

# The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland

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## Annual Report 2009



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



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# STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## John B. Morgan

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This report from the Board charts and reviews the activities of the Board during a period of unprecedented trauma for all Irish Catholics. This trauma was caused by the revelations of the recent history and extent of abuse of children by Catholic clergy and religious through *The Ryan Report* and *The Murphy Report*.

### Church Developments

The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (*The Ryan Report*) had been established in May 2000 as an independent statutory body to provide for persons who had suffered abuse in childhood, in institutions, an opportunity to recount their abuse and make submissions to either a Confidential Committee or an Investigation Committee. The report was made public in May 2009.

The Dublin Archdiocese Commission of Investigation (*The Murphy Report*) was appointed under the Commissions of Investigations Act 2004, primarily to select, examine and report on the nature of response to complaints or allegations of child sexual abuse made against Catholic clergy operating under the aegis of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin in the period 1 January 1975 to 1 May 2004. Aspects of this report have still to be finalised.

*The Ryan Report*, not confined to sexual abuse, was concerned with establishing whether or not abuse occurred and the nature and scale of that abuse. It found widespread abuse. *The Murphy Report* was concerned only with the response of the Church Authorities to complaints, suspicions and knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy. It concluded that complaints against 102 priests came under its remit. It

examined the complaints against forty-six priests in its representative sample. This involved complaints of more than 320 children, of which substantially more related to boys than to girls. It found, at least until the mid-1990s, a culture of secrecy and cover-up designed to protect the reputation of the Church and its assets with the subordination of any other considerations – including the welfare of children and justice for victims. It also found a policy of double avoidance – in the application of the Church’s own canon law rules and in the application of the civil law.

The effect of these reports has been to set in train a sequence of events which culminated in the meeting of all acting Irish diocesan bishops with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI over the two-day period of 15 and 16 February of this year and the issue of a Pastoral Letter by the Pope to the Catholics of Ireland, released on 20 March, described in *L’Osservatore Romano* as ‘an evangelical document to respond to an unheard-of obscuration of the light of the Gospel’ and recognised as a unique and most significant event.

Much that is highly relevant to the work of the Board can be taken from the Papal Letter. From its first five paragraphs, addressed to all Irish Catholics, the Board believes that it can assume almost a proxy role in some of the tasks the Pope describes and outlines as necessary. Two quotations from paragraph 2 of the letter will suffice:

The task you now face is to address the problem of abuse that has occurred within the Irish Catholic community, and to do so with courage and determination;

and

I must also express my conviction that, in order to recover from this grievous wound, the Church in Ireland must first acknowledge before the Lord and before others the serious sins committed against defenceless children. Such an acknowledgement, accompanied by sincere sorrow for the damage caused to these victims and their families, must lead to a concerted effort to ensure the protection of children from similar crimes in the future.

In paragraph 11, addressed specifically to the Irish bishops, he states it as imperative that Church safety norms in Ireland be continually revised and updated by them and he declares that 'only decisive action carried out with complete honesty and transparency will restore the respect and good will of the Irish people towards the Church to which we have consecrated our lives.' This exhortation should aid and complement the work of the Board in its role of assessing current risk and the implementation of best practice child safeguarding throughout all Irish dioceses.

### **Board Developments**

The role of the Board divides broadly into three constituent parts. It oversees the provision of advice and guidance in all aspects of the safeguarding of children as undertaken by the Chief Executive and his National Office team. It oversees the facilitation and support of practice, policy development and best practice training requirements. It oversees monitoring of the implementation of best practice child safeguarding policies, practices and procedures by dioceses, religious orders and congregations.

In January 2009, the President of the Episcopal Conference, Cardinal Seán Brady, proposed a child safeguarding review in all dioceses by the National Board. This was discussed between the Board and the Episcopal conference. Contact was also established with state authorities. Pending the issue of *The Murphy Report* a pilot review was initiated in one diocese. This tested a methodology involving a complete assessment of all current risk and the case management of all allegations of abuse. An appropriate template was finalised. Necessary training and preparation work was identified. A resources assessment was also undertaken. Legal issues arose, particularly in the area of data protection legislation. This exercise has prepared the Board for undertaking the key task of monitoring the adequacy of child safeguarding policies and practices in all dioceses, religious orders and congregations – a task it has now

commenced. It is planning to address the dioceses in the first instance, with the object of completing the exercise in a year. The work of review will be undertaken on a phased and broadly regional basis.

In July 2009 a review of the operations of the National Board and its National Office was initiated as part of an examination of all areas of the management of the problem of abuse within the Church – placed under further public scrutiny in the wake of *The Ryan Report* and expected outcomes from *The Murphy Report*, then imminently expected. This Review was completed in three months. It was considered by the Board and Church leadership at a full day meeting held on 24 November 2009, two days before the publication of *The Murphy Report*. Its outcome delivered an Internal Charter to aid and assist in describing relationships between the Board and Church leadership. Having considered the structure of safeguarding services and their strategic fit with the adoption of a one Church approach, recommendations were also agreed. In addition, objectives were set for the provision of training aimed at supporting the development of safe practice in the Church in relation to child safeguarding. Resource requirements were also addressed. At a meeting on 9 December objectives in relation to the undertaking of diocesan and congregational audit reviews were agreed.

The scale and extent of the work performed by the Board and its National Office is fully addressed in the Chief Executive's Report. The burden of work undertaken by the National Office has been unremitting in its intensity, particularly since the issue of *The Murphy Report*, as dioceses and religious congregations seek even more day-to-day advice in matters of child safeguarding, on case management issues and in the areas of training needs and requests.

