

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church's Annual Report Shows 178 Allegations Made.

10/06/2026

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (known as the National Board) has published its annual report for 2025. As the National Board is moving to calendar year reporting, this report covers the last 9 months of 2025.

“There has been a small decrease, pro rata, in the number of new allegations notified to the National Board,” said Aidan Gordon, CEO. “The total was 178 over the nine months covered by the report. The previous full year figure was 385 in 2024/25.”

As has been the pattern in recent years the vast majority of the allegations relate to the period from 1960 to 1999. Only 4 relate to the period post-2000. This should be caveated with the fact that 10 did not have a definite timeframe attributed to them. This annual report also includes a breakdown of the types of abuse alleged and the status of those against whom the allegations have been made. Excluding 3 whose status is unknown, 115 (66%) of respondents are deceased. Of the remainder, 9 (5%) are in prison, a further 11 (6%) are subject to a management plan, while 31 (18%) have either been laicised, have left the Church body, or are out of ministry.

A key achievement for the NBSCCCI in 2025 was the success of the biannual conference, which ran from the 3rd to the 5th of September 2025, titled “Towards a Restorative and Transitional Justice Process of Engagement with Victims and Survivors of Abuse in the Catholic Church in Ireland.” This conference brought together survivors, academics, Church leaders, and members of safeguarding teams within religious congregations and dioceses. It explored new frameworks for genuine engagement, and we were challenged to consider the potential further harm experienced by survivors and victims of child abuse when met with inadequate responses in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Over this period the number of requests for safeguarding advice was 179.

A core part of ensuring that safeguarding practice meets best standards is captured in the review function of the NBSCCCI's work. The Directors are very pleased to report that with the employment of the Director of Safeguarding, work began in July 2025, on a methodology for the next tranche of reviews. The safeguarding reviews, which will examine safeguarding structures and compliance with the Church safeguarding policy: A Safe and Welcoming Church; Safeguarding Children Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2024, are planned to commence in 2026.

Reports of all previous Reviews can be found at <https://www.safeguarding.ie/publications/national-board-publications>

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