

Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann

Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel

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3 April 2018

Ardmhéara Mícheál Mac Donncha
Lord Mayor
Dublin City Council
Mansion House
Dawson Street
Dublin 2
D02 AF30

Dear Ardmhéara Mac Donncha,

INTRODUCTION

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (Organisation of National Ex-Service Personnel- ONE), a registered charity for veterans of the Irish Defence Forces. ONE was established on 10 March 1951 in the Mansion House Dublin and the primary objective of the Organisation is *The welfare of ex-service men and women, by providing accommodation to homeless, elderly or disabled members in need of such domestic accommodation and shelter, and any other assistance required by Veterans*. Comradeship, social and cultural activities, and remembrance are ancillary objectives. Our services are available to all veterans of the Defence Forces.

There are approximately 140,000 veterans of the Defence Forces and it is estimated that this comprises approximately 12,000 former members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) in receipt of pension, approximately 28,000 former members of the PDF discharged before pensionable age, and approximately 100,000 former members of the Reserve Defence Force or its predecessors the FCA and Slúa Múirí.

ONE has 42 Branches countrywide. We provide accommodation (board and lodging) for approximately 44 veterans, who otherwise would be homeless, in our three residential homes and we are developing a nationwide network of Veteran's Support Centres in 2018 based on the pilot scheme that commenced in 2012.

ONE BRANCHES

ONE has 42 Branches spread throughout the country, together with 3 Area Councils for management purposes. This provides a unique network for our volunteer members to maintain contact with veterans and provided assistance where necessary.

HOMES FOR VETERANS

The provision of accommodation and sustenance are achieved through our homes in Dublin, Letterkenny and Athlone. The Dublin home (Brú na bhFiann) is located in Smithfield and has facilities to house 30 veterans in a homely hostel setting. The homes in Letterkenny (Beechwood House) and Athlone

Patron: Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland.

Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Cuideachta faoi theorainn Ráthaíochta. Registered in Ireland No.328824, RCN: 20044268, CHY13868.

Directors: Oliver Barbour, Colm Campbell (Chairman), Martin Casey, Patrick Durnin, Gerry Enright, Jim Fay, Patrick Flavin, Tommy Gallagher, Tom James, Edward McCarthy, Jim McEaney, Paul C. Morgan, Patrick Rooney, Derek Ryan.

CEO: Ollie O'Connor. Company Secretary: Albert John Farrell. National President: Tom James.



(Custume House) can each facilitate 7 veterans at any given time. Our residents are both short stay and long term and contribute on a means basis towards their keep which includes all of the facilities that one would expect in a normal home. Most of our residents have had extensive service in the Defence Forces; serving with distinction both at home and in various overseas missions with the United Nations. However, for one reason or another they now find themselves homeless and in need.

VETERANS' SUPPORT CENTRES

ONE is developing a nationwide network of Veterans' Support Centres based on the pilot scheme that commenced in 2012 when we opened such facilities in Lord Edward Street Limerick, and in Aiken Barracks Dundalk. These centres provide veterans with information, advice, someone to listen and somewhere to meet with former comrades. They can be compared to a combination of Citizens' Advice Centres and the Mens' / Womens' Sheds. It is hoped that by providing early intervention, we can alleviate social stresses and significantly reduce homelessness among veterans.

By the end of 2018, ONE will establish further Veteran Support Centres in the following locations: Collins Barracks, and Cobh (Cork); Curragh (Kildare); Cathal Brugha Barracks, McKee Barracks, and Casement Aerodrome (Dublin); Custume Barracks (Athlone); Finner Camp (Ballyshannon); Dún Uí Mhaoliosa (Galway); Stephens Bks (Kilkenny); and Wexford.

FUNDING

The current level of service provision costs in the region of €838,000 annually. While Brú na bhFiann receives support from the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (€182,850 in 2017), the homes in Donegal and Westmeath are not in receipt of any such funding. The Department of Defence contribute €44,000 annually towards the running of the organisation. The balance of our income, over €600,000, is raised through various forms of fundraising. This includes: Members Subscriptions; Donations; Receipts for Meals and Accommodation; and National Collections. The principal source of collection is our Fuchsia Appeal which involves the selling of Fuchsia Emblems and is particularly focused on the month of July which is the month in which the National Day of Commemoration takes place.

CONCLUSION

The majority of Veterans of the Defence Forces, irrespective of length of service, are successful in their new careers or are happy in retirement. However, there are quite a number who need help from time to time. ONE seeks to provide that help and could do even more with your support.

Please fly the Fuchsia Flag during the month of July to support Veterans of the Defence Forces.

Regards



Ollie O'Connor
Chief Executive Officer
Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE)

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