### **Board and National Office**

In July 2009, Aidan Canavan, my predecessor, resigned as Chairman and as a member of the Board due to health problems. His leadership of the Board was superb and was marked by unstinting attention to all aspects of the Board's activities. His tenure as Chair was all too short at a little over eighteen months. I wish to thank him sincerely on behalf of the Board for the guidance he provided at all times.

In January 2009 Dr Rosaleen Mc Elvaney resigned. The consistent quality of her contributions to Board is greatly missed. We wish her well in her future work.

In November 2009 we welcomed three new members to the Board – Dr Kathleen Ganter, Dr Keith Holmes and Professor David Smith.

I wish to thank each and every one of the Board Members for their dedicated support and advice in transacting the business of the Board.

On behalf of the Board I wish to thank most sincerely the Chief Executive and his team for their exceptional hard work and dedication during the period under review. They are central to any achievements we may claim.

### **Outlook**

Key objectives involve the undertaking of Diocesan and Congregational Reviews, the development of Guidance in areas where current policy deficits exist on a national level, and the provision of further training templates supporting the development of safe practice in the safeguarding of children. From the perspective of the Board it is clear that the best thing we can do is help change the future – and that is our pivotal emphasis.

It is also clear that our work is not enough on its own. It needs to be supplemented by a Church-wide commitment at all levels. That commitment should

include an intense process of reflection around how the heinous nature of the abuse of children in the Irish Catholic Church could have happened. It should extend to trying to understand and examine what Church structures brought about the situation that has unfolded before us and how such structures must be changed. Clearly a cultural correction is required in the Irish Church to deal with the problem of abuse. This will involve a re-planning of the Church's journey and the discovery of new forms of commitment. Emerging evidence indicates that this is now beginning to happen. However, there is little apparent recognition that Vatican II decisively moved the role of the Church lay faithful from collaboration to co-responsibility. A form of recognised collective authority in the safeguarding of children might assist the ushering in of a wider recognition of the principle of co-responsibility. The Board intends, in its deliberations, to participate in this crucial debate.



JOHN B. MORGAN  
Chairman  
30 April 2010





## Report of the Chief Executive Officer

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The past twelve months have been eventful and challenging in a number of respects. Significant progress has been made in developing and implementing a single, coherent strategy to safeguarding children in the Church. This has proved to be demanding for some within the Church who have had difficulty in changing their attitudes to fully embrace a single safeguarding approach.

In Section 4 of our first Annual Report last year, the Board set out ten objectives for the year ahead. It is gratifying to report that each one of those objectives has been achieved with the exception of the commitment to publish our second Annual Report by April of this year. We have overshot that date by some weeks but all the other objectives have been fully met. An indication of the work undertaken and progress made can be derived from the content of this Report. Two clear conclusions can be drawn from reading the Report. Firstly, that children should be safer today within the Church than they once were. Secondly, those that seek to harm children should feel much less secure.

The underpinning principle to the radical change imperative within the Church is an acceptance that the safety of the child is paramount. Above all other considerations, the child's well-being must be prioritised and secured. The reputation of the Church, the hierarchy, or any member of the clergy comes some way after the safety of the child in any consideration of decisions to be made or actions to be taken. This principle is set in stone for the Board and is pivotal to our work.

However, within some areas of the Church, this commitment has been tempered by a mistaken belief that it is possible to continue with past and familiar practices. This has led to a reliance on a defensive legal response when complaints emerge rather than a focus on safeguarding concerns and the elimination of risk to other vulnerable young people. The imperative of radical change requires nothing less than a major step away from the defensiveness of

the past to a more open and accountable present. An illustration of this would be the stated intention of Church authorities to undergo a review from the National Office, to place their report containing the findings and the recommendations made into the public domain.

It has been painful to acknowledge that the past failure of the Church in the area of safeguarding children has resulted in many lives being severely impacted upon. This is the sad reality and it is important that we seek to draw on the lessons that can be learnt from these occurrences and apply them to our present and future practice. It is not possible to simply forget about the past or to ignore it. By so doing, much that is valuable would be lost and many people who are still hurting today would be denied the help they need.

Victims of abuse within the Church have a right to expect that all that can reasonably be done will be done to help them and to facilitate their healing. This is more than the provision of financial redress. It entails communicating a sense of regret and remorse for what has happened, along with a sincere concern for their present well-being. The Church must improve significantly in doing this and in helping those who have suffered to reach a better place in their lives.

Through the last twelve months, the National Office has developed its work with victims on an individual basis. This has been challenging, but also very informative and rewarding. Many victims have displayed a courage and generosity of spirit that is truly inspirational. They are a great source of wisdom and guidance about what mistakes to avoid in the future. We remain indebted to them and thank them for their ongoing willingness to achieve our shared aim of effective safeguarding in the Church.

Within this Report, a record of the many training events that the National Office has provided is given. These include formal presentations to large audiences as well as to smaller groups. The numbers involved

are significant and are limited by the resources available to meet them as opposed to the demand. If we had additional resources to call upon, the list would be even longer. This desire for training is evidence of a healthy process within the Church: a willingness to learn and to seek guidance from those with relevant experience and professional qualifications in the area of safeguarding children. An illustration of this would be the fact that training events run by the National Office on subjects such as 'Recording, and Data Protection in Safeguarding' and 'Managing Risky People in the Church', were attended by members of the hierarchy and by religious provincials and superiors. Their willingness to participate in this training must be seen as a significant step forward.

It is our intention that the staff team for the National Office will increase to allow for the provision of additional training programmes. We will also develop our own training materials which will be made available to support the development of best practice across the Church. These training materials will conform to the acceptable standards existing in this area of work. An additional training associate with extensive experience working within the Health Service Executive, Phil Mortell, joined the National Office staff in November and has been working on developing training modules to support the *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance* document launched in February 2009.

