

## Recommendations of the Collaborative Forum – Implementation Table

Government carefully considered the report and recommendations of the Collaborative Forum when formulating its Action Plan to respond to the needs of Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. The table below demonstrates how recommendations were recognised and reflected in the Government response.

### Key

	Accepted and currently being implemented.
	Accepted in principle and being implemented as far as possible.
	Has been considered but cannot be implemented as recommended by the Forum.

### Theme 1 – Identity, Information, Terminology & (Mis) Representation

No.	Recommendation	State response and progress
1.1	A statement from government vindicating all citizens’ rights to their own identity irrespective of their status at birth.	The recommendation has been recognised and responded to through actions 3 and 4 of the Government Action Plan.  Action 3 commits that: “An Taoiseach will issue a formal apology on behalf of the State for the hurt experienced by many former residents of Mother and Baby Institutions and County Homes.”

		<p>Action 4 states that:          “We will introduce Information and Tracing Legislation in 2021 in respect of birth and early life information for those who seek it, including adopted and boarded out individuals. To supplement access to historic information contained in records, we will provide a legislative basis to support the exchange of contemporaneous information, on a consent basis, between individuals and their birth families, including in relation to medical information.”</p> <p>On 13 January 2021, An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD delivered a State Apology in Dáil Éireann which contained a clear statement that access to one’s own identity is a basic right. This has been echoed consistently by Minister O’Gorman in the time since, and has been actioned by the enactment of <i>the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i> (action 4). Applications for identity information and for tracing services can now be made under the Act.</p>
1.2	<p>The creation of a new One-Stop-Shop to house records from across State, religious orders, county and other sources so as to enable access to identity, personal and institutional information by any person separated from their family of origin, or detained in State funded or regulated Institutions.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been recognised and responded to through actions 6 and 7 of the Government’s Action Plan. Action 6 commits to the creation of a central repository of institutional records. This is being progressed in the context of action 7- a National Centre for Research and Remembrance Centre, where the central repository will be housed.</p> <p>Action 6 of the Government’s Action Plan states:          “We will bring together institutional records (or digitised copies of records) relating to Mother and Baby Homes, County Homes and Adoption Societies in a single, central repository to which individuals can apply for their personal information. We will consider expansion of this repository over time to encompass other relevant institutional records. There will be strong engagement with survivors so that there is clarity on how information will be accessed and reassurance regarding the protection of survivors’ private information. In recognition of the significant survivor diaspora, the opportunities of a digital repository which can be accessed from anywhere in the world will be explored.”</p>
1.3	<p>Pending the establishment of this new body, an immediate overhaul of related policies and procedures within State agencies such as TUSLA and AAI.</p>	<p>Action 7 states:          “The Government will work to establish, on a formal national basis, a national memorial and records centre related to institutional trauma during the 20th century. This will build on the commitment to a</p>

		<p>central repository of institutional records and will include archiving relevant records and witness testimony by victims and survivors as well as presenting the historical and social context. It will be developed at a suitable site and operated in accordance with the highest international standards. It will be designed in cooperation with professional archivists and historians, as well as with victims, survivors and their advocates.”</p> <p>In anticipation of the central repository of records, the <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i> provides that any person, body or organisation holding relevant records <u>must</u> safeguard those records and allows the Adoption Authority of Ireland to demand that those records be transferred to the Authority.</p> <p>The Adoption Authority (AAI) and the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) are now operating under the <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i> and the Ministerial Guidelines made under the Act. As such, all policies and procedures have been updated in accordance with this legislation and an Implementation Group has worked to ensure consistent implementation in terms of the spirit and intent of the legislation.</p>
1.4	A special task-force, to include those previously detained in the relevant Institutions, to quantify and verify records currently held by TUSLA.	<p>The <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i> provides individuals with clear rights of guaranteed access to all their identity information (as defined in the Act). People also have the right to seek a review regarding the information released to them under the Act.</p> <p>More broadly, the work to establish the central repository will involve scheduling of all records to form part of the repository, with this work led by the National Archives.</p> <p>While stakeholder engagement will form part of all work in this area, due to privacy and data protection issues, it would not be possible for a private taskforce to directly review the personal information and records of other third parties.</p>
1.5	Replacement of 2016 Adoption Information and Tracing Bill with	This recommendation is recognised and realised through action 4 of the Government Action Plan which commits that:

