



Helping older people in need

NEWS RELEASE IMMEDIATE

ALONE express shock at today's HIQA report stating that there were over 4,000 serious incidents in nursing homes last year

6th May 2014 ALONE, the charity that supports older people in need, has today expressed shock at a [HIQA report](#) stating that 4,236 serious incidents which impacted residents were reported in nursing homes last year. 373 of these notifications were related to alleged, suspected and confirmed cases of abuse and almost 300 concerned outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE commented, "These shocking statistics released by the HIQA further illustrate an unpleasant picture of Irish nursing homes and the service that they provide. Once again we must call into question the standard of care in Ireland's public and private nursing homes, standard of care in old age is a right not a privilege."

He continued, "We are grateful to HIQA for bringing these figures to light, and we acknowledge that many of Ireland's nursing homes are providing an adequate level of service but much more work needs to be done to bring the industry as a whole up to standard. We urge anyone who has concerns about the wellbeing of an older person in a nursing home to contact HIQA or ALONE, and we will act on their behalf."

ALONE strive to keep older people living within the community by providing suitable accommodation, home supports and social outlets. For many, nursing homes are not a plausible long term solution due to the vast expense associated with this kind of care; the costs of supporting an older person who is remaining within the community are far more viable.

The charity recently launched the 'ALONE Home Truths Housing Campaign', in which they are asking that the government release boarded up and unused houses to charities like ALONE, who would renovate the houses and use them to house people who would otherwise be struggling to find accommodation. All local government candidates have been asked to sign an [online petition](#) pledging their support to the campaign.

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 for those who have concerns about their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of a vulnerable older person in the community or visit www.alone.ie

ENDS

About ALONE:

Established in 1977, ALONE provides vital supports to the one in ten older people who are in need. The charity provides a volunteer befriending service, campaigning services, a community response service and provides 100 age-friendly homes to older people in need. ALONE receives no state funding for their day to day activities, it is through the donations from members of the public that the organisation can carry out its essential activities.

For more information contact:

Roisin Furlong, Limelight Communications, roisin.furlong@limelight.ie 01 668 0600, 085 739 5791
Kathryn Byrne, Limelight Communications, kathryn.byrne@limelight.ie 01 668 0600, 085 233 6033