

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



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

Government approves programme of action to respect the memory and dignity of children who died in Tuam Mother and Baby Home

On 23 October last, the Government approved Minister Zappone's recommendation for the forensic excavation of the available site of the former Mother and Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway. The Government has agreed to implement the multi-disciplinary framework, known as Humanitarian Forensic Action, as the appropriate response to the discovery of children's remains interred at this site. The actions which will now be taken are:

- a phased approach to the forensic excavation and recovery of the juvenile human remains in so far as this is possible;
- the use of systematic on-site ground-truthing and test excavations to effectively locate potential burials;
- the forensic analysis of any recovered remains and, where possible, individualisation and identification, and
- arrangements for respectful reburial and memorialisation and the appropriate conservation of the site.

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the children interred at the site have a dignified and respectful burial and to assist their families, and the wider community, in seeking answers to as many questions as possible.

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs also published on its website Dr. Geoffrey Shannon's report 'Human Rights issues at the former site of the Mother and Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway' which examined a number of human rights issues related to these matters.

The following information relating to the Government's Decision can be found on the Department's [website](#):

- ◆ Press Release 23 October 2018
- ◆ Government approves programme of action to respect the memory and dignity of children who died in Tuam Mother and Baby Home Statement by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone TD
- ◆ Tuam Mother And Baby Home, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- ◆ Human Rights Issues At The Former Site Of The Mother And Baby Home, Tuam, Co. Galway by Dr Geoffrey Shannon

Minister Zappone speaks at 'Towards Transitional Justice' Conference at Boston College

On Thursday 1st November Minister Zappone addressed the Towards Transitional Justice Conference at Boston College. The full text of her address can be found on the DCYA website [here](#).

Collaborative Forum

The Collaborative Forum has held 3 meetings to date.

The three themed subcommittees have all met on a number of occasions also. Guest speakers have made presentations to the subcommittees which have aided and enhanced their work to prioritise their issues and prepare draft input for the report due in December.

Minutes from the Collaborative Forum are published on the Department's website.

Useful Contacts

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

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

www.mbhcoi.ie

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

Confidential Freephone Outside ROI: +353-1-6445088

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

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, Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2. D02 XWI4

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

TUSLA (the Child and Family Agency) -

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

Phone: 353 1 2309 300

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

Galway County Council

www.galway.ie

Phone: +353 (0)91 509000

Email: customerservices@galwaycoco.ie

Address: Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway