

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church's Annual Report Published.

10 June 2025

The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (known as the National Board) has published its annual report for 2024. It covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

"There has been a significant increase in the number of new allegations notified to the National Board," said Aidan Gordon, CEO. "They rose to 385 in 2024/25 from 252 in 2023/24. This represents an increase of over 50% in the number of new allegations notified and is the highest number of any reporting period since we began publishing the figures annually in 2009. This increase in notifications was predominantly from September of 2024 and coincided with the release of the Report of the Scoping Inquiry into Historical Sexual Abuse in Day and Boarding Schools run by Religious and the subsequent media coverage. These events in September 2024 appear to have given individuals renewed strength to tell of their experiences. While this is undoubtedly an extremely difficult undertaking for those who have suffered any type of abuse as a child, it is good to be able to begin to address that trauma and we are grateful for the production of such a comprehensive and far-reaching report by Mary O'Toole SC."

As has been the pattern in recent years the vast majority of the allegations relate to the period from 1960 to 1989. 282 of the 385, or 73%, are in this category. Only 2, or less than 0.5%, relate to the period post-2000. This should be caveated with the fact that 47, or 12%, did not have a definite timeframe attributed to them.

Over this period the number of requests for safeguarding advice again increased from 281 to 287.

The reporting year 2024/25 was our final year for completing and reporting on Reviews of Safeguarding practice in dioceses and across religious orders under the 2016 child safeguarding policy. All of the review reports can be read on <https://www.safeguarding.ie/publications/national-board-publications>. By the end of 2025, it is anticipated by the NBSCCCI that we will be beginning our review process looking at practice under the three standards of our current Church policy (2024). We fully expect that the significant improvements in practice that were evidenced by previous reviews from 2016 to 2024 will continue as the Church strives to ensure that ministry for and with children within the Church is safe and welcoming.

ENDS

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