

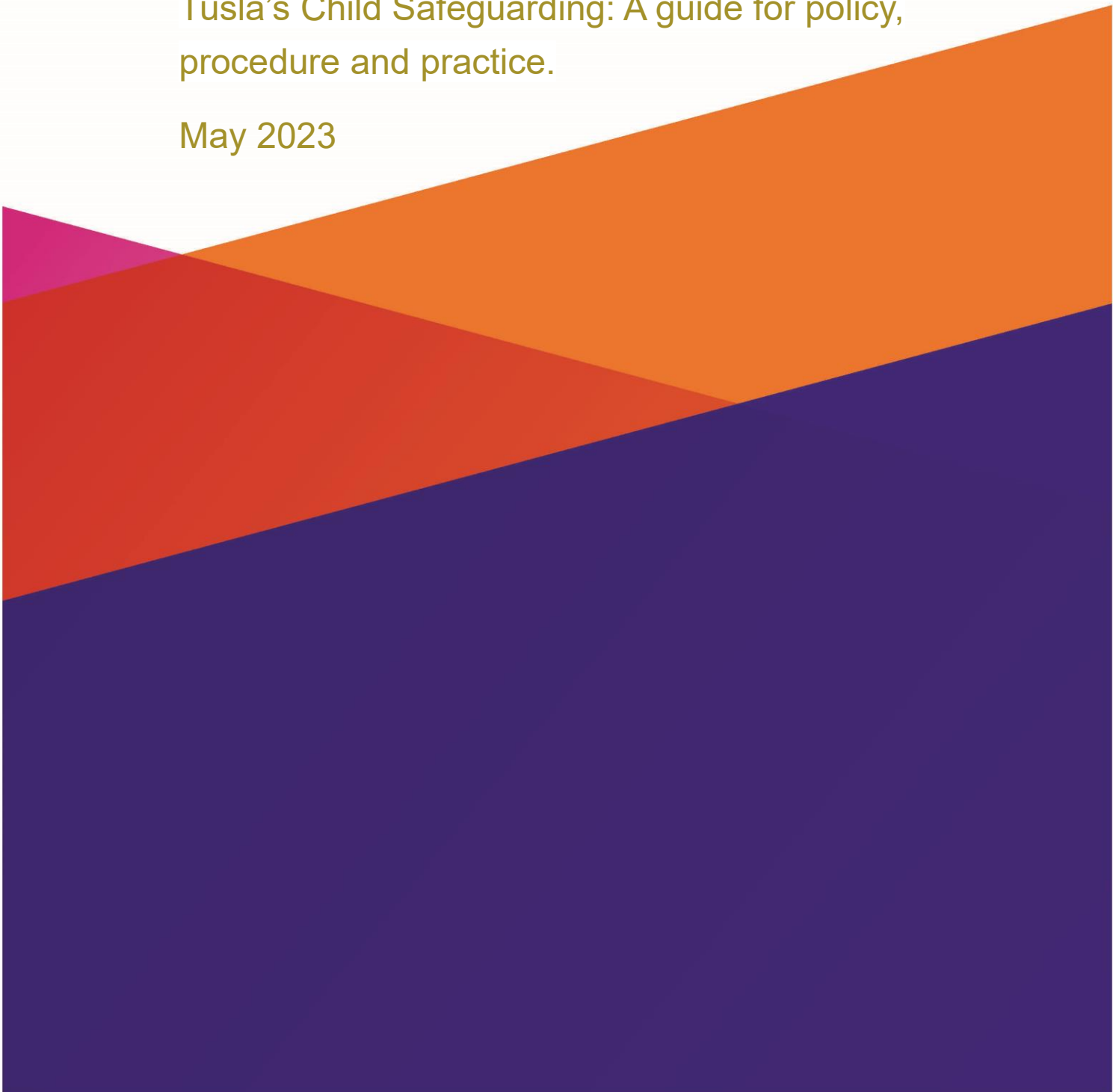


Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Child Safeguarding Statement

Published in accordance with the Children First Act 2015, the Children's First National Guidance and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A guide for policy, procedure and practice.

May 2023



## Introduction

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) plays a key role in implementing the Government's policies of stimulating the productive capacity of the economy and creating an environment which supports job-creation and jobs maintenance. The Department also has a remit to promote fair competition in the marketplace, protect consumers and safeguard workers.

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and promotes an environment where respect, dignity, safety, and equality are paramount.

As policy makers we value the views of the future generation and, where relevant, we consult with young people through the National Youth Council of Ireland.

As an Organisation, we do not usually work directly with children in our day to day activities, but we may engage with children occasionally e.g. Transition Year students, Children's Christmas Party, Workplace Relations Commission Inspections and on other occasions as addressed below.

