

ALONE responds to recent negative media coverage relating to some charities.

December 5th 2013:

Not All Charities Are The Same

There has been understandable public outcry in light of recent media cover relating to certain charities in receipt of state funding. In response to this I feel it is important to write and emphasise that not all charities are the same, and to outline some of the reasons why ALONE is different.

ALONE has always been independent and has never received State funding for our day-to-day services. We were founded by volunteers 36 years ago to support older people in need and that is what we continue to do today. Volunteerism remains vital to all our work: We operate with 18 front line volunteers for every member of staff. Volunteers work in every part of the organisation.

We respect the generosity and intention of all those who support ALONE because they share our passion to improve the lives of marginalised older people in need.

ALONE takes a leadership position around transparency and accountability:

- Our accounts are externally independently audited and our income and expenditure is in our Annual reports
- We publish an Annual Report which shows the work we do and the outcomes achieved
- Our services are internally and externally independently audited.
- We have achieved an internationally recognised ISO quality standard for our services
- We have signed up for Investing in Volunteers standard
- We have signed up to ICTR standards in Fundraising
- We have signed up to the Government Voluntary Code for Housing Bodies
- Our Board operates to good practice guidelines for governance

We do none of these things because we have to but because we know them to be the right things to do.

We work hard every day to ensure the 1 in 10 older people who are homeless, vulnerable, sick, cold, hungry, lonely and poor have homes, friendship, comfort, support, security and as much independence as possible. We have doubled in size in the last four years because there is a recession and now is when we are needed: in that time demand tripled, the number of volunteers tripled and we introduced a new service for crisis interventions.

We have a strong ethos about how we operate and how we manage money which has been donated. It is important to us that we live our values through our work. At every level in this organisation, with every policy and every procedure, our ethos is turned from words into action.

In a short letter it hard to express everything we do, to ensure we live our values and operate to a high standard.

For me personally, it is a privilege to lead and work in ALONE and in all my actions and decisions I aim to make the best use of the wonderful support we get. Without this support, whether it be through time offered, money donated or skills shared, it would not be possible to continue.

I invite anyone who would like more information or clarification on any of the issues mentioned in this letter, to contact me directly on sean.m@alone.ie

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Moynihan', written in a cursive style.

Sean Moynihan

CEO, ALONE