

## **NBSCCCI 2015 Annual Report Published**

**(9 June 2016)**

The National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) published its annual report today. It details the work done by the Board and its National Office during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

During the 2015/16 period, 153 new allegations were made including 116 new allegations relating to physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as 37 allegations of physical and emotional abuse. This represents a significant reduction on previous years; during 2014/15 a total of 265 new allegations (including those from one organisation as a batch report) were reported to the National Board, 112 more than reported this year.

The period of abuse for diocesan clergy relates to 1933 up to 1998 while for religious orders and congregational priests and religious refers to 1952 to 2000, with one case where the abuse took place in 2000 and another incident of abuse in 2015.

“This one case in 2015 deserves particular mention as it happened so recently, demonstrating that a risk to children still exists,” said Devlin. “What is reassuring about this case is that the child felt empowered to immediately inform the parents, who in turn informed the order, who took immediate action to inform the civil authorities, put support in place for the child and family, and removed the offending member from all ministries with children. It is not possible to remove all risks, but it is encouraging that the correct response was quickly.”

“It is too early to assess if these figures represent a downward trend in allegations against priests and religious,” said Teresa Devlin, CEO, NBSCCCI. “They do, however, still demonstrate a significant number of new allegations during the period under review. Further, there was no particular pattern of reporting discernible, unlike last year when there was an increase in notifications about allegations against religious order members following publication of the National Board safeguarding review reports.”

As has been noted in previous years, most complainants do not proceed to make statements to An Garda Síochána or the PSNI, and therefore there are few criminal investigations and consequent prosecutions.

The annual report notes that, now the first full cycle of safeguarding reviews has been completed consideration around the methodology for future Reviews, in the light of experience gained, is being addressed. The National Board has convened a working group to develop a consultation paper on proposed methodologies for conducting reviews. The working group membership includes representatives of four dioceses and three religious orders. As future reviews of Church bodies that have been managing allegations and cases will not be repeating the detailed historical retrospection to 1 January 1975, so the primary emphasis will be on current practice and will take into account the ongoing advancements in child safeguarding as well as the fact that many religious orders/congregations are decreasing in numbers and increasing in age profile. In addition, in many cases their ministry with children has ceased.

**ENDS**

**For further information please contact:**

**Ger Kenny 087 2488393**



THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR  
**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**  
IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRELAND

## **Copyright**

© The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland, 2016.

The material in this publication is protected by copyright law. Except as may be permitted by law, no part of the material may be reproduced (including by storage in a retrieval system) or transmitted in any form or by any means, adapted, rented or lent without the written permission of the copyright owners.

To seek permission for use or for more information contact  
[admin@safeguarding.ie](mailto:admin@safeguarding.ie).