



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions **First Implementation Report**



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Minister's Foreword

This implementation report represents the first such report on progress under the *Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions*.

Government published the Action Plan in November 2021 and, in doing so, acknowledged that no measure could fully reconcile with the scale of the impact that the legacy of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions had on thousands of lives. However, the Action Plan itself, and the implementation of the actions contained within, represents an important step in our journey of recognising the failures of the past and seeking to promote healing and restore trust between the State and those who have been gravely wronged in this way.

Since its publication in November 2021, I'm pleased to say that there have been significant achievements in a number of areas covered by the Action Plan, with further progress and ongoing work across many other actions and all thematic areas.

In terms of the progress we've made in the first year of the Action Plan, it has been particularly busy from a legislative perspective, with the *Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022* and the *Institutional Burials Act 2022* signed into law, and the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill 2022 published.

The *Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022* is an extremely important piece of legislation, which provides a full and clear right of access to birth certificates, birth and early life information for all persons who were adopted, boarded out, the subject of an illegal birth registration or who otherwise have questions in relation to their origins. It also allows for access to information by a child of a relevant person where their parent has died, and for access by the next of kin of children who died in an institution.

In recognition of the impact of this legislation, and to ensure we reached as many affected people as possible, an extensive national and international communications campaign was undertaken. To date, 3,050 people have registered a preference on the Contact Preference Register, while 6,953 people have applied for their records and 211 connections have been made.

Meanwhile, the *Institutional Burials Act 2022* allows us, at long last, to afford the children interred in Tuam the dignity and respect they deserve. The Government has committed to a full-scale forensic excavation of the site and this will commence as soon as possible in 2023. My sincere hope is that this will finally bring some form of solace and closure to the families and survivors who have been so deeply affected by this abhorrent situation.

As I write this, the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill 2022 is moving through the legislative process in the Houses of the Oireachtas, and we hope to have the legislation passed and signed into law as soon as possible.

While the legislation is progressing, work is underway to set up an independent office within my Department to deal with the applications to the Scheme. Some aspects of the work to open the Scheme can only happen after the legislation is place and this may take some months. I am acutely aware of the sense of urgency surrounding the establishment of the Payment Scheme - please be assured that opening it for applications is a priority for me and my Department.

Outside of these key pieces of legislation, we have also had significant progress on the important issue of memorialisation. In March, Government approved high-level proposals for a National Centre for Research and Remembrance, to be located on the site of the former Magdalen Laundry in Sean MacDermott Street in Dublin city centre. This Centre will stand as a National Memorial and site of conscience to honour equally all those who were resident in Mother and Baby Homes, Industrial Schools, Reformatories, Magdalen Laundries and related institutions. It will provide a place of reflection and remembrance, while also ensuring that future generations can fully understand the appalling impact of those institutions.

An important milestone was reached this summer when Dublin City Council voted to transfer the site to the Office of Public Works, and the first phase of work has recently begun to make the remaining buildings at the site safe to access and to facilitate future works. I look forward to engaging with survivors and former residents on plans for the Centre in the coming months.

Another important development, which I'd like to highlight, is the approval by Government in November 2022 to appoint a Special Advocate for Survivors. While the proposal to appoint the Special Advocate originates in the Action Plan, Government has agreed that the Special Advocate's remit will be expanded to include all survivors of historical institutional trauma. This approach presents an opportunity to respond to the needs and concerns of these survivors in a holistic way, recognising both the common and the unique elements of survivors' lived experience and the impact of those experiences on their needs today.

Since the publication of the Commission of Investigation's report, several hundred survivors have contacted my Department, many of them for the first time. Notably, many do not identify as being a part of any established advocacy group, while some others have formed new groups. The one thing they all have in common is a desire, and indeed a right, to actively contribute to this ongoing journey of reparation, support and healing. The Special Advocate will support consultation with survivors, their families and supporters to identify and discuss issues of concern to them. I look forward to seeing this new model of engagement in action, as I believe it can deliver a strong and sustained voice for all survivors.

