

Interdepartmental Group on Restorative Recognition for Former Residents of Mother and Baby Homes

Terms of Reference

The Government has agreed to establish an Interdepartmental Group to develop detailed and costed proposals for a Restorative Recognition Scheme for former residents of Mother and Baby Homes and related institutions. The Scheme will entail two broad dimensions:

- It will provide restorative recognition payments which take account of the recommendations of the Commission relating to redress (but which may not be solely limited to those recommendations).
- It will provide, 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.

The detailed proposals developed by the Group will entail consideration of the following matters:

- (i) Basis for the scheme, i.e. statutory versus administrative;
- (ii) Potential scope of the scheme in terms of the suite of health services to be provided and the categories of former residents who should qualify for restorative recognition payments;
- (iii) Terms and conditions for the scheme, including eligibility criteria, design and level of financial payments and the burden of proof associated with applying and qualifying for the Restorative Recognition Scheme;
- (iv) Duration of the scheme and associated timeframes;
- (v) Governance Framework and operation of the scheme, including records management, data protection and management of legal costs;
- (vi) Sources of funding for the scheme, including the question of contributions from outside the Exchequer;
- (vii) Identification and management of risks related to the proposed scope of the scheme;
- (viii) Publicity and communication of the scheme;
- (ix) Review and evaluation of the scheme

The Group will report to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.