

**PROMOTING  
THE RIGHTS OF  
ADULTS AT RISK**

**Safeguarding  
IRELAND** 

# Annual Report 2024

[safeguardingireland.org](https://safeguardingireland.org)



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**National Safeguarding Ireland (trading as Safeguarding Ireland) (a company limited by guarantee)**  
**CRO #612163.**

RCN #20204851. **Contact:** [anmarie@safeguardingireland.org](mailto:anmarie@safeguardingireland.org)

**Directors:** Carol Grogan, Bernice Evoy, Kathy Jacobs, Colm Nolan, Nora Owen, Amanda Phelan, Phelim Quinn,  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke (Chair), Bibiana Savin, Mervyn Taylor

## Chairperson's Foreword.

Safeguarding Ireland's annual programme of work for 2024 was derived from its Strategic Plan. The pursuit of the introduction of adult safeguarding legislation in Ireland, together with the establishment of an independent overarching National Adult Safeguarding Authority, remained a key focus, and the achievement of these aims was bolstered in April 2024 via the publication by the Law Reform Commission (LRC) of its landmark report on *A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding*.<sup>1</sup>

Safeguarding Ireland welcomed the publication of the LRC report<sup>2</sup> and the comprehensive analysis of the very serious issues involved, as well as the related recommendations. Safeguarding Ireland was pleased to note also that important research carried out by Safeguarding Ireland during the currency of its strategic plan 'Identifying RISKS – Sharing RESPONSIBILITIES: The Case for a Comprehensive Approach to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults' was referenced throughout by the LRC.

Safeguarding Ireland carried out a full analysis of the LRC report and engaged in a planned process of stakeholder engagement with relevant Government Departments and Agencies about the recommendations and the roles of key stakeholders in progressing them. The overarching objective was to see the immediate establishment of a cross-party political working group in the Oireachtas, and secondly an inter-departmental steering group, as vehicles to drive immediate progress.

There were several other important developments during 2024 which heralded the progression of necessary policy and legislation in key areas to protect adults at risk from harm and abuse.

In January, the Department of Health launched its public consultation on policy proposals for adult safeguarding in the health and social care sector<sup>3</sup>, with a vision that "Every adult using health and social care services in Ireland is safeguarded effectively against abuse and harm". Safeguarding Ireland submitted to the consultation.<sup>4</sup>

In February, Safeguarding Ireland had an opportunity to present to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Disability Matters and presented a 'safeguarding roadmap'<sup>5</sup>. In addition to highlighting the need for adult safeguarding legislation and an independent adult safeguarding authority, Safeguarding Ireland highlighted (inter alia) the need for the enactment of Deprivation of Liberty legislation, an expansion of Coercive Control legislation to include non-intimate relationships, measures to address the lack of data sharing between agencies relating to adult abuse.

In the area of finance, and with a specific focus on the prevention of financial abuse, Safeguarding Ireland made a submission to the National Payments Strategy consultation. Highlighting the need 'build a 'strategic consensus' amongst the key stakeholders involved around...the measures that are necessary

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lawreform.ie/news/the-law-reform-commission-publishes-report-on-a-regulatory-framework-for-adult-safeguarding.1141.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/structures-needed-to-begin-establishment-of-an-independent-authority-for-adult-safeguarding/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-health/consultations/public-consultation-on-policy-proposals-for-adult-safeguarding-in-the-health-and-social-care-sector/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/02042024Safeguarding-Ireland-written-response-to-DOH-Policy-Proposals-Adult-Safeguarding.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/safeguarding-ireland-presents-safeguarding-roadmap-to-the-oireachtas/>

to ensure that the needs and interests of adults who may face a heightened risk of harm or abuse (currently and in the future) are addressed. In March 2024, the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI) published its consultation paper on the revised draft Consumer Protection Code (Revised Code) and connected areas. Having made a comprehensive submission in 2023, Safeguarding Ireland provided a further submission in response and commended the CBI for specifically highlighting financial abuse as a distinct form of financial harm.

In June 2024, the high-level review of the HSE safeguarding policy, procedures, structures and options for the future of safeguarding across all settings, by independent expert Jackie McLroy, was published.<sup>7</sup> Safeguarding Ireland had engaged in the consultation process during 2023 and was pleased to see some of its detailed recommendations noted in the report.

Raising public and professional awareness on the many facets of adult abuse continued to be a key focus in 2024. Now an annual event, National Adult Safeguarding Day is undertaken with our partners, the National Safeguarding Office in the HSE, and was widely supported by members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee, the membership of Safeguarding Ireland's State Payments Group and the wider public. Due to the ongoing developments in the landscape for financial services, the theme for Adult Safeguarding Day 2024 was financial abuse.<sup>8</sup>

Safeguarding Ireland continued with its research agenda and published a report on 'Peer-to-Peer' Abuse<sup>9</sup> to inform definitions and thresholds. The report provides the basis for a fuller understanding of the issue, and Safeguarding Ireland believes that only with more comprehensive knowledge of the issue and how it is being dealt with across all sectors can policy, procedure, and practice be developed to effectively deal with peer-to-peer abuse and its prevention.

Together with the National Safeguarding Office in the HSE and our adult safeguarding partners in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Safeguarding Ireland continued to support the 'Five Nations' seminar series on adult safeguarding, assuming full responsibility for organising the events during 2024. The list of those wishing to participate in the events grew to almost 700 during 2024, with in the order of 200 attendees for each free seminar.

While Safeguarding Ireland is a very small organisation with no staff, it continued to receive and respond to queries from members of the public, organisations and professionals about issues relating to Adult Safeguarding. Safeguarding Ireland reviews and responds to every query, signposting to organisations that can provide support. Safeguarding Ireland also continued to respond to requests for training/presentations, where possible. Safeguarding Ireland also continued to participate in various working groups on a variety of topics related to Adult Safeguarding.

<sup>6</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/14022024-SI-Response-to-the-Dept-of-Finance-Consultation-on-the-National-Payments-Strategy-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/adult-safeguarding/moving-forward-adult-safeguarding-in-the-hse.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/6686-Safeguarding-A5-FA-web.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Report-on-Peer-to-Peer-Abuse-Final.pdf>

Towards the end of 2024, Safeguarding Ireland received a once-off donation from Ulster Bank which was exiting the Irish market. This funding enabled the Board to plan for an important and additional research agenda on Staying in Control of Money, Benefits and Assets, aligned with the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Acts and Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCPRD), which would otherwise not have been feasible.

Safeguarding Ireland's work during 2024 demonstrates the demand for continued professional development relating to adult safeguarding, as well as the need for a centralised source of expertise on adult safeguarding. The development of various strands of government policy, as described, is greatly welcome but there is, as yet, no single authority to ensure that there are consistently high standards, rooted in human rights, that span across sectors; to ensure there is cooperation and collaboration to harmonise and develop a good practice response that places the person at the centre regardless of location or sector. Therefore, a holistic response mechanism to adult abuse and related safeguarding concerns, which are often crimes, overwhelmingly multi-faceted and occur in settings outside of health and social care, needs to be put in place.

In all aspects of its work, Safeguarding Ireland aims to ensure that it has strong systems of governance, and the Board continues to develop, monitor and review its performance in this regard, undertaking a review and updating of its governance policies in 2024.

The National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and the State Payments Group now have a combined representation from approximately 40 national organisations, and I wish to express my continued gratitude for their partnership, collaboration, and expertise. In addition, the strong and collaborative partnerships Safeguarding Ireland has developed across the jurisdictions comprising the 'Five Nations' continue to be a source of expertise and support. I am also very grateful to Safeguarding Ireland's funders, the HSE, for their ongoing support and their recognition that Safeguarding Ireland's independence remains central to its achievements.



**Patricia Rickard-Clarke,**  
**Chair.**



## Objectives of Safeguarding Ireland

The main object for which Safeguarding Ireland is established is to promote safeguarding of adults who may be vulnerable, protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and develop a national plan for promoting their welfare. This will be achieved by promoting inter-sectoral collaboration, developing public and professional awareness and education, and undertaking research to inform policy, practice, and legislation in the Republic of Ireland.

### Subsidiary Objects

Objects incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the Main Object, are: - To do the following for the benefit of adults in the Republic of Ireland who may be vulnerable:

- (a) To raise public understanding of attitudes, behaviours, circumstances and systems that create vulnerability that may result in abuse and that may require a safeguarding response.
- (b) To promote the protection and rights of people who may be vulnerable by encouraging organisations and services to recognise, prevent and deal with exploitation and abuse effectively.
- (c) To inform and influence Government policy and legislation to safeguard the rights of people who may be vulnerable.



Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chair, Safeguarding Ireland - Adult Safeguarding Day Seminar - 9th November 2024

# Board of Safeguarding Ireland.

Safeguarding Ireland is registered with both the Companies Registration Office and the Charities Regulatory Authority and complies with the requirements of both of those Bodies.

During 2024, Safeguarding Ireland had a ten-member Board of Directors.

**Patricia Rickard-Clarke (Chair)**

**David Byrne**

**Bernice Evoy**

**Carol Grogan**

**Colm Nolan**

**Paschal Moynihan (Resigned 9th April 2024)**

**Nora Owen**

**Amanda Phelan**

**Phelim Quinn**

**Bibiana Savin (Appointed 28th May 2024)**

**Mervyn Taylor**



The Board met on 6 occasions in 2024, on the following dates:

- **16th January**
- **9th April**
- **28th May**
- **9th July**
- **3rd September**
- **15th October**

## National Safeguarding Advisory Committee.

The National Safeguarding Advisory Committee provides advice to the Board of Safeguarding Ireland on issues relating to adult safeguarding and also acts as a forum for communication and information sharing on issues relating to adult safeguarding across a range of organisations.

The Board of Safeguarding Ireland recognises the importance of multi-agency collaboration on the issue of adult safeguarding and the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee continues to be an invaluable resource in this regard.

During 2024, the Committee met on three occasions – (15th January, 8th April, and 2nd September). This committee now comprises approximately 40 members from a wide range of sectors, including healthcare, finance, trades unions, essential services, and community and voluntary organisations. The agenda for these meetings includes a mix of standing items and presentations from external speakers: presentations during 2024 included:

- Consultation on the National Payment Strategy (Department of Finance)
- Evolving Role of the Health Care Assistant: Safeguarding Challenges?’ (Clare Doyle)
- Market Withdrawals & Lessons Learned (BPF)
- Adult Safeguarding Portal Demonstration (National Safeguarding Office: HSE)

## State Payments Group

In addition to the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee, the State Payments Group, which was established to identify safeguarding issues that arise in relation to state payments and make recommendations to prevent abuse and exploitation related to such payments, continued to meet, usually on the same days as the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee. It comprises representatives of the following organisations: BPF, AIB, PTSB, An Post, the HSE, the Department of Social Protection, the Irish Banking Cultural Board, and Electric Ireland

## Public Awareness Reference Group

Safeguarding Ireland also has a Public Awareness Reference Group, which is critical to the development of materials and messaging on all campaigns.

For further information about the structure and governance of Safeguarding Ireland, see: <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/about/>

# Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Safeguarding Ireland’s Strategic Plan is based on four key Objectives.

Each of these Objectives is underpinned by a set of priorities and supporting actions to achieve the Objectives. The Strategic Plan is designed as a working and dynamic document which is flexible so that modifications can be made as the external environment changes. The remainder of Safeguarding Ireland’s Annual Report for 2024 summarises the work and achievements of Safeguarding Ireland under each of its 4 key objectives.

Safeguarding Ireland will promote and pursue the introduction and enactment of Adult Safeguarding Legislation.

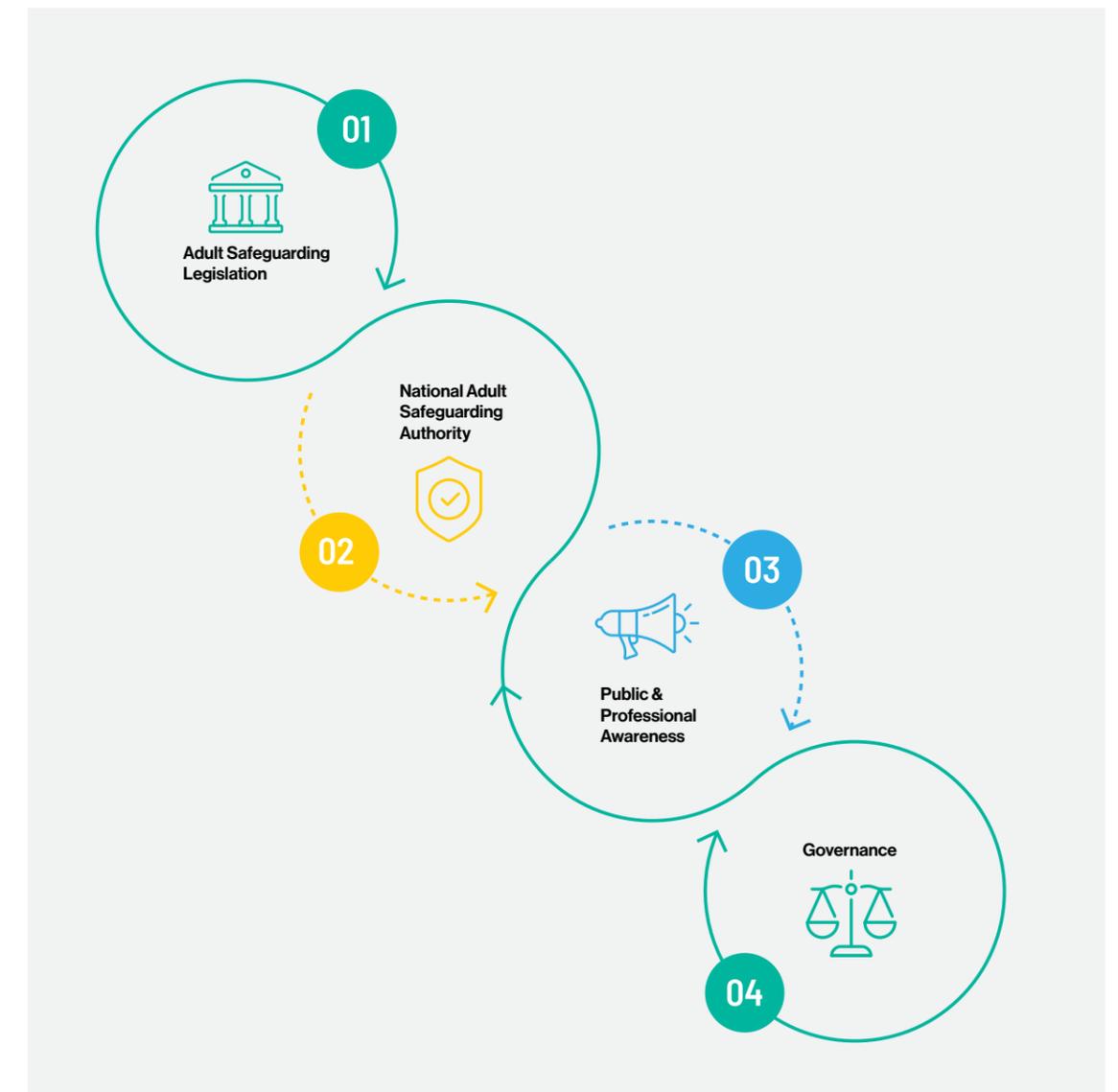


Figure 1: Safeguarding Ireland - Strategic Objectives, 2022-2025

# Objective No.1

## Adult Safeguarding Legislation

### Key Priorities.

- Work with legislators, key stakeholders and influencers towards the commencement of robust adult safeguarding legislation.
- Develop and promote evidence to inform policy that outlines the State's responsibility to adults that may be at-risk, to include adult safeguarding legislation.

Themes for Safeguarding Ireland's work during 2024 originated in the objectives of its current strategy<sup>10</sup> as described above, and were strongly aligned with the operational landscape, with an emphasis placed on the continued promotion of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Acts, with a particular focus during 2024 on the making of Advance Healthcare Directives.

In terms of the broader landscape for adult safeguarding in the area of health and social care, Safeguarding Ireland continued to provide inputs to the Department of Health's work in relation to Deprivation of Liberty (also highlighting the need for statutory provision for a Place of Care decision), and prepared a substantial response to the Department of Health's Consultation on policy proposals on Adult Safeguarding in the health and social care sector.<sup>11</sup>

The changing landscape for the provision of financial services was also a core focus, and Safeguarding Ireland made a second submission to the Central Bank of Ireland's consultation on a revised Consumer Protection Code, as well as to the consultations by the Department of Finance on a National Payments Strategy and the first National Financial Literacy Strategy. The focus was to achieve recognition of the prevalence of financial abuse of adults at risk, and an emphasis on ensuring that there is a focus on human rights, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. 'Financial Abuse' was the theme for Adult Safeguarding Day 2024.<sup>12</sup>

Liaison continued during 2024 with the Data Protection Commission (DPC) as part of the 'Data Sharing Working Group'. Safeguarding Ireland provided feedback on the draft Guidance prepared by the DPC and also met (as part of the Working Group) with two of the newly appointed Commissioners to provide an overview of the urgent requirement for guidance on data sharing.

<sup>10</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/6419-SI-Strategy-Report-web.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/2a1ce-public-consultation-on-policy-proposals-for-adult-safeguarding-in-the-health-and-social-care-sector/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/?s=adult+safeguarding+day>

### Disability Matters Committee

In February, Safeguarding Ireland was invited to appear before the Disability Matters Committee as part of its preparation of a report on 'Ensuring rights based adult safeguarding in Ireland' (published April 2024).<sup>13</sup>

### Consumer Protection Code

The second phase of the Central Bank's consultation on the Consumer Protection Code was launched in March. An important feature of the proposals was the inclusion of a definition of financial abuse and related draft regulations<sup>14</sup>. Safeguarding Ireland also availed of opportunities to attend stakeholder events hosted by the Central Bank of Ireland on the Code and to encourage NSAC members to engage and make their own submissions to the process.

### Law Reform Commission Report

A very important milestone during 2024 was the publication by the Law Reform Commission (LRC) of its report on [A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding](#). The report drew extensively on Safeguarding Ireland's research and analysis.<sup>15</sup> The Chair of Safeguarding Ireland was a panel member at the launch on April 17, 2024. After the publication of the report and having reviewed and analysed the recommendations, Safeguarding Ireland commenced a programme of strategic engagement with the main stakeholders.

### Research

Following procurement, in the first half of the year, Safeguarding Ireland oversaw work by HIQA on a [Scoping study on 'Peer-to-Peer' Abuse](#), which was published in November. Safeguarding Ireland also worked with Grant Thornton to update research carried out on State Payments and Adults at Risk. This research was required to be updated on foot of the publication of the Law Reform Commission's Report, the publication by the CBI of its draft Consumer Protection Code and the National Payments Strategy and will be finalised in 2025.

<sup>13</sup> [https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint\\_committee\\_on\\_disability\\_matters/submissions/2024/2024-02-21\\_opening-statement-patricia-rickard-clerke-chairperson-et-al-safeguarding-ireland\\_en.pdf](https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_disability_matters/submissions/2024/2024-02-21_opening-statement-patricia-rickard-clerke-chairperson-et-al-safeguarding-ireland_en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.centralbank.ie/docs/default-source/regulation/consumer-protection/other-codes-of-conduct/consumer-protection-code-review/draft-central-bank-reform-act-2010-section-17a-regulations.pdf?sfvrsn=dc5f631a\\_3](https://www.centralbank.ie/docs/default-source/regulation/consumer-protection/other-codes-of-conduct/consumer-protection-code-review/draft-central-bank-reform-act-2010-section-17a-regulations.pdf?sfvrsn=dc5f631a_3)

<sup>15</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/resources/>

## Submissions and Communications<sup>16</sup>

Safeguarding Ireland made several submissions to relevant consultations, including:

- Second submission to the CBI on the Consultation on the Consumer Protection Code
- Submission to the CBI re Innovation Engagement (CP156)
- Submission on the National Payments Strategy and communication with the Department of Finance's Team on the Financial Literacy Strategy on the need to include a reference to 'financial abuse' in the Strategy
- Submission to the Department of Health on Safeguarding Policy for Health and Social Care
- Submission to the Department of Health on Clinical Governance in Nursing Homes
- Response to Sinn Fein's consultation on Policy Priorities for Health and Social Care
- Submission to HIQA on draft Standards for Home Care.

## Letters

- Safeguarding Ireland wrote to the Minister for Health on the need for regulations for the establishment of a register for Advanced Healthcare Directives.
- Safeguarding Ireland wrote to the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the need to update the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 and the relevant Regulations to comply with both the ADMCA and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>16</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/resources/>

## Objective No.2 National Adult Safeguarding Authority

Safeguarding Ireland will work towards the development of a plan for the establishment of a National Adult Safeguarding Authority.