The Children First Act 2015 (the Act), which was signed into law on 19 November 2015, puts elements of the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children on a statutory footing. The legislation was a key Programme for Government commitment, and forms part of a suite of child protection legislation which includes the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts, 2012-2016 and the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

As part of the Act, organisations that are providers of relevant services under the Act, must prepare a Child Safeguarding Statement. While in general the interaction between DETE staff members and children does not fall within the definition of the provision of relevant services to children as set out in Schedule 1 of the Children First Act 2015, DETE is committed to best practice in relation to child safeguarding and is therefore preparing a Child Safeguarding Statement.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, the Children's First National Guidance and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A guide for policy, procedure and practice.

## Risk assessment

We have carried out an assessment of any potential for harm<sup>1</sup> to a child while availing of our services. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

Risk Identified	Detail of Risk	Procedures in Place
<p>1. Transition Year Students, Work Placements &amp; Temporary Clerical Officers under 18 years of age</p>	<p>That a Transition Year/Work Placement Student or TCO might be harmed during their placement.</p> <p>The nature of work that the student/TCO is exposed to may not be appropriate.</p> <p>That a student/TCO will disclose to DETE staff that they are being harmed by persons either within or outside of DETE and that this disclosure would not be appropriately reported to Tusla.</p>	<p>All staff in contact with Children in an official capacity during their work do not deal with children unaccompanied.</p> <p>Details of Child Safeguarding Statement explained to Student/TCO as part of Induction process.</p> <p>For all assignments, the nature of the work being undertaken is discussed with the Child Safeguarding liaison person in advance.</p> <p>Student/TCO is provided with the name and contact details of staff member to contact in HR (the liaison person).</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding liaison person will be obliged to contact the TY student/TCO at the time of placement.</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Statement will be brought to the attention of all staff in the Department.</p> <p>Managers to whom a TY student or TCO under 18 is being assigned will be required to undertake the Tusla online child safeguarding training module.</p>

---

<sup>1</sup> **Definition of Harm:** “harm” means, in relation to a child –

- (a) Assault, ill-treatment or neglect of the child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child’s health, development or welfare, or
- (b) sexual abuse of the child

		<p>All other staff will be made aware of the online training module and encouraged to undertake it.</p> <p>Standard PAS recruitment policies including Garda vetting to be applied.</p> <p>Complementary policies in relation to Standards &amp; Behaviour, Dignity at Work Policy, ICT policy and Work Placement Guidelines are also in place.</p>
2. Christmas Children's Party	<p>That children might be harmed at the event.</p> <p>That a staff member might witness harm to a child by a parent or guardian.</p>	<p>Children are accompanied by parents/guardians.</p> <p>Safety, Health &amp; Welfare at Work Act 2005 applies to visitors to our buildings.</p> <p>Staff are aware that DETE has a Child Safeguarding Statement and that there is a designated child safeguarding liaison person in place and contact details are easily accessible.</p>
3. Intellectual Property Office of Ireland presentations/events	<p>That children might be harmed at presentations/events.</p> <p>That a staff member might witness harm to a child by a parent or guardian.</p>	<p>All staff in contact with children in an official capacity during their work do not deal with children unaccompanied.</p> <p>Presentations on IP in Education are undertaken at their schools where teachers are always present.</p> <p>The Awards attended, such as BT Young Scientist and Student Enterprise Programme, are always held in an open plan area in group situation, where teachers are always present.</p> <p>Liaison by Dept. staff is through the Local Enterprise Offices.</p> <p>Staff attending presentations and events are aware of the Child Safeguarding</p>

		Statement and undertake the Tusla online training module, where appropriate.
4. WRC inspection services	<p>An inspector of the WRC may cause harm to a child.</p> <p>An inspector of the WRC may become aware of harm to a child in the course of their inspection work.</p>	<p>All staff in contact with children in an official capacity during their work do not deal with children unaccompanied.</p> <p>All inspection services staff undertake out-of-hours work.</p> <p>Where they do so they are accompanied by another official.</p> <p>The following steps are being taken to ensure that an Inspector will know what to do if they become aware of harm to a child:</p> <p>All inspection services staff will be provided with a copy of the Children First: National Guidance</p> <p>As part of their induction and training all inspection services staff will undertake the Tusla on-line training.</p>

## Risk identified and procedures in place

In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children while in contact with DETE staff:

**Siobhan Murphy, HR Unit**, is DETE's designated **Child Safeguarding Liaison person** and can be contacted at [Siobhan.Murphy@enterprise.gov.ie](mailto:Siobhan.Murphy@enterprise.gov.ie) or by phone at (01) 6312341.

The contact details for this person will be easily accessible and issues or concerns around abuse, bullying, inappropriate behaviour or any issue may be raised with them.

Training for staff who will be working with children, on issues of reporting child welfare protection concerns, either directly to the HR liaison person or directly to Tusla.

All staff of DETE will be informed of the Child Safeguarding Statement, with links to relevant procedures and information available on our Intranet.

Complementary policies in relation to Standards & Behaviour, Dignity at Work Policy, ICT policy and Work Placement Guidelines are in place and available.

**For further information please click on the following link :** <http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-guidance-and-legislation>

### **Implementation**

We recognise that implementation is an ongoing process. DETE is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while working with staff of DETE.

May 2023