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Our Ref : L20-2018

25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Re: Statement to Members from the Board – Restoration of Funding

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Scouting Ireland welcomes the decision of Minister Zappone to restore funding to the organisation for three months which will allow us to continue to function as a national organisation supporting young people throughout Ireland.

We fully accept the Report by Jillian van Turnhout on Governance within Scouting Ireland and are committed to acting on the 13 recommendations made in her report.

Safeguarding is a top priority for our organisation and five of the six recommendations on safeguarding have already been completed or are in progress.

We accept that a new model of corporate governance is needed at a national level to support the future of Scouting in Ireland. The recommendations on the management and governance of Scouting Ireland are being addressed by our ongoing governance project which over a four year period saw an extensive body of work undertaken to develop new governance structures appropriate to an organisation of our size.

Members will vote on new governance and board structures at our EGM later this week. In advance of the EGM, the current Board will resign with effect from 31 October. The Board took this decision to demonstrate their endorsement of the new governance structures to members of Scouting Ireland and to allow a new board to continue the valuable progress already made on these recommendations, including in relation to Charities Legislation.

The Board is fully supportive of both the continuing work of Ian Elliott on safeguarding and for the new governance structures on which members are being asked to vote.

Scouting Ireland apologises to our members and to the public who have been let down by the shortcomings in our organisation. Every day throughout Ireland thousands of young people partake in scouting activities that are led by dedicated adult leaders who give freely of their time for the benefit of our young people. We

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Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



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are focused on implementing, as quickly as possible the structures that will ensure Scouting Ireland is a safe place for all and that will sustain the development of Scouting Ireland into the future.

Scouting Ireland will provide a progress report on our implementation of the recommendations to the Minister in September 2018. We will continue to work with the Minister's officials in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs so that the Minister can have confidence that Scouting Ireland has the strong governance standards required of organisations in receipt of public funding.

Yours in Scouting,

*Annette Byrne* 

**Annette Byrne  
Interim Chairperson**

**Charles Mc Guinness  
National Secretary**

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

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