

# MONTHLY UPDATE ON ISSUES RELATING TO MOTHER AND BABY HOMES - JUNE 2018



An Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of Children and Youth Affairs

## Incorrect Registrations of Birth: New Evidence in St Patrick Guild Records

On Tuesday 29th May, Minister Katherine Zappone made a statement in relation to 126 cases where births were incorrectly registered between 1946 and 1969 had been identified by TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency. These cases were identified during an analysis of the adoption records transferred to Tusla by the former adoption society St Patrick's Guild, which show irregularities in the birth registration process. Tusla will be making contact with people in these 126 cases where births were incorrectly registered.

On this highly sensitive and personal matter Minister Zappone said:

“We have known about the practice of incorrect registrations for many years, but it has been extremely difficult to identify and prove in individual cases because of the deliberate failure of those involved to keep records. However, Tusla has found clear evidence in the case of some records previously held by St Patrick's Guild.”

In light of the information from the St Patrick's Guild records, the Minister has directed that further investigations be carried out now to see if clear evidence of incorrect registrations can be obtained from the records of other former adoption agencies now held by Tusla or the Adoption Authority.

The Minister said that the terms of reference for the review would be published shortly, and the timescale for the work would be agreed. The aim would be to complete this process within four months of the work commencing. This process will be overseen and quality-assured by an Independent Reviewer, Ms Marion Reynolds, who is a former Deputy Director of Social Services in Northern Ireland.

Minister Zappone commented:

“This is a very serious and sensitive issue. People have the right to know of their true origins and, where we have clear evidence, I believe we have an obligation to tell the people affected. Some may know already, but for others it will be entirely new and very difficult information indeed.”

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## **Incorrect Registrations of Birth Continued**

The Minister noted that Tusla has notified the Commission on Mother and Baby Homes, and transferred relevant records to it. Tusla has also notified An Garda Síochána and is liaising with them.

Minister Zappone's full statement on the matter can be found on the Department's website at [www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie).

Further information on this matter can be found at [www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie) or [aai.gov.ie](http://aai.gov.ie). In addition, Tusla is operating a Free-phone number 1800 805 665 between 10am and 4pm on weekdays.

## **Selection Panel Appointment**

Minister Zappone has appointed Ms Sharon Smyth, a founding member of the recently formed Birth Mothers Ireland, to the Selection Panel after a vacancy had emerged in recent weeks. The Minister hopes that this process will be concluded quickly to allow the Forum to begin its important work.

## **Collaborative Forum: Expressions of Interest**

There has been a significant level of interest in this process from a diverse range of individuals. Minister Katherine Zappone would like to thank all who have taken the time to express an interest in becoming a member of the Forum.

The closing date for applications was Wednesday 30th May and anyone who has made an application should expect to receive a confirmation of receipt from the Department in the coming days.

The Selection Panel will be meeting next week to examine the expressions of interest and begin the selection process. It is expected that this process will be concluded quickly and all candidates will be contacted once the Panel has made its decision.

## **Tuam Site**

In early May the Inter-Departmental Group to co-ordinate action in relation to the Tuam site met at DCYA buildings. The Inter-Departmental Group will convene again shortly before reporting to the Minister.

## **Meeting with Special Rapporteur**

In May Minister Zappone met with the UN Special Rapporteur on Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, who visited Ireland to look at the systems in place for child protection. The Minister discussed a broad range of matters with the Special Rapporteur including issues related to Mother and Baby Homes. On the matter of the Government's invitation to the newly appointed UN Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparation and the Guarantee of non-recurrence Mr Fabian Salvioli, Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio highlighted that such a visit could provide an opportunity to examine how past historical abuse including forced/illegal adoption might be best addressed. The Special Rapporteur's Report is due to be submitted in March 2019 to the Human Rights Council.

# Useful Contacts

## Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes and certain related Matters

[www.mbhcoi.ie](http://www.mbhcoi.ie)

Confidential Freephone (ROI only): 1800 80-66-88

Confidential Freephone Outside ROI: +353-1-6445088

## HSE information line

There is a telephone line available for people seeking details of support available to those affected by these issues. Those seeking such information may telephone the HSE National Information Line;

Low Call Telephone 1850 24 1850

## Mother and Baby Home Unit – Department of Children and Youth Affairs

[www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie)

Phone: 01-6473200

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm

Email: motherandbabyhomes@dcya.gov.ie

Address: Department of Children and Youth Affairs,  
43-49 Mespil Rd, Dublin 4. D04 YP52  
FREEPOST F5055

Any person seeking adoption information and tracing information may wish to contact the following agencies:

## TUSLA (the Child and Family Agency) -

[www.tusla.ie](http://www.tusla.ie)

Phone: 01 7718500

Email: info@tusla.ie

Address: Tusla – Child and Family Agency,  
The Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
Saint John's Road West,  
Dublin 8.

## The Adoption Authority of Ireland -

[www.aai.gov.ie](http://www.aai.gov.ie)

Phone: 353 1 2309 300

Address: The Adoption Authority of Ireland  
Shelbourne House  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4

## Galway County Council

[www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

Phone: +353 (0)91 509000

Email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

Address: Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

## Tuam Consultation Details

Phone: +353 (0)91 509561

Email: TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie