

## Statement from the Franciscan Province of Ireland, 21st November 2022

We, the friars of the Franciscan Province of Ireland, apologise unreservedly to any child or young person who was abused whilst in our care, either in our school, Franciscan College, Gormanston, or in other ministry settings.

We invite any person who was, at any time, abused by a Franciscan friar, and who has yet to come forward, to make contact with us on [dlp@franciscans.ie](mailto:dlp@franciscans.ie) and to contact Tusla, Child and Family Agency and An Garda Síochána.

The Franciscan Province of Ireland received one hundred and twenty-four allegations of sexual abuse of children made against twenty six friars.

In total, four friars were prosecuted for sexual offences. Of these, three were convicted, two of whom are since deceased.

Of the complaints received, thirty-six related to abuse that took place in our school, Franciscan College, Gormanston. These complaints refer to a single friar.

The other complaints refer to friars who were in ministry in other communities.

The Province has paid €3,857,000 in settlements to victims/survivors; in addition, the Province has met legal fees for all parties, totalling €531,664. The Province covers the cost of counselling for any victim/survivor who asks for this support.

The Franciscan Province of Ireland has been audited by the Health Services Executive (2009) (the findings of which were published by Tusla, Child and Family Agency in 2018), and by the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland.

The Franciscan Province of Ireland is committed to maintaining the highest standards in responding to complaints of abuse and is compliant with all safeguarding reporting requirements. We continue to minister in accordance with best practice and in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Once again, we wish to express a willingness to meet with any victim/survivor and to support them in any way we can.

On behalf of the Franciscan Province of Ireland

Ends

For contact: [info@franciscans.ie](mailto:info@franciscans.ie)