

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



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

## Consultation on the future of the site of the former Mother & Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway

In December 2017, Minister Katherine Zappone published the Tuam Expert Technical Group (ETG) Report which examined the appropriate courses of action at the site of the former Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, Co. Galway.

In this report, the ETG identified five possible options for responding to the discovery of infant remains at this site. These options have regard to internationally accepted best practice and the ETG report has assisted in helping us understand the complexity of the options now available to us.

- 1) Memorialisation, with no further investigative work involved.
- 2) Exhuming of known human remains and re-interring elsewhere, but with no further forensic analysis.
- 3) Forensic excavation and recovery of known human remains.
- 4) Forensic excavation and recovery, with further evaluation/excavation of other areas of potential interest.
- 5) Forensic examination of the total available area, with full examination of the memorial garden, playground, car park area as formerly occupied by the Home.

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Galway County Council is now facilitating an independent consultation process on the five options. The learning from these consultations will be used to produce a report that will inform the inter-departmental committees proposals on these sensitive matters. Minister Zappone encourages all those with an interest in this issue to contribute to this consultation process to ensure that whatever action is to be taken can be informed by the views of all stakeholders.

## Galway County Council Tuam Consultations Media Advertisement



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

### Consultation on the Options and Appropriate Courses of Actions available to Government at the site of the former Mother & Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway, Ireland

In March 2017, the Mother and Baby Home Commission of Investigation released a press statement conveying the discovery of infant remains, in significant quantities, in subsurface chambers on the site of the former Mother and Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway, Ireland.

In June 2017, the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs commissioned an Expert Technical Group to outline to Government what options are available to provide a technical response in the context of internationally accepted best practise in such cases. The Expert Technical Group identified five options for responding to the discovery of infant remains at the site.

Galway County Council at the request of the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and on behalf of the Inter-Departmental Group is facilitating an independent consultation process on the five options. The Inter-Departmental Group, which has an oversight role for the project, will then propose a course of action for consideration by the Government.

**Have Your Say:** The report of the Expert Technical Group and the template for submissions is available on [www.galway.ie/TuamConsultation](http://www.galway.ie/TuamConsultation)

Submissions should be made by email to [TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie) or by post to

**Tuam Consultation, C/O Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX, Ireland**

If you would like a paper copy of the report of the Expert Technical Group and the template for submissions sent to you, please avail of the postal or email address above or telephone +353 (0)91 509561,

The process will include independently facilitated consultation events to be held in Tuam & Dublin during the period 1<sup>st</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. To register to attend a consultation event, please email [TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie) or telephone +353 (0)91 509561 by **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018** with your contact details and preferred location.

**Closing Date for Submissions: 4 pm on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.**

Please email [TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie) or telephone +353 (0)91 509561 if you have any queries in regard to this public consultation.

#### **Freedom of Information Act 2014**

Responses to this consultation are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014. If you consider any information you provide to contain confidential or personal information, please indicate so in your submission.

## Barnardos Launches St Marys Tuam Advice and Support Service

The Department has been advised that children's charity Barnardos has recently launched the St. Mary's Tuam Advice and Support Service. The service, which is funded by the Sisters of Bon Secours Ireland, offers confidential and professional support to people affected by issues relating to St. Mary's Mother and Baby Home.

The service can be reached by phone at 091 399 991 or by email at [stmarystuamsupport@barnardos.ie](mailto:stmarystuamsupport@barnardos.ie)

For more information you can visit the website at [www.Barnardos.ie](http://www.Barnardos.ie)



### 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

Email: [info@mbhcoi.ie](mailto:info@mbhcoi.ie)

Address: 73 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 N773.

#### 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](mailto:motherandbabyhomes@dcya.gov.ie)

Address: Department of Children and Youth Affairs,

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](mailto: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](mailto:customerservices@galwaycoco.ie)

Address: Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

#### Tuam Consultation Details

Phone: +353 (0)91 509561

Email: [TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:TuamConsultation@galwaycoco.ie)