### Key Priorities.

- Work with stakeholders and key figures in the Oireachtas, government departments, state agencies, regulatory authorities and publicly funded organisations to plan for the establishment of a National Adult Safeguarding Authority.

In February 2024, Safeguarding Ireland was invited to appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters. Safeguarding Ireland's Opening Statement reflected its experience and the findings of its research.<sup>17</sup> In setting out the rationale for the establishment of a National Safeguarding Authority to the Committee, Safeguarding Ireland highlighted the primary gaps as follows:

- Adult Safeguarding Legislation
- Social Care legislation
- The absence of a uniform regulatory framework (legislation, policies, accountability and enforcement) across all settings
- Legislation on Deprivation of Liberty / Place of Care
- Regulation of Home Care Services
- Legislative underpinning for the practice of independent advocacy in Ireland
- Multi-disciplinary /cross-sectoral policy on self-neglect
- Guidance / Regulation on Data Sharing
- A comprehensive cross-sectoral framework for data collection on abuse of adults

Departmental / Agency policy and related accountabilities, procedures and training for staff outside of health and social care – this applies to all government departments and agencies providing services to adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse<sup>18</sup>. (The requirement for policy extends to the private sector<sup>19</sup> also and in particular to the providers of essential services such as financial services and utilities).

- Recognition/ criminalisation of coercive control in non-intimate partner relationships
- Access to Legal Aid / Representation
- A single point of contact for any adult who is at risk or has experienced of abuse.

<sup>17</sup> [https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/foireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint\\_committee\\_on\\_disability\\_matters/submissions/2024/2024-02-21\\_opening-statement-patricia-rickard-clarke-chairperson-et-al-safeguarding-ireland\\_en.pdf#:~:text=Safeguarding%20Ireland%20cannot%20anticipate%20what%20the%20landscape.the%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20\(UNCRPD\)6.](https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/foireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_disability_matters/submissions/2024/2024-02-21_opening-statement-patricia-rickard-clarke-chairperson-et-al-safeguarding-ireland_en.pdf#:~:text=Safeguarding%20Ireland%20cannot%20anticipate%20what%20the%20landscape.the%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20(UNCRPD)6.)

<sup>18</sup> The relevant Government Departments include: Justice, Finance/Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Health, Social Protection, Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth Affairs, Housing, Local Government and Heritage The related key statutory agencies are: National Safeguarding Office & Teams, Decision Support Service, HSE Health & Social Care Services, Mental Health Commission, HIQA, Citizens Information Board, Courts Service, Data Protection Commissioner, Central Bank, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, An Garda Síochána, The Housing Agency.

<sup>19</sup> Commission, An Garda Síochána, The Housing Agency. <sup>3</sup> There is currently a requirement for Charities to have a policy <https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/media/1866/safeguarding-guidance-for-charitable-organisationsadults-final.pdf>, and some (limited) relevant regulatory requirements exist in other sectors such as financial services and utilities.

Safeguarding Ireland was pleased to see that in its report on *Ensuring Rights-Based Adult Safeguarding in Ireland*<sup>20</sup> the Disability Matters Committee recommended that

*'...the Department of Health must set up a working group to scope out legislative provisions and consider the composition of the national safeguarding authority on foot of the Law Reform Commission's report to ensure the State is ready to meet the legislation when it is enacted. All relevant stakeholders including IASW and Safeguarding Ireland, as well as direct consultation with persons lived experience must be included.'*

In its submission to the Department of Health on its draft Policy Proposals for Adult Safeguarding in Health and Social Care, Safeguarding Ireland again highlighted the need for an Independent Adult Safeguarding Authority. While Safeguarding Ireland welcomed the progression of policy proposals for health and social care, it noted that

*'Safeguarding Ireland cannot see how the proposed structure ('Sectoral Adult Safeguarding Office') will address the current fragmented nature of the national safeguarding response, the gaps in provision, or the gaps in needed expertise beyond the domain of social work.'*

And further that,

*'Safeguarding Ireland's view is that there is a considerable risk that resourcing a partial response that lacks the necessary statutory powers to compel co-operation between agencies may prove to be a less effective and a more costly use of the State's resources.'*

Over the course of 2024 and following the publication of the Law Reform Commission's report on a *Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding*, Safeguarding Ireland embarked on a programme of strategic engagement with main stakeholders to discuss the findings and recommendations and to encourage the progression of the work necessary to prepare for and progress adult safeguarding legislation as well as the need for an Independent Adult Safeguarding Authority. To this end, Safeguarding Ireland had meetings with the Department of Health, the Department of Justice, the Department of Social Protection and DECIDY and also sought a meeting with officials in the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform. Safeguarding Ireland also met with the Charities Regulator about the need for an updated Adult Safeguarding policy/guidance for Charities.

Safeguarding Ireland issued a press release in advance of the finalisation of the Programme for Government calling for progress on the implementation of the Law Reform Commission's proposals and highlighting that:

*'the priority is the establishment of a new and fully independent National Safeguarding Authority, which is fully equipped with legislation and powers to coordinate safeguarding responses across all relevant sectors of society to protect at risk adults from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation.'*<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> [https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint\\_committee\\_on\\_disability\\_matters/reports/2024/2024-05-07\\_ensuring-rights-based-adult-safeguarding-in-ireland\\_en.pdf](https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_disability_matters/reports/2024/2024-05-07_ensuring-rights-based-adult-safeguarding-in-ireland_en.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> <https://safeguardingireland.org/safeguarding-ireland-calls-on-programme-for-government-to-commit-to-safeguarding-authority/>

## Objective No.3 Public And Professional Awareness

Safeguarding Ireland will raise public and organisational awareness of issues of abuse, neglect and exploitation and of the need for a rights-informed approach to adult safeguarding issues.

### Key Priorities.

- Collaborate with members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee on raising public and professional awareness.
- Measure and measurably improve public awareness and understanding of issues related to abuse, exploitation and neglect of adults who are, or may be, at-risk of abuse.
- Promote awareness, capacity and capability, among professionals in health and social services, policing, income support, financial services and other relevant agencies regarding issues related to abuse, neglect and exploitation of at-risk adults and the importance of collaboration.

### Public Awareness Activities 2024

Raising public awareness of issues relating to adult abuse and creating a better understanding of adult safeguarding was a central activity of Safeguarding Ireland during 2024. The public awareness campaigns were developed in collaboration with partners in Safeguarding Ireland's Public Awareness Reference Group, drawn from its National Safeguarding Advisory Committee.<sup>22</sup>

### Campaign 1 – Understanding and uptake of Advance Healthcare Directives, June

In June 2024, Safeguarding Ireland ran an extensive public awareness campaign to strengthen public understanding and uptake of Advance Healthcare Directives (AHD's) – which is integral to upholding rights and reducing risk of adult abuse. Red C research commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland found that just 4% of the public had made an Advance Healthcare Directive, which is very low by international standards, and a key objective was to increase this take-up level.

The campaign promoted the 'Make an Advance Healthcare Directive' message via radio and social media advertising, social media activity and distribution of information materials. An extensive advertising campaign in 800 GP surgeries nationwide was engaged.

