

Ref: L16/2017 –National Council Decisions Effecting Scout Group Councils

31st May 2017

Dear Scouter

As you are aware, the National Council made some significant decisions this year regarding, in particular, the structure of the Scout Group Council. These decisions were taken to facilitate the registration of Scouts Groups as recognised charities with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland immediately; and the Charities Regulatory Authority in the longer term.

The updated Constitution and Rules of Scouting Ireland are available to download from scouts.ie by clicking **HERE**.

Over the past number of weeks, there has been ongoing work in terms of the registration of our Scout Groups in Northern Ireland and I'm pleased to say that this work is at a very advanced stage and the registration process is almost complete.

The National Management Committee will be meeting again on the 10th June with the full governance team and I will be in touch shortly thereafter to advise Scout Groups on how they should proceed to reorganise themselves over the coming months.

In the immediate term, I would like to advise Scout Groups to familiarise themselves with the various Governance Bulletins, listed below and available for download from **HERE**.

- Bulletin 1 – Introduction to Governance
- Bulletin 2 – Introduction to Charity Registration
- Bulletin 3 – Governance for Scout Groups
- Bulletin 4 – Governance for Scout Groups
- Bulletin 5 – Special Edition for Northern Ireland Scout Groups
- Bulletin 6 – National Council Update (National Considerations)
- Bulletin 7 – Charities Registration Update
- Bulletin 8 – Provincial Conferences Feedback
- Bulletin 9 – Charity Trustees
- Bulletin 10 – Scout Group Constitution & Draft Policy on Group Life

I would further like to advise Scout Groups to make arrangements to reflect the composition of the new Scout Group Council. As you should by now know and to be consistent with the updated rules (43A), the members of the Scout Group Council shall be:

- a) The Group Leader;
- b) The Group Chairperson;
- c) The Group Secretary;
- d) The Group Treasurer;
- e) The Group Quartermaster/Bo'sun; and
- f) Up to two other members of Scouting Ireland over the age of 18 years.

Members of the Scout Group Council will be Charity Trustees for the Scout Group. The Governance Bulletins will give you the information on the duties of Charity Trustees.

I will be in touch as soon as possible after the next meeting of the National Management Committee to provide you with further advice on how to proceed during this time of very important change for Scouting Ireland.

Yours in Scouting



Charles McGuinness
National Secretary

CC:

Group Leaders
County Commissioners
National Management Committee
Professional Staff

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