

**Statement by the Provincial Superior Father Alex McAllister SDS  
on behalf of the Salvatorians in the light of the Audit conducted by the  
National Board for Safeguarding Children in the  
Catholic Church in Ireland**

The Salvatorians are grateful to the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland for conducting this review of our Order in the field of safeguarding in Ireland. We pay tribute to their professionalism and thoroughness and we are glad to have this opportunity to make public our handling of these matters in past years.

The Salvatorians express their deep sorrow for the prolific abuse carried on by a particular member of our Order in Ireland and elsewhere over a long number of years (Father A in the report, now deceased). We unreservedly apologise to anyone who has suffered at the hands of this particular member.

We are also extremely regretful that when it became known to the Provincial Superior that this member had abused children he was not placed immediately under supervision but instead was transferred to a desk job and subsequently permitted some limited ministry. We acknowledge that the response of the Provincial Superior at the time was completely inadequate and that it was a clear failure of the duty of our Order to protect children.

When Father A was arrested in 2004 the matter became public and the Order's Safeguarding procedures were invoked. We entered into close cooperation with the Archdiocese of Dublin's Safeguarding Service and ensured that Father A was given the necessary treatment and the appropriate supervision until his death in 2009. Subsequently we initiated an enquiry as to how these extremely poor decisions were made and implemented changes to ensure that nothing like this can happen again.

The Salvatorians completely accept the recommendations of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland and we undertake to honour them fully. As an Order we assure the public that we have an extremely high commitment to the Safeguarding of Children and intend to do everything possible to meet our responsibilities in this area.

We express our deepest apology to anyone who was harmed by Father A and urge those who have not yet come forward to do so. We undertake to give anyone who was harmed a sympathetic hearing and to provide as much support as possible.

A list of suitable contacts is available on our website [sdsgb.org](http://sdsgb.org) or below.

Father Alex McAllister SDS  
3rd May 2016

Please do not hesitate to contact the Provincial Superior if you have cause for concern about the welfare and safety of children or vulnerable adults in relation to any of our members. Your enquiry will be treated with the utmost seriousness.

**Provincial Superior**

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**Province Press Officer**

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**Other Relevant Numbers**

National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (England & Wales)    07530 972830

National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland 01 505 3124

Towards Healing (Counselling Ireland)    1800 303416

Towards Peace (Spiritual Support Ireland)    01 505 3028