

Statement from The Congregation of The Sisters of Mercy –

Response to The NBSCCCI Review of Child Safeguarding Practice

The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy invited the National Board for the Safeguarding of Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI) to audit their safeguarding policy and practice in June/July 2015. The review is now complete; the Congregation accepts in full its recommendations and welcomes the publication of the NBSCCCI Review today. The Congregation will implement the Audit recommendations as outlined in the review in the coming weeks/months.

The Sisters of Mercy again sincerely apologise to individuals who have suffered abuse and/or the betrayal of trust by some of our Sisters in past years. We uphold the primary importance of safeguarding children. We renew our commitment to work in partnership with the NBSCCCI and civil authorities to ensure that where we live and minister are safe environments for children. We welcome the fact that the NBSCCCI has found that our present child safeguarding systems are most satisfactory and we are determined that this continues to be so in all our various ministries into the future.

We invite anyone who may have any safeguarding concerns regarding the Sisters of Mercy to contact any of the following:

MERCY DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSONS/SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATORS

Province	Name	Tel Number	Mob Number	Email
NORTHERN PROVINCE	Ms. Teresa Burns	028 85548127 (NI) 048 85548127 (ROI)	078 03566214 (NI) 004478 03566214 (ROI)	burns.teresa@mercynth.org
SOUTHERN PROVINCE	Ms. Cleo Yates	021 4975380	087 3553024	cleoyates@mercysouth.ie
SOUTH CENTRAL PROVINCE	Mary Margaret Costigan	045 876784	086 081 3956	marymargaret@mercyscp.ie
WESTERN PROVINCE	Ms. Edel Burke	0909 645202	087 7747717	safeguardingwestprov@gmail.com

For Media Calls - Wally Young - Young Communications - Mob No: 087 2471520

Other numbers that may prove to be of assistance are listed below:

NBSCCCI: St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel No: 01 505 3160

Gardaí: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit, An Garda Síochána, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. Tel no: **01 6663435** or any Garda Station

– Every Garda Station in the country is listed on www.garda.ie

Police Service Northern Ireland:

Tel numbers: **999 emergencies, 101 non-emergencies**; Email: foyleDCU@psni.pnn.police.uk

Tusla Child and Family Agency: Block D, Park Gate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8

Tel no: **01 7718 500**

Email: info@tusla.ie or any local Duty Social Worker (see www.tusla.ie)

Health and Social Care Trusts Northern Ireland:

HSC Trusts (NI) Tel Numbers: **Belfast (028) 90507000; South East: 03001000300; Northern: 03001234333; Southern: 08007837745; Western (028) 71314090**

If anyone is affected by the content of this Review please contact any of the following support helplines:

Towards Healing: Free Phone Ireland: **1800 303416**; NI &UK: **0800-0963315**

Towards Peace: Tel No: **01 505 3028**; Mob No: **086 771 0533**

One in Four: Tel No: **01 662 4070**