



# NATIONAL NEWS

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## RECALL OF PORK PRODUCTS

08 December 2008

The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Children made the following statement today.

*" All pork products have been recalled as a precautionary measure to protect public health. This recall was issued on Saturday 6th December by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland."*

*As Chief Medical Officer my priority is the health of the public. It is important that consumers and health professionals understand that my advice is based on the best information and expertise available. Consequently, my advice is as follows:*

- Irish pork products produced since 1st September 2008 should not be consumed. A list of affected products as well as other information is available from the Food Safety Authority of Ireland ([www.fsai.ie](http://www.fsai.ie))
- Any risk that arises to health from having consumed Irish pork products prior to the product recall is extremely low.
- There is no need for people to seek direct medical advice in relation to this issue

**The Brothers of Charity Services Companies have removed all pork products from their menus.**



**Happy  
Christmas**

**to you  
from all in the  
Brothers of Charity  
Services  
Ireland Ltd**

## CHARITY BILL — SEANAD STAGE

Report Stage of the Charities Bill is scheduled for debate in the Seanad on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Minister indicated at Committee Stage last week that he will be bringing forward a number of amendments including to tackle the scam re the sale of pre-signed mass cards, a strengthening of the anti-terrorist provisions in the Bill, a provision preventing religious cults being recognised and changes to the composition of the Charities Regulatory Authority. On completion of Report Stage the Bill will have to return to the Dail for final approval of the new amendments before being referred to the President for signature.

gm

**BROTHERS OF CHARITY SERVICES  
IRELAND – ANNUAL REPORT 2007  
IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB  
SITE:  
[www.brothersofcharity.ie](http://www.brothersofcharity.ie)**



### Definition of Communication

"Any act by which one person gives to or receives from another person, information about that person's needs, desires, perceptions, knowledge, or affective states.

Communication may be intentional or unintentional, may involve conventional or unconventional signals, may take linguistic or non-linguistic forms, and may occur through spoken or other modes."

(National Joint Committee for the Communicative Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities, 1992, p. 2)

### REPORT ON NATIONALLY ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE 2008

Within the Brothers of Charity Services one channel of communication between the people who use our services and the management is the regular meetings between the National Advocacy Council and the Chief Executive Forum. One of the issues raised by the National Advocacy Council was that the format and use of communication skills and tools was irregular throughout the service, often causing difficulties.

Reinforcing the ethos of the service to encourage and develop communication, the Chief Executive Forum set up a working group to investigate this issue and to make recommendation on how the Brothers of Charity Services might address these inconsistencies. The use of generic picture language throughout the services to avoid confusion was agreed. The group recommended that the Brothers of Charity Services adopt an agreed method of communication and practice for all relevant publications and signage throughout the services. The task of identifying a particular IT software package for all communications was left to the working group. Report available from your Chief Executive's Office.

GM

# Irish children active, literate and happy

on TUE, 09 DEC 2008

Irish children do more physical activity, have high levels of reading literacy and are more likely to be happy, when compared to children in other countries, according to a report published today.

*The State of the Nation's Children Report 2008* examines 50 different aspects of children's lives, from 22 data sources, including information from the Central Statistics Office, administrative data sources and surveys of young people in Ireland.

Ireland ranks top in terms of the percentage of children who report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week, by country, according to a 2006 WHO study.

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Barry Andrews welcomed the study's findings. "Overall Irish children ranked first out of 41 countries in terms of physical activity. Almost 60 per cent of 11, 13, and 15 year-old children report being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day on more than four days per week," he said.

*The Minister said boys are more likely to report those levels of physical activity than girls, and older girls (15-17) are the least likely of all groups to report this, according to the Health Behaviour in School-going Children Survey, 2006.*

*Children in Ireland ranked fifth in reading literacy among 29 countries, while in maths and science they are about average, Dr Sinéad Hanafin, head of research at the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, said.*

*They ranked fifth in reading literacy among 29 countries, while in maths and science they are about average, according to the Programme for International Student Assessment, 2006.*

Speaking today, Dr Hanafin, one of the authors of the report, said children in Ireland are more likely than those in many other countries to report being happy, and to have three or more friends.