Research informs practice and we are anxious to ensure that we keep abreast of this. To that end, we also engaged Dr Monica Applewhite, an acknowledged expert in the field of managing risky people within the Church. She has written extensively on the subject and has led the American Church in their adoption of best practice approaches to this difficult issue. Dr Applewhite is currently working with the National Office to produce additional standards which include models of supervisory structures that will be recommended to individual Church authorities for their adoption. Through her we are able to ensure that the development of policy and practice in Ireland in this area is fully compliant with leading research in other parts of the world.

We have also included in this Report some indication of the extent of a volunteer-led safeguarding structure for the Church. We have recorded the number of parishes in each of the dioceses that have at least one safeguarding representative within them. The provision of training for these volunteers is also noted. It is encouraging to see how comprehensive the safeguarding network has now become. It is hoped that

within the coming months we will have complete coverage across the Church.

The National Board has developed a website which is regularly visited by people from around the world. It is our intention to develop this site further and to use it as a means of communicating with as wide an audience as possible within Ireland and across the world. We receive visits on the site from places as far removed as Australia, the United States, the Ivory Coast, as well as Scotland, England, Germany and many other countries in Europe. All the training materials and new policy guidance we create will be placed on the website to be downloaded for use within and across the Church.

Through the endorsement and adoption of the *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance* document, the National Office was given a mandate to audit and review practice in all the participating parts of the Church. In all, 186 Church authorities signed up to implementing the standards, including all twenty-six dioceses. This desire for an objective assessment of their practice in safeguarding cases is most welcome and should be seen as a major development. It evidences the strong motivation to achieve greater openness and transparency in this vital area of the life of the Church. It is our intention to progress the review of safeguarding practice in the Church in a number of phases. The first phase will centre on a group of dioceses and should be completed later this year. It is our hope that the individual review reports will be published by the dioceses concerned. They will also be placed in redacted form on our website at [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie).

Plans are being finalised for the independent review of all safeguarding practices across the various elements of the Church. Reviewing each Church authority will be a major task. It will involve creating a reference group for the review process which will be staffed by individuals drawn from academia, the health professions, and other key groups. This reference group will oversee the operation of the review, the fieldwork of which will be undertaken by the National Office staff. Additional staff will be recruited in order to complete this task.

The role of the reference group is critical to the success of the review process. It must ensure that the work undertaken is robust and thorough in all respects. This group will be chaired by Dr Helen Buckley, Trinity College, Dublin. Dr Buckley is acknowledged as being at the forefront of research and development in the area of safeguarding chil-

dren. We are delighted that she has indicated her willingness to undertake this vital role to support the review process. We believe that with the additional resources being made available to us it will be possible to include the major findings of the overall review in our Annual Report in 2011.

Later this year, the findings of the Commission of Inquiry into the diocese of Cloyne will be released. This will conclude the current government inquiry process. It is our strongly held view that emphasis must now be placed on ensuring that the current safeguarding practice of all of the Church authorities conforms to the highest standards. All children have a right to be protected from harm. All those who either harm children or permit abuse to continue when it has been identified must be held to account for their actions. Nothing less is acceptable.


Particular mention should be made here of the work done by the Christian Brothers. Since the publication of *The Ryan Report*, the congregation has worked diligently to ensure that all the information they hold that references any of their members who has been suspected of being involved in abuse, is reported to the statutory authorities and to the National Office. The following represents the situation that came to light as a result of that exercise.

Following the publication of *The Ryan Report*, the Christian Brothers have increased their efforts to identify and report all knowledge held within the congregation of any safeguarding concerns arising within the Province in Ireland. They made a public apology in 1998 for previous physical or sexual abuse and encouraged all those who had been harmed through contact with the Brothers to come forward. In recent months, they have been bringing to conclusion their critical scrutiny of the records held within the congregation.

The Board has particular interest in any alleged perpetrators who are living. The congregation reports that having reviewed their files stretching back to the 1930s, they have identified 131 individuals against whom there is at least one complaint. Of these, eighty-three have left the Congregation and are no longer living in community. The remaining forty-eight are Brothers but all are out of any form of active ministry. As members of the Congregation they are under its full supervision. (Allegations that emerged for the first time within the past year have been included in the section detailing allegations notified to the National Office.)

Along with this scrutiny of existing documentation, the congregation has introduced and is implementing policies and procedures in line with the *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance* document issued by the Board in February 2009. The Christian Brothers have a mandatory reporting policy in place so that any concerns that come to light today are reported without delay to the state authorities, the National Office of the Board and who ever else may need to be told in order to ensure the safety and well-being of children.

The efforts made by the Congregation to declare fully all that is known or held on record is an excellent example to be followed in the Church, and all those involved in undertaking this exercise deserve the highest praise.



IAN A. ELLIOTT  
Chief Executive Officer  
30 April 2010



## Allegations notified to the National Office 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

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As part of the remit of the Board, the National Office is charged with maintaining a comprehensive record of the number of allegations that arise within and across the Church. It is important to note that our remit focuses on the safeguarding of children within the Church from all forms of abuse and not just clerical sexual abuse.<sup>1</sup> A great deal of media interest to date has concentrated on the sexual abuse area but many of the allegations that came to our attention following the publication of *The Ryan Report* were cases of alleged physical and emotional abuse as well as allegations of sexual abuse.

The aggregated figures show a total of 197 new allegations reported to the National Office since 1 April last year. Of these, eighty-seven related to the dioceses and 110 came from the religious congregations/orders and the missionary societies. All were reported to the statutory authorities in the jurisdiction in which the alleged offences occurred. Eighty-three of the alleged perpetrators are dead. One hundred and fourteen allegations relate to individuals who are alive today. Of these, thirty-five have already been laicised or dismissed from their congregation or orders. A number were further allegations relating to individuals who were already identified as being a risk to children.