	an alternative “Identities and Personal Information Bill”.	<p>“We will introduce Information and Tracing Legislation in 2021 in respect of birth and early life information for those who seek it, including adopted and boarded out individuals. To supplement access to historic information contained in records, we will provide a legislative basis to support the exchange of contemporaneous information, on a consent basis, between individuals and their birth families, including in relation to medical information.”</p> <p>This commitment has been implemented by enactment and commencement of the <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i>. Services under the Act are now open for applications.</p>
1.6	Expert DNA testing to be made available free of charge to persons wishing to recover their identity.	Tusla provides DNA testing free of charge as part of its information and tracing service, where it is necessary to establish relationships between two identified individuals, for example between a child and putative father.
1.7	The re-launching of the National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR) on an independent and statutory basis to record the contact wishes, details and health histories of persons detained in Mother & Child and similar Institutions.	<p>This recommendation has been recognised and realised through Action 4 of the Government Action Plan.</p> <p>The <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i> has established a new statutory Contact Preference Register, through which people can register their preference in relation to contact with a child, parent or other genetic relative, as well as lodge personal communications or medical information.</p> <p>There are now over 16,000 people who have registered a contact preference. This includes over 2,000 people who have done so since the enactment of the <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i>. A number of matches have been made through the register and AAI is facilitating contact in all these cases.</p>

1.8	Financial (including the withdrawal of charitable status) and criminal sanctions, to be taken against any interests found to have destroyed or altered identity, personal or institutional records in this context.	<p>This recommended is recognised through Action 4 of the Government Action Plan.</p> <p>The <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i> provides that any person who holds relevant records must safeguard those records, and makes it a criminal offence to conceal, mutilate, destroy or falsify those records.</p>
1.9	Establishment of an expert group to deliver an approved template of terms and language to be used to describe the reality of Ireland’s treatment of certain groups of mothers and children.	<p>This recommendation is reflected in Action 13 of Government’s Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions which states:</p> <p>“We will advance the Research on Terminology, Representation and Mis-representation with NUIG and will ensure that this informs projects in the areas of memorialisation and the development of archives.”</p> <p>DCEDIY, in conjunction with the Irish Research Council, has funded a research project under the COALESCE Research Fund. The research is being conducted by a team based in NUI Galway.</p>
1.10	This group would also identify labels and language which need to be withdrawn from contemporary use because they are offensive and/or inaccurate.	<p>The aim of the project is to highlight the stigmatising and labelling language that has been used in the past and to provide guidance as to how to address this issue. The Project Steering Committee includes four members of the Collaborative Forum.</p>
1.11	It would also conduct research into the mis-use of language across the relevant institutions so as to arrive at an accurate and era specific glossary of terms.	<p>The results and report of this research are being finalised and will be published shortly.</p>
1.12	Era-specific narratives on each of the homes under investigation	<p>These recommendations are given effect through Action 7 of the Government’s Action Plan which states that:</p>

		to also be assembled under the leadership of the expert group.	
<b>1.13</b>		Personal accounts from living mothers to be recorded to form part of a national collection of eye-witness accounts. This resource to be used in national educational programmes and permanent exhibitions.	<p>“The Government will work to establish, on a formal national basis, a national memorial and records centre related to institutional trauma during the 20th century. This will build on the commitment to a central repository of institutional records and will include archiving relevant records and witness testimony by victims and survivors as well as presenting the historical and social context. It will be developed at a suitable site and operated in accordance with the highest international standards. It will be designed in cooperation with professional archivists and historians, as well as with victims, survivors and their advocates.”</p> <p>On 29 March, the Government approved proposals for a National Centre of Research and Remembrance, encompassing a research centre and repository of records related to institutional trauma in the 20th century which will form part of the National Archives.</p>
<b>1.14</b>		Personal narratives of children who spent time in the various institutions to be similarly collected, recorded, and applied.	<p>As part of delivering on Action 7, the Minister has also committed to developing a new mechanism which will allow survivors’ personal accounts to be recorded, acknowledged and stand as part of the official record of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. This initiative will feed into the Government’s broader work in the area of memorialisation and the outcome will be at the heart of the National Centre of Research and Remembrance.</p> <p>In addition to all of the above, the Commission of Investigation assembled detailed narratives of the institutions it investigated. These narratives are set out in chapters 13 to 30 of the Commission’s Final Report. The AAI and Tusla are also providing short narrative and contextual information on institutions and adoption societies as part of releasing identity information under the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022.</p>

