

Scouting Ireland announces boardroom shake-up as two directors retire.

Two directors have retired from Scouting Ireland as two more join the board. The charity, which is under investigation by the Charities Regulator, is also seeking more directors to join key governance committees.

21st Jan. 2025 Tom Lyons Chief Executive, The Currency

<https://thecurrency.news/articles/176689/scouting-ireland-announces-boardroom-shake-up-as-two-directors-retire/>

Scouting Ireland has announced a boardroom shake-up with two directors joining the board and two retiring.

The move comes a week after the Charities Regulator appointed inspectors to "investigate" the affairs of Scouting Ireland along with a number of related entities. In a lengthy email sent to scouts on Tuesday evening, the charitable organisation made no mention of the move by the regulator, which came after more than a year of fraught correspondence between the two sides.

Instead, Scouting Ireland told members of the retirement of two of its directors, Lorraine Lally and Eoin O'Shea. It also announced the appointment of two new members, adding that it hoped to appoint more.

Lally, a barrister, served on the board of Scouting Ireland from 2019 and was appointed to the governing authority, the Charities Regulator, in 2022. Lally declined to comment last week when contacted by The Currency on this dual role. Scouting Ireland also declined to comment.

The Charities Regulator said: "We are not in a position to comment on an individual board member."

In Tuesday's statement to scouts, Scouting Ireland said it had appointed two new external directors who were "being appointed following the retirement of Lorraine Lally and Eoin O Shea".

"Lorraine joined the board in 2019 and informed the Chair in November that due to work commitments, she would be stepping down at the end of her five-year term this month," Scouting Ireland said.

O'Shea, a financial services professional who has volunteered with the scouts from the age of eight, has also retired from the board of Scouting Ireland. "Eoin joined the Board in 2023 and is also stepping down due to work commitments," the charity said.

"Both directors have made a significant contribution to the board and we extend our thanks to them for their dedicated voluntary service to Scouting Ireland," it added.

Scouting Ireland said that Andrew and Derek McInerney had joined its board through the "causal vacancy process" and attended their first board meeting this month. Wiite is a computer engineer with a long history of volunteering as a scout. McInerney is a university lecturer who also has a long track record of scouting service.

An open call for directors

Scouting Ireland also said it was issuing an "open call" for new directors.

"This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of Scouting Ireland and play a key role in supporting our mission," Scouting Ireland said.

It said it was seeking "enthusiastic, skilled, and committed individuals to fill these roles".

Scouting Ireland said it was recruiting for the following sub-committees of its board: audit and risk; governance; health and safety; strategy and culture. Scouting Ireland has 36,000 members, making it one of the largest charities in the state.