A news release, launching the Red C research, was issued and interviews were provided on national and local radio, and reports were carried online and in newspapers.

In parallel, direct engagements were held with key social groups to grow staff understanding of making AHDs. Feature articles were secured in partner newsletters.

At the end of 2024, a repeat burst of this campaign was planned for delivery at the beginning of 2025.

See <https://safeguardingireland.org/public-awareness/advance-healthcare-directive-june-2024/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/about/>

## Summary of media engagement:

### Radio (interviews with Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chair, Safeguarding Ireland)

#### National

- RTÉ, Morning Ireland
- Newstalk, Breakfast
- Newstalk, network newsclips.

#### Local

- Connemara Community Radio
- Cork County Sound
- Dundalk FM
- Highland radio
- Limerick Live 95
- Phoenix FM
- Radio Corca Baiscin
- Shannonside / Northern sound
- Spirit FM.

#### Print

- Irish Examiner
- Irish Daily Mail

#### Online

- RTÉ, Morning Ireland: <https://www.rte.ie/radio/radio1/clips/22403030/>
- Irish Examiner: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41408447.html>

## Adult Safeguarding Day, November 2024 – ‘Financial Abuse’

Adult Safeguarding Day is an annual national initiative of Safeguarding Ireland supported by and delivered in partnership with the HSE, in collaboration with a wide range of organisations across the health, social, financial and justice sectors.

The aim in 2024 was to create awareness of financial abuse of adults at risk. Research carried out to inform the campaign found that 30% of adults have experienced financial abuse, with the vast majority (81%) of the abuse carried out by someone well-known to the victim rather than online, or anonymously. The main messages were:

- Avoid sharing a bank card and PIN, account number, or access to online banking
- If help is needed, first ask for advice from the bank, An Post or Credit Union
- If help is needed with day-to-day spending, choose carefully a highly trusted person and limit their access
- Ask for receipts
- Get monthly account statements
- Make an Enduring Power of Attorney.

### Outputs of the campaign included:

- Almost 100 top-level decision makers attended an Adult Safeguarding Day ‘in person’ seminar hosted on Safeguarding Ireland’s behalf by the Institute of Banking (IoB)
  - Challenges and opportunities in preventing financial abuse – Safeguarding Ireland, Annmarie O’Connor
  - A regulatory framework that secures customers’ interests – Central Bank of Ireland, Michael Hennigan
  - Customer protection and the detection of early-stage dementia – UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School, Professor Cal Muckley.
- Thousands of information packs – including campaign booklets (30,000), posters and badges – were distributed to hundreds of organisations and locations across the country – events were organised locally by the HSE, HSE-funded organisations and private organisations, including Credit Unions.
- New public information videos were developed and promoted to add to the existing suite of videos on this topic. <https://safeguardingireland.org/adult-safeguarding-day/>
- Lots of activity on social media, with endorsement and support from across leading Irish organisations concerned with safeguarding.

## Summary of Media Engagement Adult Safeguarding Day:

Local Radio (delivered by representatives of Safeguarding Ireland and the HSE's National Safeguarding Office)

- Newstalk news clips (national and distributed to local stations)
- Athlone Community radio
- Cork County Sound
- Connemara Community Radio
- East Coast FM – (Wicklow, Wexford, South Dublin)
- Highland Radio (via zoom)
- Kildare FM
- Limerick Live 95
- LMFM
- Midlands Radio
- MidWest Radio
- Shannonside Radio
- Waterford Local Radio
- Youghal Community Radio

### National Print

- Irish Independent
- Irish Examiner
- Irish Daily Mail
- Evening Herald

### Online

- RTE: <https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/1108/1479751-ireland-financial-abuse/>
- Irish Times: <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2024/11/08/more-than-one-in-10-adults-have-experienced-financial-abuse-notes-survey/>
- Irish Independent: <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/more-than-one-in-10-suffer-financial-abuse-and-culprit-is-known-to-victim-in-most-cases-poll-says/a866016783.html>
- Irish Examiner: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-41512364.html>
- Minister Mary Butler, 2 minute video Ireland Live: <https://www.ireland-live.ie/news/national-news/1650603/vast-majority-of-financial-abuse-victims-know-their-abusers.html>
- Shezmazing.net: <https://www.shemazing.net/new-report-finds-over-1-in-10-people-suffer-from-financial-abuse/>
- Business Plus: <https://businessplus.ie/news/financial-abuse/>
- Activelink – <https://www.activelink.ie/node/112030>
- Age Friendly Ireland: <https://agefriendlyireland.ie/news/adult-safeguarding-day-2024-friday-november-8th/>
- Highland Radio: <https://highlandradio.com/2024/11/08/one-third-of-adults-experience-financial-abuse/>
- Highland Radio #2: <https://highlandradio.com/2024/11/08/financial-abuse-is-a-major-issue-in-ireland-hse/>
- Kilkenny People: <https://www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/national-news/1650603/vast-majority-of-financial-abuse-victims-know-their-abusers.html>
- Limerick's Live 95: <https://www.live95fm.ie/news/live95-news/nearly-one-third-of-adults-in-ireland-are-victims-of-financial-abuse/>
- Limerick Live: <https://www.limerickleader.ie/news/national-news/1650603/vast-majority-of-financial-abuse-victims-know-their-abusers.html>
- Mallow Credit Union: <https://www.mallowcu.ie/credit-union-news/adult-safeguarding-day-2024-friday-november-8th/>
- Midlands Radio: <https://www.midlands103.com/news/midlands-news/1-in-3-adults-experience-financial-abuse/>
- Radio Kerry: <https://www.radiokerry.ie/podcasts/kerry-today/financial-abuse-the-dark-side-of-family-life-november-8th-2024-408433>

## Other ongoing public awareness activities during 2024

### Further Media Engagement

There was ongoing engagement with national and local media across the year, with six news releases issued in total. The public messaging also responded to live issues of the day and supported World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. These four releases included both constructive critique of shortcomings in safeguarding structures in Ireland, and also clear recommendations on improving policy, legislation and structures to reduce adult abuse. The four other media statements issued by Safeguarding Ireland (outside of the public awareness campaigns) included:

- In February, Safeguarding Ireland issued a media release to coincide with its appearance before the Disability Matters Committee <https://safeguardingireland.org/safeguarding-ireland-presents-safeguarding-roadmap-to-the-oireachtas/>
- In April, Safeguarding Ireland issued a media release to coincide with the launch of the LRC Report Safeguarding Ireland welcomed publication of the Law Reform Commission (LRC) report on A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding– and said structures must urgently be put in place to begin work towards implementation of the comprehensive recommendations <https://safeguardingireland.org/structures-needed-to-begin-establishment-of-an-independent-authority-for-adult-safeguarding/>
- In December, Safeguarding Ireland called on the next Programme for Government to commit to the implementation the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission (LRC) report on adult safeguarding (April, 2024). <https://safeguardingireland.org/safeguarding-ireland-calls-on-programme-for-government-to-commit-to-safeguarding-authority/>.
- In December, Safeguarding Ireland issued a media release to coincide with the soft launch of the Scoping Study on Peer to Peer Abuse <https://safeguardingireland.org/report-highlights-need-for-differentiation-and-training-on-peer-to-peer-adult-abuse/>. The report aimed to deepen understanding and practice on incidents of aggression and abuse between adults with intellectual disabilities, or decision-making capacity challenges (Dementia), living in residential care settings. This is called peer-to-peer abuse.