## Theme 2 – Health and Well-being Supports

No.	Recommendation	State response
2.1	Health care programmes should reflect the dignity, privacy and human rights of survivors and the delivery of recommended health services should be expedited.	<p>Dignity, privacy and respect for human rights is at the heart of the provision of health care programmes for all citizens. Government’s Action Plan contains a number of actions related to health and wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All survivors are prioritised for counselling services free of charge through the HSE National Counselling Service.</li> <li>➤ All survivors will also have access to a Patient Advocacy Liaison Support service. Delivered via an expansion of HSE Live, this service will help ensure that individuals can have an appropriate point of contact within the health system and can be signposted and supported to access necessary health services.</li> </ul>
2.2	Provide comprehensive health care to all survivors of Mother and Child Institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As part of the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme, eligible survivors will be entitled to a form of enhanced medical card. The enhanced medical card will involve the provision without charge of the following primary and community health services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o GP services;</li> <li>o prescribed drugs, medicines, aids and appliances;</li> <li>o dental, ophthalmic and aural services;</li> <li>o home nursing;</li> <li>o home support;</li> <li>o chiropody/podiatry; and</li> <li>o physiotherapy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>As well as the above health services, eligibility for a form of enhanced medical card also entails the following benefits: - Cardholders will not be required to pay (i) the €100 Emergency Department statutory charge or (ii) the €80 public hospital statutory charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In addition, action 19 of the Action Plan commits to a targeted programme of health research to assist and inform the development of future service provision for survivors.</li> </ul>

2.3	Survivors to be transferred to HAA Card.	<p>Following publication of the Forum’s recommendations, a focused Working Group was convened by the Minister for Health to undertake an extensive assessment of the recommendations related to Health and Wellbeing and develop proposals.</p> <p>The group noted that the HAA scheme was designed specifically for persons who contracted Hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood transfusions or blood products and had specific medical needs as a result of this very serious and life-threatening condition. Determination of eligibility for health services was therefore decided on the health circumstances of a very particular cohort of people. For this reason, the HAA medical card scheme is not directly transferrable to other groups, such as former residents of Mother and Baby Institutions.</p> <p>However, as per Action 19 of Government’s Action Plan, the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme will include the provision of a form of enhanced medical card. This medical card will entitle the holder to an array of primary and community health services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GP services</li> <li>• Prescribed drugs, medicines, aids and appliances,</li> <li>• Dental, ophthalmic and aural services</li> <li>• Home nursing</li> <li>• Home support</li> <li>• Chiropody/podiatry and</li> <li>• Physiotherapy.</li> </ul> <p>As well as the above health services, holders of an enhanced medical card will not be required to pay (i) the €100 Emergency Department statutory charge or (ii) the €80 public hospital statutory charge.</p>
2.4	Free access to private health services including any associated costs.	Unfortunately, the Government is not in a position to provide free access to private health services for survivors of Mother and Baby Institutions as to do so would create an inequality for all citizens.



