

Dear Provincial and County Commissioners,

Thank you for joining us at the meeting on the 1st of October 2020. At that meeting, we, the National Management Committee, stated we would follow up with you, the County and Provincial Commissioner, with more detailed information relating to what was discussed.

The members of the NMC, who stayed in place after the 6th of October 2018, anticipated that their job would only last for a few months. We had no insight at that time concerning serious and complex legal, financial, property, insurance and other problems, which were already in existence in October 2018, which would thereafter frustrate the desired objective of winding up the Association. Those problems and issues persist to this day. The matter of accounts and legal advice were explained in detail to you on our zoom call of Thursday 1st October 2020.

Subsequent to the NMC members assuming office in October 2018 Lorna Lynch BL completed her Report, which in turn led to disciplinary action against four senior volunteers. The primary focus of members of Scouting Ireland seems to have been concerning that latter event, but members need to understand that that is not the sole issue which is preventing the winding up of the Association, as discussed and explained to you.

The individual members of the NMC are at this stage weary and extremely frustrated that they had not been in a position to complete the outstanding work and step down from what has proved to be a most invidious and demanding task. It has proved to be and continues to be an extremely time-consuming mission and has taken a serious toll on the commitment and goodwill of the members of the NMC, for which, at least from the perspective of the members of the NMC, there has been little or no appreciation displayed by some members of the Association, at least those who have seen fit to comment publicly. The members of the Board of Scouting Ireland CLG, with whom all information has been shared, share that sense of frustration.

There has been public comment about changes in the membership of the NMC since 2018.

Under the terms of the Constitution and Rules, the NMC was entitled to co-opt a limited number of people to fill the consequential vacancies.

The following persons were co-opted at the following times:

- Bill Holohan December 2019
- Dave Clarke July 2020

Having undertaken a review of all of the available information and documentation, Bill Holohan, drawing on his legal expertise and background, produced a Memorandum for the benefit of the members the NMC (which was shared with the Board of Scouting of Ireland CLG) pointing out that there are several ongoing legal issues of a highly complex, confidential, and sensitive nature, which are precluding the work of the windup of the Association being completed, his memorandum documenting no less than six different issues each of which, in their own right, currently prevent the windup of the Association being completed.

We would like to clearly state that, we, the members of the NMC are not motivated by any desire to remain in office, and in fact are seeking to identify mechanisms whereby we can be replaced. Particularly as it is possible that certain issues preventing the completion of the

windup, might continue not just for months, but possibly for years before they could be finalised.

Contrary to allegations, that have been brought to our attention, the members of the NMC are not motivated by any ill will towards any individuals. In particular, the four individuals subjected to disciplinary action arising out of the Barristers Report. It would be the preference of the members of the NMC if the continuing work relating to the windup of the Association could be undertaken by others who would step into their shoes or if the task could be transferred to the Board of Scouting Ireland CLG to be completed, as has been suggested by some. Based on legal advice from independent solicitors and senior counsel (not just Bill Holohan SC), it has been confirmed that that is not legally possible or advisable to do so at this time.

There has been a particular focus concerning the issue of disciplinary action taken against four senior volunteers. However, it must be understood as that it is only one of six different ongoing issues. The membership has been, as recently as last month, updated by the NMC on these outstanding matters.

In relation to calls for the publication of the Lorna Lynch BL Report, the personal view of the members of the NMC is that they would like members of the Association at large to be made aware of the detail of the findings of this report. Information was provided to and gathered by Lorna Lynch solely for the purpose of the report. Legal advice from both independent solicitors and senior counsel provided to the members of the NMC, state that publication of the detailed report is not advisable, particularly concerning the rights to privacy of all individuals concerned with the report.

The Barristers Report, its appendices, the outcomes of the subcommittee of the NMC and the findings of the appeal to the National Secretary have all been provided to the CEO and the Board of Scouting Ireland Services CLG.

In the absence of facts, there is a considerable degree of ill-informed speculation on the part of some members of Scouting Ireland. In particular, concerning the motives of the members of the NMC, leading some members of Scouting Ireland to make pejorative, insulting, derogatory and potentially defamatory remarks on social media concerning the members of the NMC and as a result attacking our reputations.

Some individuals may be motivated by what might be described as or what appears to be a blind and unthinking sense of loyalty. While loyalty is a virtue which is to be commended when such blind loyalty leads someone into a serious error that is a matter to be regretted.

A number of former senior members/officers of Scouting Ireland have in recent weeks to comment on the circumstances in which the work of winding up of the Association has not been completed. They have suggested that it is a matter for the Board of Scouting Ireland CLG to assume control of the processes involved concerning the windup of the Association. While we acknowledge their advice, it has been provided in circumstances where there are not privy to the detail of the complex legal, financial, property and insurance issues which do not, in fact, and in law, permit the winding up to be completed at present, or responsibility for the winding up to be transferred to the Board of Scouting Ireland CLG. They are not privy to the legal advice furnished to the NMC and the Board by (separate) solicitors and senior counsel and the detailed nature of that advice. It is unfortunate and regrettable that they chose to intervene in such ill-informed circumstances.

Regretfully, the members the NMC and the members of the Board of Scouting Ireland CLG, are not in a position to share with our members any further information at this time, as to provide detailed information concerning the nature of the issues addressed in legal advice, and/or the detailed nature of that legal advice, would not be the best interests of the Association. This was discussed in our recent zoom call with you.

Finally, the NMC intends to convene a meeting of National Council in the early part of 2021, the purpose of which would be to propose a new mission statement and new simple constitution with the sole purpose of winding up the Association. This, of course, is dependent on the financing and resourcing, by Scouting Ireland Services CLG, of such a meeting of National Council.

Kind regards,

The National Management Committee

Scouting Ireland Association

Annette Byrne, Charlie McGuinness, Kieran McCann,

Bill Holohan, Ronan Barry, Anne Browne and David Clarke