The standard form of disclosure in the Church involves adults talking about experiences they had as children. None of the allegations reported to the National Office originated from children or young people. Some went back to events that took place in the 1950s and 1960s. However, they were emerging for the first time and were reported as new allegations.

The new allegations involving living perpetrators can be further divided into those that are out of ministry entirely, those who remain in some form of limited ministry and others who are retired. In respect of the forty-seven allegations reported from the dioceses related to living individuals, twenty-four of these are out of ministry entirely. Ten are within some form of limited ministry. Five have been laicised and eight are retired and not in any form of ministry. All have been reported to the statutory authorities.

Amongst the religious, sixty-seven allegations reported to us relate to individuals who are alive today. Again, all have been reported to the statutory authorities in whatever jurisdiction the alleged offences occurred. Five are in limited ministry and thirty-two are out of ministry entirely. The remaining thirty have been dismissed from their orders or congregations.

In respect of all those who are in some form of limited ministry, the National Office has been provided with information by the relevant Church authority upon which they based their decision to allow the individual to continue in such limited ministry. Having considered this information, we have accepted that the decision to permit the continuance of a limited form of ministry is valid. In each of these cases, the allegation that caused the removal from full ministry has not been confirmed through any civil or canonical court process.

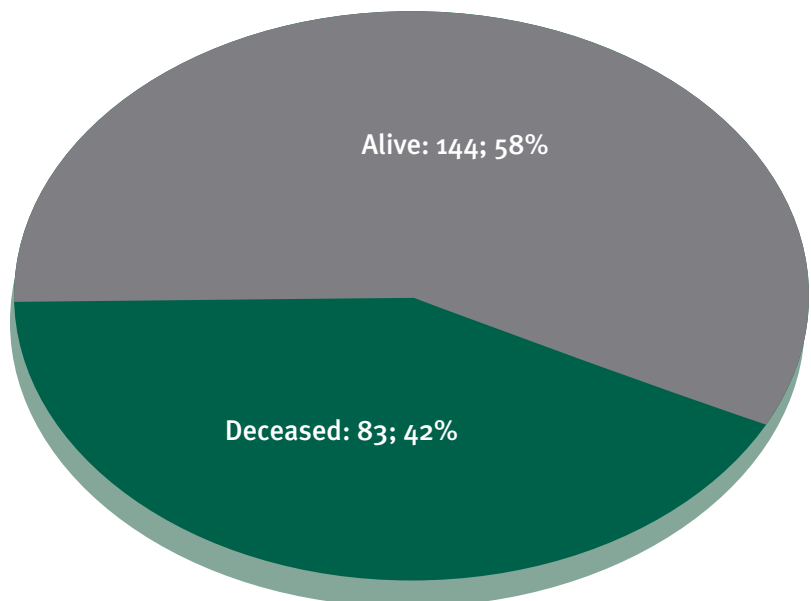
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1. The definitions used to define the various categories of child abuse may be found in Resource 10 of the *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance* document and conform to those used within the key statutory policy documents in both jurisdictions.

New allegations reported to the National Office, 01/01/09 to 31/03/10



New allegations reported to the National Office, 01/04/09 to 31/03/10



## Support provided by the National Office for Safeguarding Practice in response to specific requests from Church authorities



The Board has a remit to provide advice and guidance to support the delivery of safeguarding practice within and across the Church. Through the National Office it regularly provides support to a wide range of individuals and groups who ask for help. Each request is documented to record the nature of the advice sought, who made it, when, and what was provided and by whom. This tracks the use made of the National Office as a source of support and guidance by the different Church authorities.

The support of safeguarding practice that is referred to here involves the review of case documentation, interviews with key individuals such as legal advisers or delegates, bishops, or religious superiors. All this work is documented to ensure that an accurate record of the advice given is available.

The growing use made of the National Office by different Church authorities as a source of advice, guidance and support for specific safeguarding issues when they arise is a significant development, providing a means by which National Office staff can contribute to and support a uniform and consistent response to emerging child safeguarding issues.

Over the course of the last twelve months, fifty-three specific requests for our involvement in different safeguarding issues have come from twenty-three of the dioceses, and forty-two specific requests from twenty-four congregations or orders. A further four requests have come from three missionary societies. This is a total of ninety-nine specific requests.



## Training delivered by the National Office April 2009 to March 2010

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The Board also holds a remit to develop best practice in and across all of the 186 Church authorities that make up, in the aggregate, the three Sponsoring Bodies of the Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland, and the Irish Missionary Union. In seeking to do this, the National Office staff have provided a total of fifty-eight training events to a wide variety of audiences. The details of these are given in the table overleaf.

The demand for training far exceeds present capacity to meet it. Also, many of the hierarchy have sought to avail of some of the training provided by attending the events themselves, often along with their diocesan delegate or officer. The audiences vary in size and location. However, all share an interest in the safeguarding of children within the Church in Ireland. Most requests come from a diocese or a religious congregation or order. They may be members of the clergy, groups of lay volunteers, members of the hierarchy, or others.

It is important to note that we are detailing here the training that was provided by the Board during the past year. It is not a record of all of the training in the area of safeguarding received by members of the Church.<sup>2</sup> The Board has also delivered events aimed at supporting and developing the practice of those who work in this area in the Church.

The emphasis on all training delivered by the National Office is on uniformity and consistency. We wish to embed best practice and compliance with the agreed

Standards and Guidance issued in February of last year. Some of the training has been delivered prior to the development of policy as is the case in relation to Recording and Storage of Information. The absence of an agreed national policy here had led to considerable variation in the quality of case recording, which led the National Office to devise and deliver three two-day training programmes aimed at providing clear guidance on what is expected in recording practice. The new policy has now been written and submitted to the members of COIMIRCE for their approval. Once approved, it will then be adopted across the Church and will represent the expected standard all parts of the Church have to reach in their practice.