2.5	Free private health insurance with pre-existing health conditions covered.	Private health insurance is a regulated free market, subject to relevant Irish and EU law. Availing of private health insurance is a choice made by individuals, and as such, is not a State-provided or State-funded arrangement. Implementation of the Forum’s recommendation could pose significant legal and competition issues.
2.6	Lifetime stipend for survivors living outside Ireland to cover health insurance costs.	<p>The Government is not in a position to implement this recommendation as envisaged by the Forum. However, survivors who are living outside of Ireland will be eligible under the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme for an enhanced medical card in the same way as those living in Ireland.</p> <p>Survivors living abroad will be able to choose whether to avail of the card and use it when in Ireland, or instead avail of a once off payment of €3,000 in lieu of the card as a contribution towards their individual health needs.</p>
2.7	Funding for academic research into the health of survivors to identify measurable health indicators to inform health policy and improve health outcomes of this group.	<p>Action 19 of Government’s Action Plan commits to a programme of health research “to assist and inform the development of future service provision for former residents”.</p> <p>Significant preparatory work on this project has already been completed.</p> <p>A detailed proposal to conduct a research programme to assist the development of measurable health indicators to inform health and well-being policy for former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions was reviewed by an international scientific panel. Further to panel feedback about feasible and appropriate strategies to access and recruit participants (consent-based) to the study, preparatory work is underway for publicising and recruiting potential participants aligned with the publicity campaign and activation of the Payment Scheme.</p> <p>Planning is also underway to establish a mechanism for the study team to engage with former residents to inform study design/activities and to optimise knowledge sharing from the</p>

		project.
<b>2.8</b>	Free comprehensive private health assessment and screening for survivors by an accredited health organisation of their choice.	As is the case with recommendation 2.4 above, unfortunately the Government is not in a position to provide free access to private health services for survivors of Mother and Baby Institutions as this would create an inequality for all citizens.
<b>2.9</b>	Funding for academic research into the long term health effects and psychological impact of vaccine trials on survivors.	The research which will be conducted on the future health needs of survivors may include a component in this area, depending on the ability to recruit relevant participants, and the design of the research itself. This is a matter for the Health Research Board.
<b>2.10</b>	Tailored health screening and assessments to cover any specific findings of the research for survivors.	Government has put in place a package of health and wellbeing supports for survivors through the HSE. This includes access to free counselling services for those who need this support. The HSE also operates a dedicated information line for survivors of Mother and Baby Institutions, and is working to add a Patient Advocacy Liaison Service to provide bespoke information, signposting and support to former residents through a dedicated team. Finally, those eligible for an enhanced medical card under the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme will have access to an array of medical services free of charge.  In line with the recommendation, additional services which may be provided in the future will be informed by the outcome of the health research on future needs of survivors.
<b>2.11</b>	DNA genetic screening for survivors to identify medical history and family history.	Government is not in a position to implement this recommendation.  As noted by the Working Group convened by the Minister for Health to assess the Forum's recommendations, genetic screening is typically only carried out on individuals where a predisposition to a particular condition is suspected, based on physical signs and symptoms. There is a paucity of clinical evidence supporting genetic screening on individuals not already displaying clinical symptoms
<b>2.12</b>	A national repository for DNA screening.	

		<p>of disease. It can be noted that, conversely, opportunistic testing has the potential to increase psychological distress and anxiety around the probabilities and uncertainties associated with genetic findings.</p> <p>Importantly, through the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022, people will be provided with any information on genetic or hereditary medical issues relating to their genetic relatives, which where this exists on files and where this would be beneficial for the health of the person.</p>
<b>2.13</b>	Funding for legal process to identify or prove paternity for survivors to have amended birth certificates.	<p>Tusla currently provides DNA testing free of charge where it is necessary to establish relationships between two identified individuals, for example between a child and putative father. Where identity or proof of paternity is established, birth certificates can be amended through the General Registration Office.</p> <p>The Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 also contains bespoke provisions to enable the correction of the birth register for those affected by illegal birth registration and the formal recognition of the lived identity of affected individuals.</p>
<b>2.14</b>	Immediate family of survivors to be included in family health care package.	Government does not plan to include family members of survivors in a family healthcare package.
<b>2.15</b>	Develop a new National Survivor Strategy in collaboration with survivors under the remit of a single Minister.	The Government has recognised and responded to this recommendation through the publication of its strategic <i>Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions</i> . The purpose of the Action Plan is to provide a high-level framework for collaboration between the Government, State and society to drive implementation of the 22 Actions contained within it. The Actions in this Action Plan are designed to respond to the priority needs and concerns identified by survivors and former residents and their families. The themes have regard to the Commission’s recommendations and the recommendations of the Collaborative Forum of Former Residents of these institutions.

