

Scouting Ireland
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Our Ref : L22-2018

28th June 2018

Re: Statement to Members from the Board –EGM 30th June 2018

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

The continued campaign by some members of Scouting Ireland against our new governance structures has the potential to threaten the very future of our organisation.

Those behind the campaign may believe they are acting in the best interests of Scouting Ireland but they are not.

We have led the discussions with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs so we can speak to you from a position of knowledge on this issue. The Minister has *temporarily* restored funding to Scouting Ireland for three months and the restoration of full funding to our organisation is conditional on Scouting Ireland introducing new governance structures, including a new board, new board structures and a new process for appointing Directors to our Board. The current Board has already demonstrated its commitment to the new structures by agreeing to resign, effective from 31 October 2018.

Any attempts to defer the EGM, or to defer the vote on the Governance proposals will be a serious breach of the hard won trust we have re-established with the Minister and her officials. It will, we believe, result in an immediate withdrawal of any further funding to Scouting Ireland. Without public funding, we cannot continue to operate. Members need to reflect on this fact, and it is fact, very carefully.

The Minister is correct to demand that Scouting Ireland has the strong governance standards required of organisations in receipt of public funding. We are fortunate to be in receipt of this funding and need to act accordingly.

The introduction of new safeguarding procedures in Scouting Ireland is well underway and, under the guidance of Ian Elliott, one of the foremost experts in Ireland, we are taking a very robust approach to this work. We are determined that we will not be found wanting in this critical area in the future.

Do not be influenced by the attempts of a small minority of members to derail the hard work of the governance team over the past four years. Why are they so determined to keep Scouting Ireland operating under governance structures that are not fit for purpose? There is nothing to fear from the new governance structures proposed. They will ensure Scouting Ireland is a safe place for all and will sustain the development of Scouting Ireland into the future.

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

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Our new governance structures, together with our new approach to safeguarding within Scouting Ireland, are the only way forward for this organisation. Please use your voice on Saturday to vote for the Governance proposals.

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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