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**Ref: L07/2018 – Statement to Scouting Ireland**

**Circulation:** All Members of Scouting Ireland

16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

I write to advise you on the information that was delivered by me as your National Secretary on behalf of your National Management Committee to our National Council on Saturday last, 14th of April.

You will be aware of the current difficult and challenging circumstances that exist for all of us as members of Scouting Ireland, including most recently the concerns articulated by the Minister of Children and Youth Affairs with respect to the governance of Scouting Ireland, including the decision with respect to the government funding of Scouting.

Your National Management Committee (NMC) met just before this National Council to deal with this matter and resolved to advance the current time frame for the delivery of our major governance project. This decision means that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Scouting Ireland will be held in mid to late June of this year.

This meeting in June will be followed by another such meeting in October of this year and subject to your support of the relevant motions on governance tabled at both of these meetings, a new board of directors and company only structure for Scouting Ireland will be in place by the end of this year.

As you know we have all been on this part of the Scouting Trail for some time, I want to acknowledge and thank those Scouters, in particular the members of the Governance Review Group (GRG) who have guided us all on our governance journey to date and acknowledge the work that they, your NMC and all of us as members of Scouting Ireland must undertake in order to deliver upon this revised deadline.

Dates for the meetings in June and October this year will be communicated to you all as soon as the relevant details are confirmed.

This revised deadline will mean that some planned events, including the County Commissioners Conference planned for June this year, will have to be brought forward in order to allow for the relevant updates in this matter to take place. Revised details for the County Commissioners Conference will be advised as soon as it is possible to do so.

I can also advise that your NMC made a number of other decisions, that for confidential and sensitive reasons including to ensure due process and fair procedures are followed, cannot be shared at this time.

Reg. No. 397094  
Charity No. CHY3507

**PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND**



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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I can assure you that your NMC including the new members elected at National Council last Saturday, stand ready to act on these matters urgently including engagement with the Minister, Departmental Officials, the wider government and others as required in order to resolve these matters in as prompt a time frame as it is possible to do so.

In respect of the matter of funding the National Treasurer informed National Council this year that Scouting Ireland has two months of reserves in funding at this time so it is vital that we address these matters urgently.

I also, as previously promised, delivered an update on safeguarding to National Council and I will share this with you in the coming days.

I would ask for your support and that of your Scout Groups, Counties and Provinces as we undertake this critically important work for all the members of Scouting Ireland at this time.

Yours in Scouting



**Charles McGuinness**  
**National Secretary**