



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

August 2016

### **NBSCCI review of Implementation of Recommendations of the Twenty Child Safeguarding Reviews reported on in December 2015**

As we were approaching the end of the child safeguarding reviews, the National Board commented on twenty reviews which had been publicly made available by their Order/Congregation in December 2015.

Three of those twenty Orders/Congregations had been assessed against the Church's 7 safeguarding standards as they had substantial and current public ministry with children and had allegations against their members. These 3 Orders/Congregations were:

1. The Legionaries of Christ
2. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate
3. The Mercy Sisters.

The remaining 17 Orders and Congregations have limited if any ministry with children and/or have not received allegations of child sexual abuse against their members. One Congregation received an allegation of emotional abuse. These were:

1. Benedictine Monks Rostrevor
2. Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
3. Dominican Nuns of St Catherine of Siena in Drogheda
4. La Sainte Union Sisters
5. Little Sisters of the Assumption
6. Little Sisters of the Poor
7. Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit
8. Our Lady of the Cenacle Sisters
9. Redemptoristines (Order of the Most Holy Redeemer)
10. Religious of Jesus and Mary Sisters
11. Salesian Sisters

12. Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
13. Sisters of Sr. Claire
14. Sisters of St Marie Madeleine Postel
15. Sisters of the Holy Family of Emile Rodat
16. St Joseph of Annecy Sisters
17. Ursulines of the Irish Union Sisters

The process of reviews for the first three listed Orders/Congregations followed the pattern of previous reviews, with in-depth fieldwork conducted by independent reviewers, while the others had their policy and practice critiqued, again by independent reviewers but using a different methodology.

The terms of reference for all reviews are appended to their reports, which can be found on the Order/Congregations website or on [www.safeguarding.ie](http://www.safeguarding.ie)

As a follow up to the reports, the National Board invited those with recommendations, to send in a progress report, including:

The Legionaries of Christ; The Oblates of Mary Immaculate; The Mercy Sisters; Little Sisters of The Poor, Irish Ursuline Union and Missionary Sisters Servant of the Holy Spirit

Given the closeness of these reviews to the publication of **Safeguarding Children, Policy and Standards for the Catholic Church in Ireland 2016**, some of the Orders/Congregations held discussions with the National Board to identify which recommendations could be fulfilled through the adoption of the revised Safeguarding Children (2016).

As has become practice all of the Orders/Congregations have been asked to place their progress report on their website.

Details on each update report can be found at the following links:

The Legionaries of Christ;

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate;  
<http://oblates.ie/safeguarding/>

The Mercy Sisters;  
[http://www.sistersofmercy.ie/vision/2015\\_safeguarding\\_children\\_audit.cfm](http://www.sistersofmercy.ie/vision/2015_safeguarding_children_audit.cfm)

Little Sisters of The Poor – NO LINK AVAILABLE

Irish Ursuline Union

<http://www.ursulines.ie/recommendations/>

Missionary Sisters Servant of the Holy Spirit:

<https://sspsei2012.wordpress.com/2015/12/02/safeguarding-children/>

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**Current Situation:**

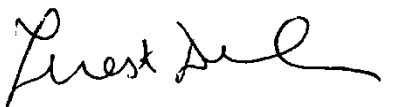
At the time of reporting on these twenty reviews, The National Board commented on the positive approach taken to ensure that child safeguarding was being engrained into the ministries of the Orders/Congregations. We also noted that resources were being invested to ensure skilled personnel were taking on major safeguarding roles.

The 6 Orders/Congregations with recommendations accepted these in full and committed to providing the National Board with information on the progress of implementing the recommendations. Since then members of the Orders have attended induction of the new policy and standards and are actively working to familiarise themselves with any new developments in child safeguarding practice.

It is reassuring to note that in the intervening 9 months since the reports have been published that many of the Religious Leaders from these Orders/Congregations have engaged with the National Board to ensure that their practice is improving. Particularly small female Religious Orders who, through the process of the review have been energised to become engaged in the promotion of child safeguarding.

This is an important time for the Catholic Church in Ireland; the National Board commends the improving practice and cautions against complacency. There are new challenges for all Church Leaders, for example ensuring child protection through internet use, and ensuring that viewing child pornography does not take the place of contact abuse.

The Board is satisfied that these twenty Religious Leaders will continue to work with the National Board to meet all challenges which might place children's safety at risk.



**Teresa Devlin**  
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