		<p>Government as a whole is responsible for the implementation of this Action Plan. Each individual action and milestone is led by a named Department, agency or authority. Minister O’Gorman and his Department has overall responsibility for coordinating and monitoring delivery of the Actions. The first Annual Report on implementation of the Action Plan will be published by the end of 2022.</p> <p>Government has also approved proposals for the appointment of a Special Advocate for Survivors. The fundamental role of the Special Advocate will be to amplify survivors’ views throughout the development and implementation of measures which affect them, with a particular remit to engage with survivors living outside of Ireland. They will manage and facilitate consultation with survivors, their families and supporters to identify and discuss issues of concern to them. They will be required to advise Government on State responses to comparable institutional experiences in other jurisdictions, and report on the interests of survivors in relation to any particular issue.</p> <p>These commitments are reflected in action 1 of the Action Plan which states:</p> <p>“In responding to the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation and to the concerns of former residents, the Government will prepare a Strategic Action Plan encompassing the suite of actions set out below. We will take a survivor-centred approach, characterised by continuous engagement with former residents and their representative groups on the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan and associated policy responses. An enhanced model of engagement will be established, following consultation with the Collaborative Forum.”</p>
<b>2.16</b>	Create properly resourced divisional structures within a central Department to ensure delivery of key health and well-being services and other wider objectives relating to this Institutional legacy.	Government as a whole is responsible for the implementation of the State’s response to the legacy of Mother and Baby Institutions as set out in the Action Plan. Of necessity, policy responsibility for individual issues is allocated to the most appropriate Department e.g. the Department of Health for health related measures. However the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth coordinates and monitors delivery of all Actions within Government’s Action Plan.

<p><b>2.17</b></p>	<p>A new Communications Strategy to inform survivors about the availability of health and well-being services, particularly those living overseas.</p>	<p>This recommendation is reflected in Action 19 of Government’s Action Plan.</p> <p>The Department of Health, in partnership with the HSE, is currently working on establishing a Patient Advocacy Liaison Service (PALS) for survivors and former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. When up and running, this service will have a dedicated team who can provide bespoke information and support to survivors and former residents, on a confidential basis, to assist them in accessing health services which they may need.</p> <p>The HSE also plans to deliver an awareness raising campaign to ensure survivors and former residents are informed of the new service and encouraged to avail of the Counselling and PALS services as needed.</p> <p>The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth are working together on an ongoing basis to share information with survivors living abroad, including with regard to health and wellbeing services.</p> <p>More generally, Government has endeavoured to improve its proactive communication with survivors. This includes; maintaining a dedicated mailing list with over 1,000 contacts and an information line, a website bringing together information on all Actions within Government’s Action Plan, and quarterly updates on its implementation.</p> <p>The importance of communication has also been reflected in the <i>Institutional Burials Act 2022</i>, the <i>Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022</i>, and the <i>Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill 2022</i>, which all refer to the comprehensive information campaigns needed to ensure survivors are aware of the programmes they establish.</p>
<p><b>2.18</b></p>	<p>Support and provide sustainable funding for survivor led organisations and regional centres to deliver health and</p>	<p>While it is not currently intended to provide funding for survivors to deliver particular services, the proposed Special Advocate for Survivors has a specific role to provide opportunities for survivors to meet and share their lived experiences for peer-to-peer support.</p>