### Social Media

Safeguarding Ireland maintains a public awareness profile on four social media channels: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. New content, including visuals and videos, was posted on an ongoing basis and relevant content from other organisations was engaged with and shared.

### Newsletter

Safeguarding Ireland has developed a comprehensive database of relevant stakeholder organisations across the health, social, financial and justice sectors. Sector-focused newsletters were issued at key times across the year, including updates on important developments in safeguarding and upcoming public awareness activities of Safeguarding Ireland.

### Working Groups

During 2024, Safeguarding Ireland participated in the HSE's Primary Care Reimbursement Service Communications Group.

Safeguarding Ireland is a member of the 'Safeguarding Working Group on Data Sharing'. This Group, which comprises of representatives of the HSE's National Safeguarding Office, Sage Advocacy, the Decision Support Service, Safeguarding Ireland, HIQA, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the BPFJ share a common concern about risk of harm and abuse that can arise due to 'over-caution' about data-sharing. The Group aims to see progression of the Data Protection Commission's (DPC's) commitment (within its *Regulatory Strategy 2022-2027*), to develop guidance for those tasked with the care of adults at risk, and the clarification of the bases for data sharing so that individuals are not at risk from abuse or harm as a consequence of over caution on the part of data controllers.

### Other meetings/Training/Presentations

The Chair, together with other representatives of Safeguarding Ireland, participated in many other meetings and fora on various aspects of legislation and policy, including (amongst others):

- The National Disability Authority's Research Ethics Committee as an aspect of its Review of Wardship,
- HSE Finance Working Group (Fair Deal/Data Sharing)
- Sage Advocacy – Speaker at 50 Shades of Grey Seminar
- Reference Group for the Commission on Care
- In respect of 'planning ahead' and planned campaigns in relation to Advance Healthcare Directives – Safeguarding Ireland met with the Irish Hospice Foundation, Citizens Information Board and the Decision Support Service.
- Delivery of presentations to organisations including: Kerry Women's Group, Scouting Ireland, Healthcare students, Donegal ETB, Adult Safeguarding Training Session to Staff of Dept of CEDYI Mother & Baby Institutions Payments Scheme

## 'Five Nations Adult Safeguarding Seminars'

Throughout 2024, Safeguarding Ireland worked in partnership with the HSE's National Safeguarding Office and colleagues in the Decision Support Service and experts from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, and Wales to plan and deliver a programme of professional development seminars to those working to safeguard adults at risk of harm or abuse across those jurisdictions. The seminars (which are delivered online and free for attendees) provide a platform for sharing inter-disciplinary expertise and experience on all aspects of adult safeguarding with a view to deepening and developing professional awareness and competence. Attendance figures grew over the course of 2024, with numbers attending in the region of 200 per seminar.

### Five Nations Adult Safeguarding Seminars delivered in 2024 were as follows:

- February - Rights Choices and Decisions
- May - Learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews
- April - Nursing and Health contributions to adult protection
- September - Financial Abuse
- December - Coercive and Controlling Behaviour.

The mailing list continued to grow during 2024. The presentations and related reference material are hosted on a dedicated 'Five Nations' page on Safeguarding Ireland's website <https://safeguardingireland.org/5nations/>

## Objective No.4 Governance

As a registered charity, Safeguarding Ireland will work to ensure the highest standards of Governance in the delivery of its objectives and obligations.

### Key Priorities.

- Demonstrate compliance with all legal and governance obligations.
- Ensure transparency and stewardship of all its resources.

### Compliance

Safeguarding Ireland operates in compliance with the terms of its annual grant aid agreement with its funder the HSE. Safeguarding Ireland submits its Board-approved financial reports to the HSE, and representatives of the Board meet periodically with representatives of the National Safeguarding Office in the HSE to discuss and review the work plan and the operation of the annual grant.

In compliance with its commitment to the Charities Governance Code, Safeguarding Ireland has developed and adopted a range of policies which govern its work as a Board and its operations. These policies are subject to periodic review by the Board. Its full suite of policies was reviewed during 2024 by a sub-group of the Board. The Board also continued to review its membership and engage in succession planning.

Safeguarding Ireland is required, under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, to register with the Register of Lobbying and is required to report on all relevant activity. All returns for 2024 were completed and are published on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie)

### Transparency and stewardship of resources

Safeguarding Ireland was aware at the end of 2023 that during 2024, the Law Reform Commission would publish its *Report on A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding* and agreed that strategic engagement related to this would be a priority focus for 2024.

A written report is issued in advance of every meeting with its stakeholder groupings (the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and the State Payments Group), and a verbal update on 'Activities' is provided at each meeting, Safeguarding Ireland also circulates submissions and other relevant materials to its stakeholders.

Safeguarding Ireland operates to an annual work plan derived from its Strategic Plan, which is reviewed throughout the year to ensure that it remains relevant and is delivering best value in the use of all resources. Within this work plan, a key focus is the Public Awareness Campaigns and related PR activity. The Public Awareness Reference Group is instrumental in informing this work. Plans, outcomes, and related expenditure are approved and monitored by the Board.

During 2024, the Board committed to reviewing 1) the Terms of Reference for the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and 2) the effectiveness of the Five Nations Seminars.

Safeguarding Ireland does not provide a service to the public and cannot provide advice on individual queries but nonetheless receives queries and concerns from the public, professionals and organisations on a wide range of issues. Safeguarding Ireland has a process for managing its responses to all queries ensuring that any individual or organisation that makes contact with Safeguarding Ireland is sign-posted on a timely basis to a relevant provider of information or support. The Board retains strategic oversight of this activity and receives an anonymised report on all queries received and a summary of the Safeguarding Ireland response.

Safeguarding Ireland uses its website [www.safeguardingireland.org](http://www.safeguardingireland.org) and its social media channels, to share information about its own work and to disseminate messaging created by members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee.

<https://ie.linkedin.com/in/safeguarding-ireland-0055b821b>,

<https://twitter.com/safeguardingire>,

<https://www.facebook.com/safeguardingire/>,

<https://www.instagram.com/safeguardingireland/>

## Newsletter

Safeguarding Ireland has developed a comprehensive database of relevant stakeholder organisations across the health, social, financial and justice sectors. Sector-focused newsletters were issued at key times across the year, including updates on important developments in safeguarding and upcoming activities of Safeguarding Ireland.

## Funding

Safeguarding Ireland receives an annual grant from the HSE, which is expended annually on a programme of work derived from its Strategic Plan. The audited financial statements for 2024 are appended.

In late 2024, Safeguarding Ireland received a once-off donation from Ulster Bank, which was exiting the Irish market. A sub-group of the Board was tasked with considering how the donation would be utilised and managed, and prepared a detailed plan for the use of the funds.

