

**Statement from Ursula Kilkelly, Chair of the Board, Oberstown Children
Detention Campus**

The Board of Management of Oberstown Children Detention Campus held a meeting today, September 7th 2016. This note is designed to inform Oberstown staff and the public generally about the Board's operation. This was an ordinary meeting of the Board, following on from Thursday's emergency meeting, at which a range of matters of usual business were considered. In particular, draft terms of reference of new sub-committees were considered and some human resources issues progressed.

The Board considered two reports from the Oberstown Director, Mr Pat Bergin in respect of serious incidents on the Campus in recent weeks. First, a report on the absconcion of five young people from the campus on August 13th was discussed and the Board welcomed the range of actions that have already been taken in direct response to these events. The impact of the incident on the neighbourhood was noted with considerable regret and the Chair undertook to convey more detailed information to the community. The Board has sought a further update on the full implementation of the identified actions in advance of its next meeting on October 5th.

The Board also considered the interim report from the Director on the events of August 29th and noted the correspondence issued from the Board on that date. Following on from its discussions on 1st September, the Board was updated on further developments both with respect to establishing the full detail of events at the Campus on August 29th and with the discussions which took place at the Workplace Relations Commission with Impact on Monday September 5th. The Board was also updated by the Chair on a meeting chaired by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ms Katherine Zappone, TD, on Tuesday September 6th. This addressed discussions at the Workplace Relations Commission around health and safety, the need to prepare the Campus from risks arising from any future industrial action in order to protect the integrity of the Campus and preserve the daily routine of the young people and to consider what other measures might usefully be taken, as a matter of urgency, to ensure the interests of young people, staff and the community are protected. Following discussion, it was agreed that a range of actions will be taken by the Board in pursuit of these goals and the Chairperson undertook to keep the Board and the Minister updated on all developments. The Board reiterated the priority that must be given by all concerned to the long-term resolution of the dispute under the auspices of the WRC. It also expressed concern that urgent measures be put in place by management, with the full co-operation of Impact, to ensure that the safety of the Campus be protected in the event of any further industrial action. The Chair thanked all Board members for their input and their time. She conveyed special thanks to the staff and community nominees of the Board who are most directly affected by the events under consideration.

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