

## FAQ - Public Consultation on Restorative Recognition Scheme

### Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation Final Report and Government Response

Following the publication on 12 January 2021 of the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation, the Government has committed to a comprehensive action plan to respond to the needs of the former residents. You can view both the [Final Report](#) of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation and the [Government's response](#) on our Department's website at [www.gov.ie/dcediy](http://www.gov.ie/dcediy).

### What is the Restorative Recognition Scheme?

The Restorative Recognition Scheme (RRS) is a key element of Government's Action Plan response to the recommendations of the Commission of Investigation. The RRS will provide

- restorative recognition payments which take account of the recommendations of the Commission of Investigation relating to redress (but not limited to those recommendations).
- as agreed by Government, a form of enhanced medical card, i.e., eligibility for a tailored suite of health services similar to those provided to former residents of Magdalene Laundries, to everyone who was resident in a Mother and Baby Home or County Home for a period of six months or more.

### What is the RRS Inter Departmental Group?

The Restorative Recognition Scheme Inter Departmental Group is a working group that has been established to design and submit to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth proposals for an ex gratia financial recognition scheme as well as recommendations on the provisions of an enhanced medical card.

### Why are we holding consultations?

The Government is committed to taking a survivor-centred approach, characterised by continuous engagement with former residents and their representative groups, including the survivor diaspora, on the development and implementation of policies and projects that concern them. Consultation is required to ensure that the RRS Inter Departmental Group develop a scheme that responds to the needs of survivors and their families.

There is a commitment to establish a Restorative Recognition Scheme as soon as possible and consequently it is acknowledged that there is a short window available for this stakeholder consultation. For that reason, the process will be promoted widely both in Ireland and abroad by direct contact with interest groups, newspaper and social media advertising, and engagement with our extensive embassy network abroad.

## Who can get involved?

The process is open to all members of the public. We would encourage all interested parties, in particular former residents, their families, and advocacy and representative groups, to participate in the process and make their views known in relation to the design of the Scheme.

## How can I make a written submission?

Written submissions will be accepted by both email and hardcopy. You can email your submission to [submissions@oakconsulting.ie](mailto:submissions@oakconsulting.ie) or post your submission to OAK Consulting, FREEPOST F5055. The deadline for written submissions is the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

A Guideline has been prepared which may help you to make a submission. It can be downloaded using the following link [LINK] or requested by email from [submissions@oakconsulting.ie](mailto:submissions@oakconsulting.ie).

## How can I take part in online consultations?

To participate in an Online Consultation Meeting please contact [onlineconsultation@oakconsulting.ie](mailto:onlineconsultation@oakconsulting.ie) as soon as possible and by the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the latest to register your interest. Online Consultation Meetings will take place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and will be facilitated by OAK. Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions these meetings will take place online.

## Who are OAK?

OAK are an independent consultancy company, who have been engaged by the Government to lead this public consultation process and to find out from all interested parties what they want from a Restorative Recognition Scheme.

## Will the Report be made public?

It is intended that the consultation report will be published.

## Will submissions be made public?

All submissions received will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and may also be published as part of a final report on the Restorative Recognition Scheme. Any personal data submitted as part of the consultation process will be treated in accordance with the requirements of the GDPR and the Data Protection Acts 1998 - 2018.

## Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any queries in relation to the process of making a submission or registering for an Online Consultation Meeting you can contact the information helpline at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth at 01-6473200.