# Annual Report and Financial Statements for Y/E 31st December, 2024

<b>Auditor's Report:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Balance Sheet / SOFA / Notes:</b>	<b>32–42</b>
<b>Final page (sign-off / RCN / contact):</b>	<b>43</b>

## National Safeguarding Ireland DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

<b>Directors</b>	Patricia T Rickard-Clarke Colm Nolan Phelim Quinn Mervyn Robert Taylor Amanda Phelan Nora Owen David Byrne (Resigned 31 March 2025) Carol Grogan Bibiana Savin (Appointed 28 May 2024) Bernice Evoy Paschal Moynihan (Resigned 9 April 2024) Kathy Jacobs (Appointed 8 April 2025)
<b>Company Secretary</b>	Annmarie O'Connor
<b>Company Number</b>	612163
<b>Registered Office and Business Address</b>	Unit 23 Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
<b>Auditors</b>	FMB Advisory Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 4 Ormond Quay Upper Dublin 7 D07PF53
<b>Bankers</b>	AIB 7/12 Dame Street Dublin 2

## National Safeguarding Ireland DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

### Principal Activity and Review of the Business

The principal activity of the company is to promote the safeguarding of adults who may be vulnerable, protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and develop a national plan for promoting their welfare.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The company was confirmed as a registered charity by the Charities Regulatory Authority on 30 November 2019 and received a charity number of 20204851.

There has been no significant change in the principal activities undertaken by the company during the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

### Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year amounted to €138,692 (2023 - €57,560).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €295,100 (2023 - €170,497) and liabilities of €5,406 (2023 - €19,495). The net assets of the company have increased by €138,692.

### Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Colm Nolan  
Phelim Quinn  
Mervyn Robert Taylor  
Amanda Phelan  
Nora Owen  
David Byrne (Resigned 31 March 2025)  
Carol Grogan  
Bibiana Savin (Appointed 28 May 2024)  
Bernice Evoy  
Paschal Moynihan (Resigned 9 April 2024)  
Kathy Jacobs (Appointed 8 April 2025)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Annmarie O'Connor.

There were no changes in company members between 31 December 2024 and the date of signing the financial statements other than as disclosed.

In accordance with the Constitution, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

### Future Developments

The company has continued to engage in its principal activity subsequent to the financial year end, as follows:

1. Raise public understanding of attitudes, behaviours, circumstances and systems that create vulnerability that may result in abuse;
2. Promote the protection and rights of people who may be vulnerable, by encouraging organisations and services to recognise, prevent and deal with exploitation and abuse effectively;
3. Inform and influence Government policy and legislation to safeguard the rights of people who may be vulnerable to optimise its collective capacity and available external resources to achieve its aims and objectives;
4. The directors can confirm that the company's relationships with key stakeholders, including the HSE, continue to be excellent.

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the company's operational activities in the near future.

In planning future activities, the directors are continuing to engage with its key stakeholders to develop the company's activities to ensure that the company continues to have sufficient cashflows available so that it can continue as a going concern. In addition, the board has set-up a working group of its members to consider the most appropriate usage for the funding received from Ulster Bank during the financial year which are recognised as designed funds at 31 December 2024.

## National Safeguarding Ireland DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors are aware of the details included in the report from the Law Reform Commission "A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding" as issued in 2024, and are supportive of the goals outlined within.

### Post Balance Sheet Events

Significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end are disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements.

### Auditors

The auditors, FMB Advisory Limited, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

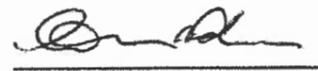
### Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

### Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Unit 23 Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

### Signed on behalf of the board

  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

Colm Nolan  
Director

Date: 27/5/25

Date: 27/5/25

## National Safeguarding Ireland DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

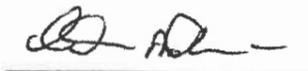
The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Disclosure of Information to Auditor

Each persons who are directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

### Signed on behalf of the board

  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

Colm Nolan  
Director

Date: 27/5/25

Date: 27/5/25

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of National Safeguarding Ireland

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Safeguarding Ireland ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2024 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

#### Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of National Safeguarding Ireland

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Respective responsibilities

#### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [www.iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](http://www.iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf). The description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

#### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Patrick Loughane  
for and on behalf of  
FMB ADVISORY LIMITED

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
4 Ormond Quay Upper  
Dublin 7  
D07PF53

Date: 27/05/2025

**National Safeguarding Ireland  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Income	4	373,500	249,000
Expenditure	4	(234,808)	(191,440)
Surplus before tax		138,692	57,560
Tax on surplus	6	-	-
Surplus for the financial year		138,692	57,560
Total comprehensive income		138,692	57,560

Approved by the board on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

  
Colm Nolan  
Director

**National Safeguarding Ireland  
BALANCE SHEET**

as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		295,100	170,497
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(5,406)	(19,495)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>289,694</u>	<u>151,002</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>289,694</u>	<u>151,002</u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
Unrestricted Funds		165,194	151,002
Designated Funds		124,500	-
<b>Members' Funds</b>		<u>289,694</u>	<u>151,002</u>

Approved by the board on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

  
Colm Nolan  
Director

**National Safeguarding Ireland  
RECONCILIATION OF MEMBERS' FUNDS**

as at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total
	€	€	€
<b>At 1 January 2023</b>	93,442	-	93,442
Surplus for the financial year	57,560	-	57,560
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	151,002	-	151,002
Surplus for the financial year	14,192	124,500	138,692
<b>At 31 December 2024</b>	<b>165,194</b>	<b>124,500</b>	<b>289,694</b>

**National Safeguarding Ireland  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Surplus for the financial year		138,692	57,560
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in creditors		(14,089)	11,319
Cash generated from operations		124,603	68,879
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>124,603</b>	<b>68,879</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		170,497	101,618
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	7	295,100	170,497

## National Safeguarding Ireland NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

### 1. General Information

National Safeguarding Ireland is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland with a registered number of 612163. The registered office of the company is Unit 23 Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare which was the principal place of business of the company during the financial year. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

#### Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

#### Income Recognition

The company's income, which consists of grant funding received from the Health Service Executive (HSE) and other voluntary contributions in the current and previous financial years, is recognised on an accruals basis.

#### Expenditure Recognition

Expenditure relating to the company's strategy and provision of advocacy and information to the public is included on an accruals basis and is inclusive of VAT, which is not recoverable by the company.

#### Related parties

For the purposes of these financial statements a party is considered to be related to the company if:

- the party has the ability, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries to control the company or exercise significant influence over the company in making financial and operating policy decisions or has joint control over the company;
- the company and the party are subject to common control;
- the party is an associate of the company or forms part of a joint venture with the company;
- the party is a member of key management personnel of the company or the company's parent, or a close family member of such as an individual, or is an entity under the control, joint control or significant influence of such individuals;
- the party is a close family member of a party referred to above or is an entity under the control or significant influence of such individuals; or
- the party is a post-employment benefit plan which is for the benefit of employees of the company or of any entity that is a related party of the company.

Close family members of an individual are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that individual in their dealings with the company.