The demand for training may be seen as a healthy indicator of where the Church is as a whole in regard to the safeguarding of children. To encourage and support this development, the staff of the National Office will be increased through the appointment of a Training Manager in the coming months. This person will act as a resource for the whole Church and will be involved not only in the provision of training but also in overseeing the development of high-quality training materials to support the implementation of the developing policy and practice of the various elements of the Church.

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2. Other providers include the Health Service Executive and the Volunteer Development Agency.

	Delivered to	Event
April 2009	Diocesan Delegates	Role of Delegate
	Presbyterian Church Safeguarding Conference	Safeguarding in Catholic Church
May 2009	Mill Hill Missionaries	Standards and Guidance
	Diocese of Kilmore Priests	Standards and Guidance
	Diocese of Armagh Priests	Standards and Guidance
	Bon Secours Sisters, Dublin	Standards and Guidance
	Bon Secours Sisters Cork	Standards and Guidance
	Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly–Munster Initiative	Role of Parish Representative
	Diocese of Armagh Priests	Standards and Guidance
	Dominican Fathers	Standards and Guidance
June 2009	Mill Hill Missionaries	Standards and Guidance
	Kilmore Diocese Safeguarding representatives	Standards and Guidance
September 2009	Training Day First Year Seminarians	Child Abuse Awareness
	Cashel & Emly Diocesan Priests	Standards and Guidance
	Advisory Panel Diocese of Ossory	Role and Function
	Pastoral Students, Maynooth College	Safeguarding Practice
	Diocese of Galway – Priests / Parish representatives	Role and Standards and Guidance
October 2009	Advisory Panel – Dioceses of Ardagh, Kilmore and Clogher	Role and Function
	Diocese of Cloyne Priests	Standards and Guidance
	Pallotine Fathers	Standards and Guidance
	Faoiseamh	Standards and Guidance
	Kiltegan Advisory Panel	Advisory Panel Role
	Delegate/Designated Person	Recording Training
	Child Protection Committee Diocese of Ferns	Role and Function
	Legionaries of Christ	Policy and Practice
	Diocese of Ferns	Standards and Guidance
	Medical Missionaries of Mary Drogheda	Standards and Guidance
	Advisory Panel – Diocese of Killala	Advisory Panel Role

	Delivered to	Event
October 2009 (cont.)	Keynote speaker HSE Conference, Cork	Keeping Children Safe
	Delegate/Designated Person	Recording Training
November 2009	Diocese of Cloyne Advisory Panel	Role and Function
	Faoiseamh Training	Recording Training
	Our Lady Apostle Sisters	Standards and Guidance
	Faoiseamh Training	Recording Training
	Religious Sisters of Charity	Standards and Guidance
	Religious Sisters of Charity	Standards and Guidance
	Delegates, Bishops	Recording Training
January 2010	Wexford Parishes (two sessions)	Parish Policies; Managing Risky Adults
	Mercy South Central – Local safeguarding representatives	Standards and Guidance
	Emmaus – La Sainte Union	Recording Training
	Diocese of Tuam Advisory Panel	Role and Function
	Christian Brothers	Standards and Guidance; Managing Risky Adults
February 2010	Diocese of Armagh	Recording Training
	Loreto House, Formators	Standards and Guidance
	Brigidine Sisters	Standards and Guidance
	Columban Fathers	Standards and Guidance
	Diocese of Kilmore/Ardagh and Clogher Advisory Panels	Role and Function
March 2010	Diocesan Trainers	Training Modules – Pilot
	Rome – Pontifical Irish College	Standards and Guidance
	Irish Pilgrimage Trust	Standards and Guidance
	Dominican Sisters	Standards and Guidance
	Diocese of Cork	Standards and Guidance
	Diocese of Cork	Standards and Guidance
	Delegate/Designated Person	Recording
	Irish Samaritans – Regional Conference	Workshop / Conference
	Dublin	Training Modules – Pilot
	Derry	Training Modules – Pilot



## Details of Survey of Parishes at March 2010

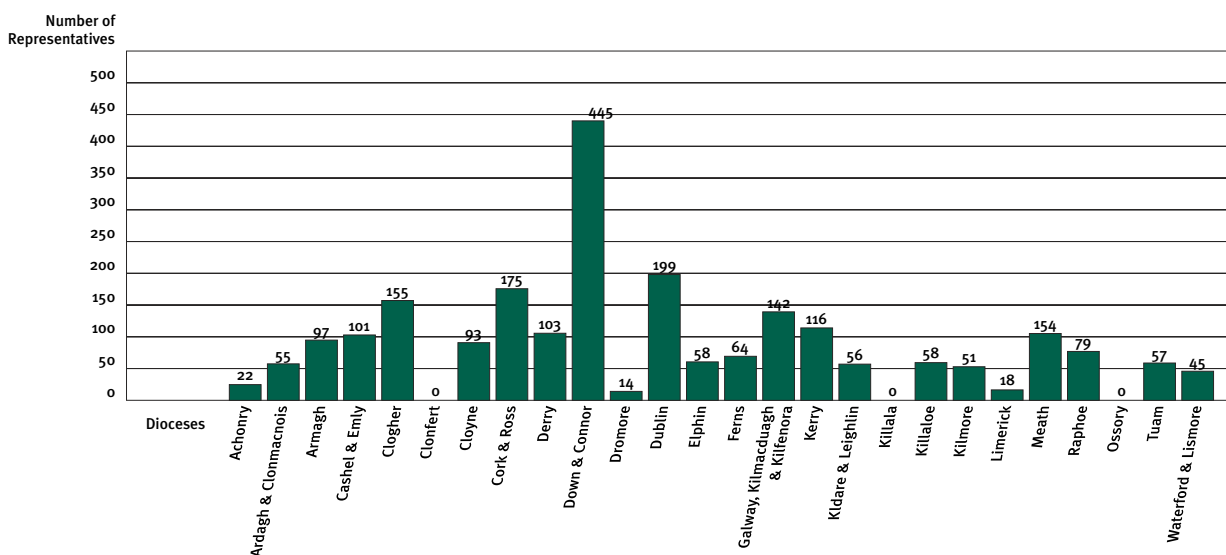
### Developing the Church Safeguarding Structure