	well-being services to their specific survivor groups.	For those survivors living abroad, the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Emigrant Support Programme provides financial support to a number of organisations in Britain that offer support to survivors. Full details can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>2.19</b>	Funding for education and training of survivors in the specific area of health, counselling, therapy, management and other areas related to health and well-being.	<p>While it is not currently intended to provide funding for survivors to deliver particular services, the proposed Special Advocate for Survivors has a role to provide opportunities for survivors to meet and share their lived experiences for peer-to-peer support.</p> <p>The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science maintains information on education, training and career paths, including for those interested in pursuing further education as an adult. Further information can be found on that Department's website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>2.20</b>	State policies and actions to be put in place to ensure that no survivor is treated unfairly on account of their gender, religion, race, traveller ethnicity or disability.	The Equal Status Acts 2000 – 2018 prohibit discrimination in the provision of goods and services, accommodation and education. They cover the nine grounds of gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community. All people in Ireland, including survivors, are protected by this legislation.
<b>2.21</b>	An independent review into the operations and governance structure of Caranua and its impact on survivors to help inform decisions to be made on any future health and well-being organisations/structures developed for survivors of other institutions, such as Mother and Child Institutions.	<p>Government has taken account of learnings from all previous schemes and supports when developing the Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions and the advancing the actions within it.</p> <p>The Department of Education is currently considering a number of reports and submissions relating to the ongoing needs of survivors of abuse in residential institutions covered by the Residential Institutions Redress Board, and is also engaging with other relevant Government Departments to identify existing services which are of particular relevance to survivors and examine how those services can support survivors into the future.</p>

### Theme 3 – Memorialisation and Personal Narratives

No.	Recommendation	State response
3.1	A national monument to commemorate, respect and honour mothers and children held in these Institutions.	<p>This recommendation is recognised and responded to through actions 7 and 15 of the Action Plan.</p> <p>Action 7 states:            “The Government will work to establish, on a formal national basis, a national memorial and records centre related to institutional trauma during the 20th century. This will build on the commitment to a central repository of institutional records and will include archiving relevant records and witness testimony by victims and survivors as well as presenting the historical and social context. It will be developed at a suitable site and operated in accordance with the highest international standards. It will be designed in cooperation with professional archivists and historians, as well as with victims, survivors and their advocates.”</p> <p>Action 15 commits:            “We will develop an all-Ireland memorial in consultation with former residents and other key stakeholders.”</p> <p>On 29 March 2022, the Government approved high-level proposals for a National Centre for Research and Remembrance. The National Centre, to be located on the site of the former Magdalen Laundry in Sean MacDermott St in Dublin city centre, will stand as a National Memorial to honour all those who were resident in Mother and Baby Homes, Industrial Schools, Reformatories, Magdalen Laundries and related institutions.</p>
3.2	Memorials to be erected at each Mother and Child and similar	<p>Action 16 of the Action Plan responds to this recommendation and commits:            “We will support local memorialisation projects, funded by local authorities, in line with the wishes of former residents.”</p>

	institutions.	<p>In September 2021, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage established a Working Group to progress the actions involving local authorities set out in the Government’s Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. The Working Group is chaired by DHLGH and comprises representatives of local authorities and the Departments of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and Rural and Community Development.</p> <p>Following its deliberations, research and consultations, including with survivors and survivor advocacy groups, the Working Group will issue guidance to assist all local authorities in implementing actions relating specifically to local memorialisation projects, in line with the wishes of former residents of mother and baby homes. A number of local authorities have already erected or are progressing local memorialisation projects using their own resources, which is welcomed.</p>
3.3	A living memorial of Mother and Child Institutions. This could be in digital, audio or visual presentation of information and individual narratives.	<p>This recommendation will be given effect through action 7 of the Government Action Plan which relates to the National Centre for Research and Remembrance.</p> <p>While physically situated in Dublin, the National Centre will be accessible for all survivors, whether in other parts of Ireland or abroad. It will provide digital access to records and exhibits, as well as developing physical presences elsewhere to enable survivors to visit more easily. These elements of the National Centre will be developed in conjunction with the National Museum of Ireland and the National Archives.</p> <p>One unique aspect of the central repository will be the inclusion of the personal testimonies of survivors, including through the Lived Experiences initiative. Recognising the sensitivity of this work and the importance of respecting data protection and privacy rights, the processes for preserving, accessing and utilising records as part of memorialisation will be progressed in conjunction with survivors and relevant experts, and will be supported by legal analysis and legislation.</p>



