**NBSCCCI Issues 2012 Annual Report**

**A year of solid progress**

**Monday 20th May 2013**

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 31st March 2013. It notes that 242 new allegations of abuse (physical, emotional or sexual) were reported to the Board, and the authorities, between April 1st 2012 and the end of March 2013. This is a small increase on last year’s number of 237. Most allegations relate to abuse allegedly having taken place between the 1940’s and 90’s, with the biggest number of allegations relating to the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. All of these have also been passed to the Gardaí/PSNI and where appropriate to the HSC/HSE.

“We have been notified of two allegations of abuse having taken place since 2000 and one allegation of abuse taking place in 2012,” said Ian Elliott, CEO, NBSCCCI. “While this is not a large number it does underline the need for constant vigilance, good safeguarding practice and prompt action when the allegation or concern is notified to a Church authority.”

Niall Moore has been allocated the position of National Training Manager in response to the growing demand for training in child safeguarding practice from across the church in Ireland. The period covered also saw an increase in the use of the National Case Management Reference Group by dioceses and congregations.

The report notes that the NBSCCCI has recommended to the Sponsoring Bodies that it is timely that a comprehensive review of its operations be undertaken and this has been accepted. Such a review has now much to draw on to aid it – experience of the Review Programme; the nature of the support sought by Church authorities from the Board; analysis of the general advice required by Church authorities; the success of the National Case Management Reference Group; the role of training with its needs and requirements; the adequacy of resources to meet increasing and varied demands; and more. It is anticipated that the review will be undertaken over the upcoming summer months.

“It is opportune to undertake a review of our operations after 7 years in being. This will evaluate how satisfactorily we are fulfilling our remit with current resources. The object will be to help the Board chart priorities for our future activities making the optimum use of available resources” said John Morgan, Chairman, NBSCCCI.

Finally, the Annual Report states that the NBSCCCI expects to complete its review of the Dioceses by the end of 2013 and to have substantial progress made by the end of 2014 on the remaining congregations and missionary unions.

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