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Our Ref : L17-2018

24<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Re: Update to Members from the Board

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

### Governance

Next Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> of June is a very important day when you, our members will determine the future of Scouting Ireland.

Four years ago the Board recognised that the structures at a national level with which we operated were no longer fit for purpose for the future of Scouting on this island. The legal and regulatory landscape in which we operate has changed dramatically and this, together with the current size and continued growth of Scouting Ireland means we have to change.

The proposals you are being asked to vote on next Saturday we had planned to put to members later this year. However in light of discussions ongoing with the Government and its officials the whole area of Governance has now taken on a more urgent focus and we have to move more quickly than previously planned.

Members need to understand that if we do not adopt these proposals we will not survive. We are already struggling as a fast growing organisation and if we do not reorganise and restructure with new governance arrangements we will not be able to function as a national organisation.

The restoration of funding by Minister Zappone is contingent on Scouting Ireland among other matters, being able to demonstrate a commitment to good governance, and a vote in favour of the new board structures is an important step in that journey.

The Board of Scouting Ireland is fully supportive of the new governance, which will also change the structure of the Board. We believe this will strengthen the capabilities of the board by ensuring a wide range of skills are represented so as to support and sustain the strategy and development of Scouting Ireland.

Reg. No. 397094  
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Directors: A list of names and personal details of every director of the company is available for inspection to the public at the company's registered office for a nominal fee. Scouting Ireland is a company limited by guarantee exempt from using the word "limited". Registered Office: Scouting Ireland National Office, Larch Hill, Dublin 16

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In support of the new governance and to allow a new board to take office, current members of Board have confirmed their decision to resign effective 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and this is a very strong endorsement by these Board members of the new governance and board structures.

The Governance Project, led by a group of dedicated volunteers, is one of the most important endeavours of this organisation in recent times. The work that has been undertaken, in continuous consultation with our members, is a once in a generation achievement that will ensure that we continue to serve young people throughout Ireland for generations to come.

### Funding

Annette Byrne, interim Chair, John Lawlor, CEO and Conor McKeon, Operations Manager, met with officials from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs this week to discuss the future funding of our organisation and to renew Scouting Ireland's commitment to our governance review. We await the decision of the Minister on the restoration of funding.

Yours in Scouting,

Annette Byrne  
Interim Chairperson

Charles Mc Guinness  
National Secretary

*On behalf of the National Management Committee of Scouting Ireland and Board of Scouting Ireland Services CLG*

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