With the launch of the *Safeguarding Children: Standards and Guidance* document in February of 2009, the Board set out its recommended structure for the delivery of safeguarding services across the Church. Based on the principle that children need to be protected where they are in the Church, emphasis was placed on the creation of a network of trained volunteers within each of the parishes on the island of Ireland. The guidance set out in Resource 3, an outline of the role of the Parish Safeguarding Representative, indicates that these people could be the early warning system for the Safeguarding Services alerting the statutory authorities, the diocesan designated person/delegate, and the National Office to any concerns identified at a parish level. The increase in the number of referrals received this year pays testimony to the effectiveness of the safeguarding

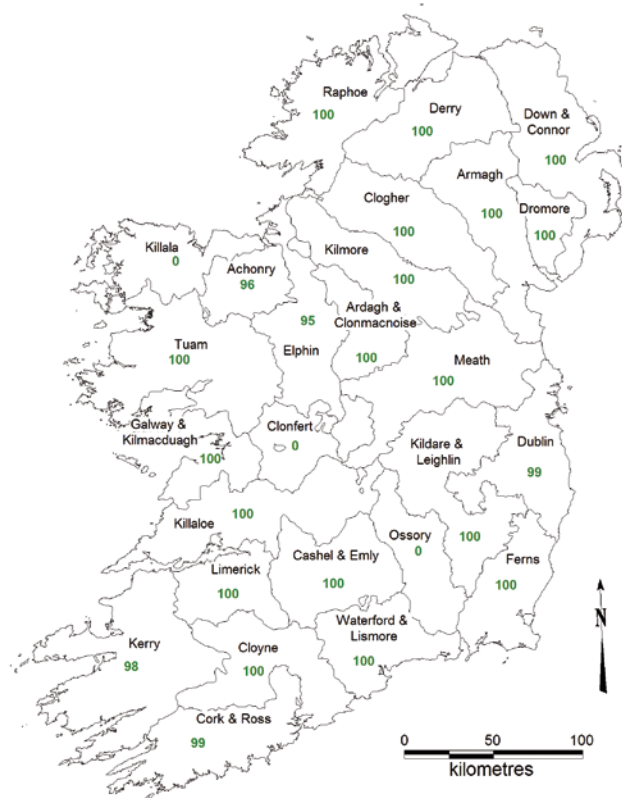
structure in the Church of which the role of the Parish safeguarding representative is an essential part.

A survey carried out in April 2010 showed that 1,230 of Ireland's 1,365 parishes have at least one trained safeguarding representative in post. Many have two or more, and all are volunteers. A total of 2,356 individuals are known to have undergone training and to be currently performing this function within parishes. Complete coverage of all parishes should be achieved within the coming months.

The specific details of the development of this safeguarding foundation across the dioceses can be viewed in the following table showing the results of the survey. What it reveals is an encouraging and impressive commitment by an army of volunteers to the task of safeguarding children in parishes.



Number of Safeguarding Representatives who have received training for their role



Cartography by Omar Sarhan, 2008. Copyright Council for Research & Development, IBC and Dept of Geography, NUI Maynooth.

Map 1. Percentage of parishes in each Diocese who have safeguarding representatives in place.



Cartography by Omar Sarhan, 2008. Copyright Council for Research & Development, IBC and Dept of Geography, NUI Maynooth.

Map 2. Base map of the Dioceses.

## Schedule of Policy Development and New Guidance at March 2010



The Board has a remit to identify and address any deficits that exist in policy or guidance in the Church and so we are finalising new policies to address the standardisation of recording practice in respect of safeguarding concerns when they emerge. A revised plan of actions to be taken when a member of the clergy becomes the subject of an allegation will be submitted shortly to the members of COIMIRCE for their approval prior to them being issued as additions to the National Standards set down in the *Safeguarding Children* document.

It is worth noting that the Board does not create policy for the various Church authorities. Our role is to recommend best practice through the creation of new policies or to argue for the revision of existing ones to allow the members of COIMIRCE to decide if they will approve them. COIMIRCE's three sponsoring bodies are the Bishops' Conference, the Conference of Religious of Ireland, and the Irish Missionary Union. The members hold the authority to agree the adoption of a new policy before its implementation by the whole Church in furtherance of a best practice approach to child safeguarding and protection.

Policy is constantly being reviewed and developed. It is for this reason that the Standards and Guidance document was issued in loose leaf form so that additions or revisions could be made to it without having to republish the entire document. When issued last year, the fact that further policies would be added

was made clear. For the forthcoming year, we are currently working on policies for adoption across the Church to bring standardisation to practice in a number of critical areas.

The planned development this year of the policy framework in the Church is detailed within the following table. It includes such critical areas as the provision of pastoral care, conducting internal investigations, responding to warning signs, support and accountability for those who have abused, education for supervision, education for leadership, and the use of advisory Boards. This further development will considerably strengthen the policy base for the Church and will address the deficits that have been identified. All developments will take full account of the changes that have occurred and are planned within the legislation within both Northern Ireland and the Republic that relate to this work.

