sessions at three County Commissioner Meetings and consulted with the Youth Fora, the National Youth Programme Committee and the National Adult Resources Committee
- held 3 provincial meetings this month, with a fourth scheduled for next week, in advance of the EGM on the 30th of June.

The effectiveness of this consultation process can be seen in the fact that the membership felt they was no requirement a governance presentation at the Scouters Conference held in January of this year and asked us not to include it in the Conference Schedule.

Reg. No. 397094
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Directors: A list of names and personal details of every director of the company is available for inspection to the public at the company's registered office for a nominal fee. Scouting Ireland is a company limited by guarantee exempt from using the word "limited". Registered Office: Scouting Ireland National Office, Larch Hill, Dublin 16

Scouting Ireland
National Office
Larch Hill
Dublin 16

T +353 (0)1 495 6300
F +353 (0)1 495 6301
questions@scouts.ie



In addition we have produced and issued 13 bulletins focused specifically on governance to members. We have produced a frequently asked questions section on the governance section of our website (www.scouts.ie) which is searchable and has answers to more than 150 questions.

As you will see from the above, Scouting Ireland under the direction of the Board has been very committed to ensuring all members have had the opportunity to engage on this very important matter for our organisation. The new board structures are key to restoring funding to the organisation and the current Board is fully behind the proposals. Regrettably, no matter how much consultation that takes place there will always be some people who will claim not to have been kept informed.

I'd like to thank you for your interest in Scouting Ireland and I would be very happy to meet with you to address any further concerns you may have regarding the new governance structures being proposed for our organisation.

Yours sincerely,

Annette Byrne
Interim Chairperson

On behalf of the National Management Committee of Scouting Ireland and Board of Scouting Ireland Services CLG

Reg. No. 397094
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Directors: A list of names and personal details of every director of the company is available for inspection to the public at the company's registered office for a nominal fee. Scouting Ireland is a company limited by guarantee exempt from using the word "limited". Registered Office: Scouting Ireland National Office, Larch Hill, Dublin 16