In the area of children's health, she said there has been a "very substantial" fall in the number of babies and children, who die each year. In 2002, 516 children under 18 died, compared with 395 in 2006.

"There are also positive findings in relation to children's behaviour, including a slight reduction in daily smoking rates among children aged 9-17," she said.

Dr Hanafin noted a number of areas of concern for children in Ireland, however, including an increase in the reported levels of lifetime cannabis use from 12 per cent in 2002 to 15.7 per cent in 2006 and high levels of reported bullying at school (24.5 per cent).

*The State of the Nation's Children Report 2008* is part of a worldwide attempt to measure the well-being of children. It was compiled by Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with the Central Statistics Office and the Health Promotion Research Centre of the National University of Galway.

The report is the second in a biennial series of reports on child well-being in Ireland, which is a Government commitment under the National Children's Strategy (2000).

[IRISHTIMES.com](http://IRISHTIMES.com)

# SECURING STATE INTEREST

The document “Protecting the States Interest” was drafted by the HSE in an attempt to secure the State’s interest in any land, buildings, maintenance, upgrading & refurbishment, transport, ICT, and equipment for which the state provided capital funding. A Group was set up by the HSE in view of partnership to review this process. The aim of the group is to ensure a standardised, consistent, adequate and proportionate arrangement with all non statutory bodies. The HSE set up the group which includes representatives from three voluntary bodies, Breda Crehan Roache, Ability West, Pat O’Toole, St. Christopher’s, Longford, and Gina Magliocco, Brothers of Charity Services Ireland; the other five members are all HSE. The Group have only had two teleconferences. The groups terms of reference is to review current arrangements for securing the State’s interest in relation to investment by the HSE in the asset base of non statutory providers and propose standardised, consistent, adequate and proportional arrangements and processes throughout the country to secure the State’s interest going forward.

The Brothers of Charity Services concerns are:

1. What is the possibility of property being funded partly by borrowings and partly by HSE grant – how would the deed of charge work in this case? For banks to lend money they would insist on a charge on the property and that charge being in priority to all other charges – can a HSE charge co-exist with a bank charge in these circumstances? The document has been change to reflect this – 7 (ii) – “the state funding agency will be recognised where the organisation has taken out a mortgage/loan to provide some of the costs of the land, buildings or facility. The lending institution may seek first call on the asset in terms of protecting its interests on part of the mortgage/loan to provide some of the costs of the land, buildings or facility.”  
7 (ii) our concern here relates to the statement that “The State’s interest would remain in perpetuity – we would prefer if the states interest ceased after a period of 30 years.
3. 7.2 & 4 - Equipment & ICT. We feel it is impractical to have any state interest in trivial equipment and software – say under €5,000 – not only impractical but represents a huge volume of work to protect teapots, beds etc.

We have also expressed the view that it would be helpful and cost effective if we added appendix as follows:

- a. Sample Grant Agreement
- b. Sample Letter of Undertaking
- c. Sample Deed of Charge.

These views have been expressed to the group and Pat O’Dowd, Assistant National Director Contracts PCCC, HSE (Chair). The draft issued after the second teleconference is attached.

## SOME STATISTICS FOR 2007

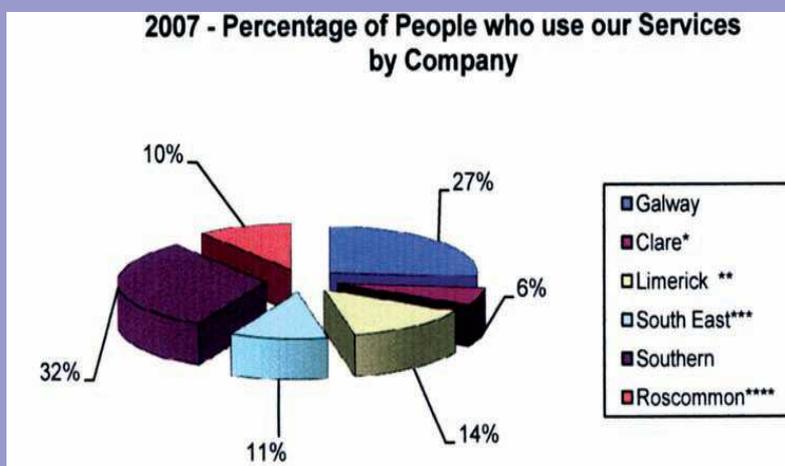
A total of 3,600 people avail of our services between the six companies. We are the largest service provider in Ireland to people with an Intellectual Disability.

