

RTE Home Care Revelations

STATEMENT FROM ALONE ON “PRIME TIME” PROGRAMME ON HOME CARE SECTOR

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ALONE CALLS FOR URGENT REGULATION OF SECTOR, AND FORMAL TRAINING OF STAFF MEMBERS OF HOME-CARE PROVIDERS

Dublin, December 14, 2010

ALONE, as a provider of housing to over 90 vulnerable older persons, have serious concerns about the issues raised in last night’s Prime Time programme on RTE1 television in relation to the treatment of older persons by certain home care providers around the country. ALONE consistently strives to achieve the highest levels of care and support for our residents, and we are shocked that incidents such as this continue to be commonplace in the home care sector.

ALONE employs a strict policy of ensuring that all staff and volunteers are Garda vetted and fully trained to deal with vulnerable older persons. We strongly call for this to become a condition of employment for all those in the home-care sector, and all those working with vulnerable groups. We also call for the immediate regulation of the home-care sector, and the implementation of strict quality standards, to ensure that this issue can be dealt with effectively.

We urge Government and the HSE to conduct a very thorough review of this sector and the services it provides in order to ensure that vulnerable older persons are not taken advantage of or abused in any way. ALONE will continue to work to support vulnerable older persons, and is available for advice for anyone who may have concerns in this regard.

The charity can be contacted at (01) 679 1032.

Seán Moynihan, CEO, ALONE

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For further information, or to arrange further comment from Seán Moynihan, please contact: Glenn Hogarty / Tara Carey, Limelight Communications, (01) 668 0600 or 087 790 9670