#### Member funds

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

#### Designated funds

Designated funds are to be used for specific projects as laid down by the board of directors. Any directly attributable expenditure in respect of such projects are withdrawn from the designated fund.

#### Unrestricted funds

Undesignated funds are funds received or receivable for the objectives of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

## National Safeguarding Ireland NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Balance Sheet bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.

#### Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

#### Taxation

The company is not subject to corporate taxes being a registered charity limited by guarantee.

The directors have confirmed that the company continued to engage with the Charities Regulatory Authority to achieve charitable status during the financial year and it was successfully issued with a confirmation of charitable status effective on 30 November 2019. The company's issued charity number is 20204851.

#### Grant and other funding

The company applies for grant funding from the HSE on an annual basis to allow it to undertake its principal activities. Grant funding is recognised as income on an accruals basis when confirmation of agreement is reached with the HSE.

During the financial year, the company received a donation of €124,500 from Ulster Bank. This funding received came from an charitable allocation commitment which Ulster Bank had set aside in conjunction with the exiting of the bank from the Republic of Ireland market. The directors can confirm that no specific conditions were set by the donor on transferring the donation to the company, but given the exceptional nature of this income, the board of directors have elected to recognise it as designated funds in the company's balance sheet at 31 December 2024. They can confirm that the designated funds are intended to be spent on specific projects in full accordance with the company's overall charitable activities.

### 3. Departure from Companies Act 2014 Presentation

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

### 4. Operating surplus

	2024	2023
	€	€
<b>Operating surplus is stated after (crediting) the following income:</b>		
Grant funding received – HSE	(249,000)	(249,000)
Voluntary contribution – Ulster Bank	(124,500)	-
	<u>(373,500)</u>	<u>(249,000)</u>
<b>Expenditure was undertaken by the company in the following:</b>		
Public awareness and research	90,381	94,335
Secretariat expenditure	47,108	33,497
Campaign management	86,440	52,649
Auditor remuneration	4,612	4,520
IT and webhosting expenses	3,887	5,197
Other expenditure	2,380	1,242
	<u>234,808</u>	<u>191,440</u>

### 5. Employees

The company did not have any employees during the current and previous financial years. All members of the Board of Directors undertake their activities on a voluntary basis.

### 6. Tax on surplus

The company is not subject to corporate taxes being a company limited by guarantee which is a registered charity. The company's registered charitable number with the Revenue Commissioners is 20204851.

continued

**National Safeguarding Ireland**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

<b>7. Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Cash and bank balances	<u>295,100</u>	<u>170,497</u>
<b>8. Creditors</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	€	€
Accruals	<u>5,406</u>	<u>19,495</u>

The directors confirm that the company has no further actual or contingent liabilities outstanding as at 31 December 2024.

**9. Status**

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding €2.

**10. Capital commitments**

The company had no material capital or other commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2024.

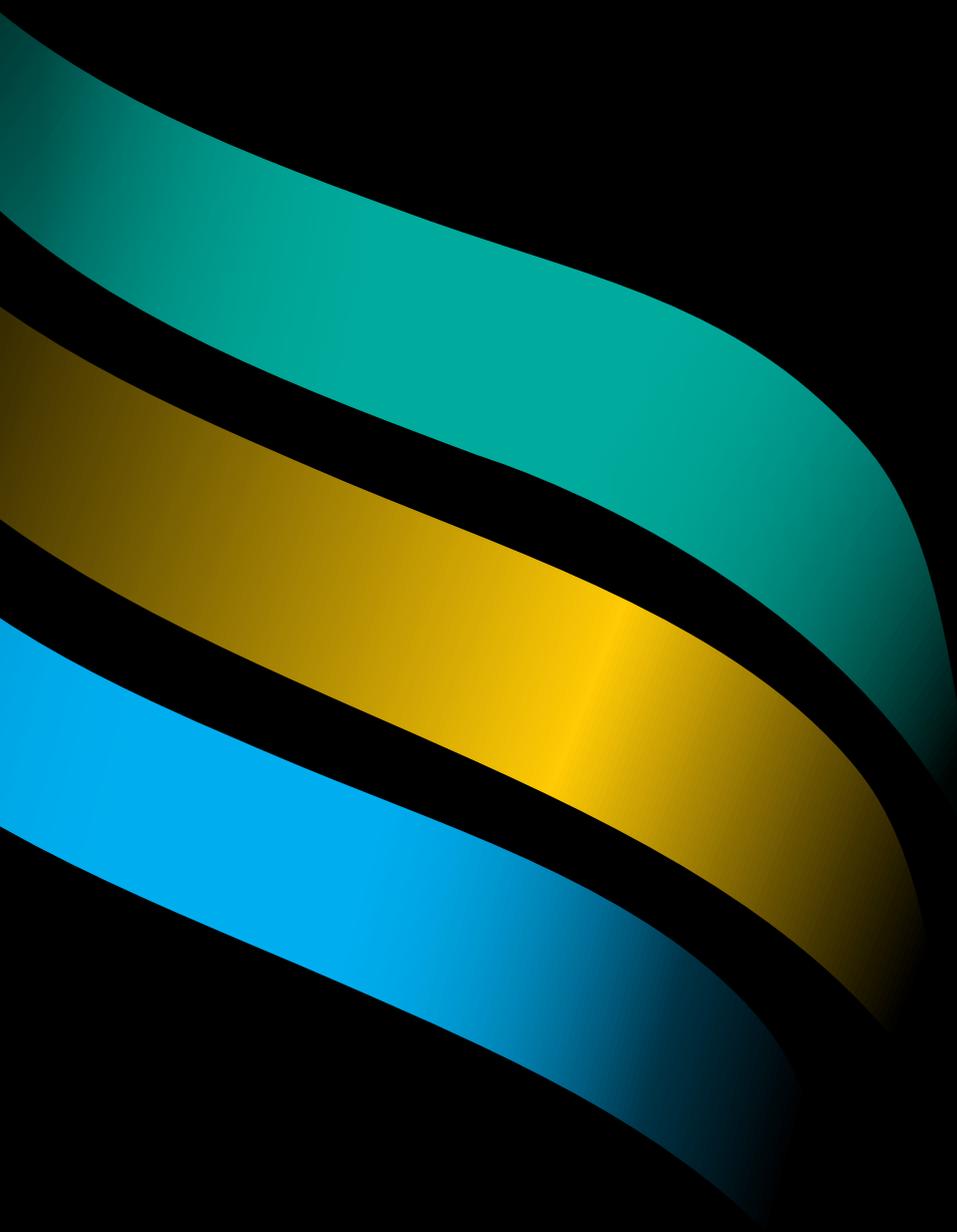
**11. Post-Balance Sheet Events**

The company has prepared future financial projections for the extended period covering the financial years ended 31 December 2025 and 31 December 2026 and the directors confirm that they will actively monitor and adjust the company's operational activities as required to ensure it remains in a positive cashflow position and can undertake its designated charitable activities on a going concern basis into the future.

**12. Approval of financial statements**

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Safeguarding Ireland  
safeguardingireland.org



Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20204851  
info@safeguardingireland.org