The majority of people who use our services fall into the HSE category of Moderate, Severe and Profound, therefore the cost of providing services to these people is much more expensive than providing services to the HSE classification of people with a mild disability.

Not everyone wants their details recorded on the HRB data base. This causes a little problem for us, because although we are providing a service to them, they do not show up on the HSE data base. See the Annual Report 2007 for examples of this where children are not registered with the Data Base or where we are not the only organisation to provide services to the individual. See the total number versus the Data base figures on page 24 of the Annual Report.

This situation will become more frequent going forward as we strive to provide individualise services. This will mean that many service organisations may be involved in providing support for an individual; how to identify each organisation might prove difficult. Also, with each individual changing their mind, growing, demanding different supports it will be interesting to see how statistics begin to change and move on an annual bases. The way the HSE currently plan budgets for services and in turn the way we plan will have to be examined and evolve alongside our advancing person centred services.

gm



## NATIONAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL

The National Advocacy Council is made up of representatives from each Company; people who use our services advocates and supporters. It is a direct link between people who use the Services and the owners of the Service. The Council meets with and is consulted by the Chief Executive forum on a regular basis, with two formal meetings taking place annually. The following issues emerged from discussion at meetings in 2007.

The National Advocacy Council had a long discussion about the present advocacy structure and agreed to develop a new way forward, which would have two strands:

**The First Strand:** Local, Regional and National advocacy structures currently in place should remain. The National Meetings with the Chief Executive Forum focus on National Brothers of Charity policies and procedures, specifically in relation to the involvement in decisions relating to policies and procedures which affect the lives of people who use the service.

**The Second Strand:** With support from the members of the National Advocacy Council, moving towards and developing an independent National Group. In order to further this idea it was agreed that the Advocacy Council members would meet with Seasamh Parliament who are an all Ireland umbrella organisation for Advocacy groups. A meeting was held in Kilkenny towards the end of 2007 to develop the above proposal.

## BROTHERS OF CHARITY

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We would love to hear from you  
suggestions/ articles



Charity in Action Conference

## NOTICE BOARD

Please ensure you as a staff member of a Brothers of Charity Services Company are familiar with the various Governance Statements, Guidelines and policies & procedures under which we operate our services.

In particular, please make yourself familiar with the Protection of Vulnerable Adults Guidelines and let your Line Manager know if you have missed out on any training in relation to this document.

### National Web Site

See list of Governance Statements and National Guidelines on the web site under staff information.

Note the addition of the: Partnership Forum, we would love your articles and comments. Would it be worth opening a chat room for this?

Volunteering Section and Recruitment on the front page.

## NATIONAL INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY STANDING COMMITTEE.

At the November 2007 Chief Executive Forum it was agreed that a consultant would be hired to carry out a feasibility study on developing the ICT shared services. One recommendation from the Consultant was that we should set up a National Steering Group to drive the process. The role of this committee is outlined in the terms of reference.

### Terms of Reference

- To provide vision and strategic leadership to the ICT function.
- To prioritise key projects, plans, work programmes, resources and expenditure for ICT services.
- To determine ICT policies and standards and resolves policy issues and conflicts that may arise.
- To Identify priority conflicts in respect of competing resources and projects
- To empower the ICT team to maximise their potential within the Brothers of Charity Services.
- To ensure that commercial contracts and commitments are fully discharged. Authorises changes to same.
- To establish organisational arrangements and related procedures to monitor the development, implementation and safe operation of the Brothers of Charity Services information systems.

Each company has a representative on this Committee.



*Love & Respect in Every Action*

Brothers of Charity Services Ireland Ltd. Registered Address: Kilcornan House, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway.  
Company Registration No: 344780. Registered in Dublin, Republic of Ireland.  
Directors: Bro. N. Corcoran. Bro. A. T. Hassett. Bro. D. Kerins. Bro. J Killoran. Bro. V.W. Manning. Bro. J O'Shea. Bro. J. Rackley. Company Secretary: Winifred O'Hanrahan.