3.4	<p>An annual commemoration day to honour and remember all survivors of Mothers and Child Institutions. This can have both a national and a local focus. Government funding should be provided to support, in particular, local groups organising such events</p>	<p>This recommendation is recognised through actions 16 and 17 of the Action Plan which state:</p> <p>Action 16 “We will support local memorialisation projects, funded by local authorities, in line with the wishes of former residents.”</p> <p>Action 17 “We will continue the Commemoration Grant Scheme established in December 2019 to support survivor centred advocacy organisations in commemorating their experiences in a manner of their choosing which fits their own specific needs and wants.”</p> <p>DCEDIY funds the Commemorative Grant Scheme, which supports survivor led advocacy organisations in commemorating their experiences in a manner of their choosing.</p>
3.5	<p>Planning Regulations under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 to be adopted/amended so as to protect the sites against interference pending surveys for burial places</p>	<p>The Government has taken account of these recommendations through action 22 of the Action Plan which states:</p> <p>“We will advance burials legislation to support the excavation, exhumation and, where possible, identification of remains, and their dignified reburial. This legislation will support intervention at the Tuam site and any other site where intervention is reasonably required by virtue of the manifestly inappropriate nature of the interments. Separately, we will engage with former residents and their advocacy groups on the question of appropriate, dignified local memorialisation of known or agreed burial sites where this is not already the case.”</p>
3.6	<p>Archaeological surveys to be undertaken at Mother and Child Institution sites to ascertain location and scale of burials of non-religious in such grounds.</p>	<p>Under Action 22 of the Action Plan, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has also committed to issuing a circular to all planning authorities advising them of the precautionary approach to be taken in their Development Plans to the proper safeguarding of burial sites from potentially harmful development.</p>

		<p>Local authorities, acting in their capacity as planning authorities in respect of individual planning applications, may also attach such conditions to potential development as they consider appropriate in the circumstances.</p> <p>The <i>Institutional Burials Act 2022</i> was enacted in July 2022. This legislation allows for the excavation, recovery, and analysis of remains at any institutional sites where evidence emerges that there have been manifestly inappropriate burials. Government has approved an intervention under the Act at the site of the former Mother and Baby Institution at Tuam and work is currently underway in relation to the appointment of a Director and the establishment of an independent Office to lead and manage the intervention.</p>
<b>3.7</b>	Primary legislation to enable the State oversee and control the management of private burial sites and their associated records.	<p>The Government does not propose to proceed with this recommendation in its current format as to do so would require significant encroachment on Constitutional private property rights.</p> <p>The Department of Rural and Community Development has responsibility for policy and legislation in relation to local authority burial grounds while the actual operation of burial grounds (cemeteries) is the responsibility of the local authorities.</p>
<b>3.8</b>	A research project to be mandated to match records of deaths held by GRO with contemporary records of residents in local Mother and Child Institutions	<p>This recommendation was reflected in the recommendations of the Commission of Investigation, which said:</p> <p><i>“Consideration should also be given to examining death registration records of the children who were born in mother and baby homes in the 1920s and the 1930s and who subsequently lived in the community or in institutions with a view to establishing their age at death and causes of death.”</i></p> <p>Action 14 of Action Plan seeks to implement both of these recommendations by committing to commissioning further research on this issue. It states:</p>

		<p>“Government will commission further research on the death registration records of the children who were born in Mother and Baby Homes in the 1920s and 1930s and who subsequently lived in the community or in institutions with a view to establishing their age at death and causes of death.”</p> <p>This commitment will be explored by DCEDIY in the context of the expansion and future use of the Commission’s database, including the legislative basis for same.</p>
3.9	<p>Inclusion of a module on Mother and Child Institutions in the National History Curriculum for schools and as well as such material to be included across appropriate programmes in universities and third level colleges.</p>	<p>This recommendation is recognised and reflected in action 11 of the Government’s Action Plan which states:</p> <p>“We will ask the NCCA to consider how the Commission’s short video on the experiences of women and children who spent time in the institutions can be incorporated into the second level curriculum.”</p> <p>The Department of Education has requested the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment to consider how a short video prepared by the Commission of Investigation may be incorporated into the second level curriculum. This is with a view to supporting schools in enabling students to learn about and understand this important and sensitive aspect of Ireland’s recent history. This video is also incorporated into the Department’s own dedicated website for these issues.</p> <p>The National Centre for Research and Remembrance will also have a vital educational aspect, as a site of national conscience with a museum and exhibition space as well as a research centre and repository of records.</p>