The introduction of the new statutory framework for the vetting and barring of those who work with children and vulnerable adults within Northern Ireland is an example of this process. The Board has developed new guidance which takes account of the increased responsibilities the legislation places on those operating within Northern Ireland. It has been submitted to the new Safeguarding Authority set up to implement the new legislation for their comment prior to its presentation to the members of COIMIRCE for their approval. We anticipate that this should be finalised in the near future.

Standards and Guidance: Phase II

Standard 8	<p>Providing Pastoral Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Victims</li> <li>• For Families</li> <li>• For Communities of Faith</li> </ul>
Standard 9	<p>Conducting Internal Investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police and Child Protective Services are not pursuing an investigation</li> <li>• All allegations against living priests and religious must be investigated</li> <li>• Evidence must be pursued and documented</li> <li>• Key steps must be taken</li> <li>• Generate report</li> </ul>
Standard 10	<p>Response to Warning Signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boundary violations</li> <li>• Inappropriate behaviour</li> <li>• Inappropriate relationships</li> <li>• Extended absence</li> </ul>
Standard 11	<p>Support and Accountability for Those who have Abused</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The question of public ministry</li> <li>• Written plans</li> <li>• Support systems</li> <li>• Accountability systems</li> <li>• Medical and psychological treatment</li> <li>• Discipline and penalties within Canon Law</li> </ul>
Standard 12	<p>Education for those Responsible for Supervision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about sexual offenders and behaviours</li> <li>• Specific information about the individual</li> <li>• Managing resistance</li> <li>• Applying research information to the religious setting</li> </ul>
Standard 13	<p>Education for those in leadership roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the dynamics of abuse</li> <li>• Listening and responding to victims</li> <li>• Preventing abuse by known offenders</li> <li>• Public support for reform</li> <li>• Systems of accountability</li> </ul>
Standard 14	<p>The Use of Advisory Boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding pastoral care</li> <li>• Regarding inappropriate behaviour or warning signs</li> <li>• Regarding investigations</li> <li>• Regarding supervision plans</li> </ul>

## Members of the Board and other Corporate Information



### **John Morgan, Chairman**

Has had a career in business primarily as a Corporate Lawyer. Served as chairperson of the Bishops' Committee on Child Protection from 2002–2006. Prior to that he had been a member of the committees established by the Bishops dealing with Child Protection since the first formal Bishops' Committee on Child Abuse, appointed in 1999.

### **Sr Martina Barrett**

A psychotherapist and family therapist with many years' experience of working with survivors of abuse. Has undertaken specialised training for work with communities affected by sexual abuse. Currently a member of the leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy, Western Province.

### **Martina Duggan**

Has extensive front-line experience in crisis intervention and in assisting the most marginalised in society. Currently involved in support group work and after-care service in the areas of substance and alcohol misuse. Joined the Board in 2008.

### **Dr Kathleen Ganter**

A Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with extensive experience of treating children and adolescents who have suffered abuse. Currently involved in mental health tribunal work for the Mental Health Commission. Chair of the European Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Joined the Board in 2009.

### **Dr Keith Holmes**

A Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. Currently Chairperson of the Medical Board in Lucena Clinic in Dublin and Chair of the Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry within the College of Psychiatry of Ireland. He also represents the faculty on the Medical/Legal/Human Rights/Ethics Committee within the College of Psychiatry of Ireland. Joined the Board in 2009.

### **Marie Kennedy**

Has a background in social work and has extensive experience in child protection and welfare, with a Post-Graduate diploma in child protection and an MSc in Health Services Management. Through a range of important assignments provides significant and extensive experience in all aspects of childcare management. Joined the Board in 2008.

### **Brian Matthews**

A solicitor with many years' experience in child protection policy development and implementation. Served for ten years as member of the Child Protection Task Force of the Conference of Religious of Ireland.

### **Fr Paul Mc Cafferty**

A priest of the Diocese of Derry. A Canon Lawyer, he holds an STB Degree in Theology from the Gregorian University, Rome, and a Licence (Post-Graduate) degree in Canon Law from the Angelicum University, Rome. He has extensive experience in the practice of Canon Law.

### **Michael Ringrose**

Formerly Chief Executive of PWD (People with Disabilities in Ireland), the National Representative Organisation of all people with disabilities, their parents, carers, families and advocates. Prior to that he served as a Chief Superintendent with An Garda Síochána.

### **Professor David Smith**

A member of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Congregation. Associate Professor in Healthcare Ethics in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, with an extensive international career in Academic Research and Consultancy work in Healthcare Systems, Ethics and Bioethics. Chairperson of the Task Force on Child Abuse of C.O.R.I. (2004). Joined the Board in 2009.

Except as stated all the Board members have served since 2006

## Management of National Office

**Ian Elliott, Chief Executive Officer**, a graduate of Trinity College and the University of Ulster, with a Master of Business Administration from the Open University Business School. He has qualifications in social work and certification in advanced social work for over twenty years. He was appointed director of NSPCC in June 2001, which involved responsibility for leading services, influencing and campaigning within Northern Ireland. In September 2005 he was seconded to the DHSSPS (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Services) to a government role of lead child protection advisor. This role was further expanded by the Minister to design and implement a major reform programme for child protection services within the region. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer to the National Board in July 2007.

**Sr Colette Stevenson, Director of Professional Standards** is a Presentation Sister. She has been involved in child protection work within the Church since 1995, when she became Director of the C.O.R.I child protection office. Previously she worked as a teacher and later in retreat work. She is a qualified marriage and family therapist.

**Teresa Devlin, Director of Safeguarding**. With a background in social science, social studies and psychology, and with an advanced diploma in child

protection, she has extensive experience in child protection management and family support, both at the levels of senior management and in the specific areas of risk assessment and care planning. Before joining the National Office, she served for four years as Head of Research Policy and Service Review at the office of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY).

**Ann Doyle Administrator**

**Philip Mortell Training Associate**

**Dr Monica Applewhite Research Associate**

## Other Corporate Information

The Members of the Board comprise the directors of COIMIRCE, a company limited by guarantee without a share capital (Co. Number 465899). The Members of COIMIRCE comprise nominees of each of the Episcopal Conference of Irish Bishops, C.O.R.I. (Conference of Religious of Ireland) and the I. M. U. (Irish Missionary Union).

The registered office and address of COIMIRCE is New House, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

**Company Secretary Anne Young**



## Objectives for 2010

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A description of the three key and primary objectives of the Board for 2010 is as set out below.

1. At the Winter meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference, which took place on 9 and 10 December 2009, the normal business of the meeting was suspended on 9 December to give detailed attention to the Commission of Investigation Report into the Archdiocese of Dublin (*The Murphy Report*), published on 26 November 2009.

An important response in the Bishops' considerations was a request to the Board to develop a Review mechanism to ensure that the Church's current policies and practices in relation to the safeguarding of children are properly handled. At the same time the Board was asked by the Bishops to consult with State Authorities, North and South, about such development.

A primary current objective of the Board is to undertake an independently and objectively validated Review of dioceses and religious congregations in response to the request of the December 2009 General Meeting of the Irish Bishops' Conference. For 2010 the emphasis will be to undertake these Reviews in dioceses.

2. Since the publication by the Board of its Standards and Guidance Documents for Safeguarding Children for use throughout the Catholic Church in Ireland in February 2009, considerable consultation and development work has been undertaken in order to extend Standards and Guidance advice into other areas where best practice child safeguarding is required. Some important Guidance will be published in the first half of 2010. A key objective is to seek to complete and publish Guidance in respect of the contents of the Schedule of Guidance outlined on page 21 of this Report within twelve months.
3. As part of the Review of Operations of the National Board and its National Office in 2009, an examination of the provision of training (other than that provided by the National Office) aimed at supporting the development of safe practice in the Church in relation to safeguarding children was undertaken. It found that the disparate nature of the training and, in some instances, its lack of emphasis on key priorities for developing best practices, render some of the training ineffective. A recommendation for the adoption of an agreed single training strategy to match a move towards a greater rationalising of the structure of safeguarding services was accepted. A key Board objective for 2010 is to move towards such development.



## Appendices

### APPENDIX 1

Figures for Parishes, Catholic Population and Churches in Ireland, 2009

	Parishes	Catholic Population	Churches
Armagh <sup>1</sup>	61	213,030	152
Dublin	199	1,162,000	247
Cashel <sup>1</sup>	46	82,135	84
Tuam	56	122,397	131
Achonry <sup>1</sup>	23	34,826	47
Ardagh <sup>1</sup>	41	71,806	80
Clogher	37	86,047	85
Clonfert <sup>1</sup>	24	36,000	47
Cloyne	46	165,067	107
Cork & Ross	68	220,000	124
Derry	51	242,260	104
Down & Connor	88	336,462	151
Dromore <sup>1</sup>	23	63,400	48
Elphin	38	70,800	90
Ferns	49	100,227	101
Galway	39	115,487	71
Kerry <sup>1</sup>	54	127,850	105
Kildare & Leighlin <sup>1</sup>	56	205,185	117
Killala	22	40,432	48
Killaloe	58	122,746	133
Kilmore <sup>1</sup>	36	57,024	95
Limerick	60	184,340	94
Meath <sup>1</sup>	69	250,000	149
Ossory	42	88,549	89
Raphoe <sup>1</sup>	33	81,250	71
Waterford & Lismore <sup>1</sup>	45	146,206	85
Totals <sup>2</sup>	1,365	4,338,587	2,646

#### NOTES:

1. Data unchanged from 2008
2. Totals estimates only

Source: Diocesan returns

Source: *Irish Catholic Directory 2010*, Veritas Publications, 2010.

## APPENDIX 2

## Number of Priests and Religious, 2009

	Active in Diocese <sup>1</sup>	Others <sup>2</sup>	Religious Orders		
			Clerical	Brothers	Sisters
Armagh	101	37	55	31	362
Dublin	291	157	862	324	2,749
Cashel	86	11	20	8	153
Tuam	94	26	8	17	234
Achonry	36	9	1	0	75
Ardagh	59	14	5	9	190
Clogher	74	10	4	3	140
Clonfert	39	5	18	0	95
Cloyne	103	32	0	5	209
Cork & Ross <sup>3</sup>	119	30	141	36	580
Derry	96	19	5	4	102
Down & Connor	139	41	38	9	233
Dromore	33	21	26	11	156
Elphin	54	15	11	1	114
Ferns	98	25	10	6	164
Galway	55	21	43	20	213
Kerry <sup>3</sup>	84	25	10	5	292
Kildare & Leighlin <sup>3</sup>	106	17	93	54	380
Killala	47	18	4	3	54
Killaloe	104	19	19	8	180
Kilmore	72	18	7	1	54
Limerick	95	30	59	14	317
Meath <sup>3</sup>	113	19	102	20	163
Ossory <sup>3</sup>	63	16	17	52	211
Raphoe	66	17	12	5	53
Waterford & Lismore <sup>3</sup>	68	24	52	40	321
Totals <sup>4</sup>	2,536	555	1,651	686	7,796

## NOTES:

1. Diocesan priests only
2. Priests of the diocese retired, sick, on study leave, or working in other dioceses in Ireland and abroad.  
Details are listed under the diocese
3. Data unchanged from 2008
4. Totals estimates only

Source: Diocesan returns

Source: *Irish Catholic Directory 2010*, Veritas Publications, 2010.



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