

STATEMENT BY REGIONAL VICAR

*Review of Child Safeguarding Practice in the Prelature of Opus Dei in Ireland, undertaken by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NBSCCCI).
May 4th, 2016*

The Regional Vicar and members of Opus Dei in Ireland welcome the publication of the independent Review of Child Safeguarding Practice in the Prelature, which has been carried out at our request by the NBSCCCI, as part of its invaluable service to the Catholic Church in Ireland. The text of the Review is now available on this website (www.opusdei.ie).

We are encouraged by the reviewers' conclusion that *"the Prelature of Opus Dei is compliant to a high degree with the NBSCCCI criteria which have active application and are relevant to it"* and that *"overall the approach to child safeguarding within the Prelature is strong."*

In relation to the only historical child abuse allegation received by the Prelature, the Review found that *"the responses of the Prelature in this case were timely and appropriate."* Other documented concerns were also examined and Review found that the files *"evidence careful consideration of referral material, and consultation with civil and Church authorities, and do not constitute child abuse allegations."*

The Review notes that *"the organizational configuration within which the Prelature carries out its mission is different from that of other Church bodies"* and that, unlike a religious order or congregation for example, *"a personal prelature is a juridical structure within the Church"* which *"depends, from a child safeguarding perspective, on the commitment of associated bodies to also be thorough in this area."* Accordingly, the Review *"has made a small number of recommendations related to training, and the functions of the Safeguarding Committee and an Advisory Panel"* and specifically on *"the need to consolidate some aspects of the work of the Safeguarding Committee in order to accommodate a safeguarding horizon that is wider than the Prelature itself."*

These recommendations have been fully accepted by the Prelature and we are in the process of implementing them. We are also committed to implementing the revised Standards recently published by the NBSCCCI.

We are of course very conscious of the immense harm that has been done in the past by omission and neglect by Church authorities in this area. We join with the whole Church in continuing to pray and work for the consolation and welfare of those who have suffered and assure them that we are determined to maintain a high standard in child safeguarding practice in the future.

Rev. Justin Gillespie
Regional Vicar

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TOWARDS HEALING

Website: www.towardshealing.ie
Free phone 1800303416 (Republic of Ireland)
Free phone 0800 0963315 (Northern Ireland)
Monday - Thursday 11am - 8pm Friday - 11 am - 6 pm

TOWARDS PEACE

Spiritual support for survivors of abuse by Catholic Church personnel in Ireland.
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