As you can see, there has been significant progress within the first year of the Action Plan on some of these really crucial issues, and intensive work will continue in the year ahead. Further detail on all of the actions, and progress to date, is outlined in full in the tables within this report.

Since I have taken office, I have been so grateful to all of you who continue to engage with me on these issues, and I look forward to our continued engagement. I hope you find the information contained in this report useful, and please do contact my Department with any feedback you may have.



Roderic O'Gorman, TD

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Introduction

Background

In November 2021, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, T.D., published *An Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions* (‘Action Plan’).

This multi-annual Action Plan provides a strategic framework to drive implementation of the 22 measures agreed by Government to respond to the priority needs of survivors and former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. Implementation is overseen and monitored by the Minister and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). As set out in the Action Plan, DCEDIY will prepare a report annually on its implementation.

This is the first implementation report under the Action Plan, and covers the period from the Action Plan’s publication (November 2021) to date. There will be a formal review of the Action Plan after three years, which will be linked to the reporting cycle in the fourth year.

Given the importance of providing regular updates to survivors and former residents, this annual reporting is supplemented on an ongoing basis with detailed quarterly updates to our dedicated mailing list, as well as ad hoc updates to outline progress and developments in particular areas. The quarterly updates are also published on the DCEDIY website, and the website content is kept up to date with the latest information.

Vision, Mission and Values underpinning the Action Plan

The Government is deeply committed to responding to the needs and concerns of those who spent time in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions; to recognising the failings of the past, providing survivor-centred supports, offering opportunities for reconciliation and healing, rebuilding trust, and - at the broadest level - promoting the development of a progressive, respectful and equal society.

Having regard to this, the mission of the Action Plan is to provide a framework for collaboration between the Government, State and society to drive holistic implementation of the 22 actions announced by Government when publishing the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes. While the focus is on the 22 actions, the Action Plan is a living document, with scope for measures to evolve and be supplemented on the basis of feedback. Finally, the delivery of each action is guided by the Action Plan’s four core values: Human Rights, Participation, Accessibility and Support, and Communication.

Language and Terminology

Communication is a core value underpinning implementation of the Action Plan, and the Government is conscious of the need to use language and terminology in a sensitive, compassionate, and inclusive way.

Research funded by the Department, which was completed in 2022 and is being published by the University of Galway early in 2023, has reaffirmed that language and terminology is extremely important to those affected by these issues. We are continually working to incorporate learnings - offered by this research and our ongoing engagement with people affected - into our communications. However, given diverse viewpoints and experiences, it is difficult to arrive at a set of terms which represent all those affected.

Throughout this document we refer to ‘survivors and former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions.’ We hope that the vast majority of those most centrally affected by these issues feel included by this description.

We always strive to be clear in our communications and, as such, have compiled the glossary contained in Appendix 2 of commonly-used terms, which we hope is helpful.

The year at a glance

Due to its breadth and scale, the Government Action Plan is multi-annual in nature, with some actions representing medium- and longer-term goals. Within this context, major progress has been made across many areas in the first year of implementation. The table below provides a snapshot of the status of each of the 22 actions. Notable developments include the following:

Access to Information: Landmark information and tracing legislation was published, enacted and is now fully operational. The *Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022* provides guaranteed access to birth and early life information for all those who have questions in relation to their origins. It also establishes a statutory tracing service and contact preference register, through which people are able to make contact with relatives and seek further information. In addition, the Department has taken possession of the Commission's archive and is providing access to personal information within the archive to individuals in line with the GDPR.

Safeguarding of records: The *Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022* provides for the safeguarding of relevant records and adds the Adoption Authority of Ireland to the list of scheduled bodies subject to the *National Archives Acts 1986-2018*. DCEDIY and the Adoption Authority of Ireland have both appointed archivists, and significant work is ongoing across DCEDIY, the Adoption Authority and the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) in relation to cataloguing and digitisation. DCEDIY is also working closely with the National Archives in relation to the transfer of records to the National Archives. All of this work provides a foundation for the important work being led by the National Archives on the creation of a central repository of records to sit within the National Centre for Research and Remembrance.

Dignified Burial: Legislation was published, enacted and commenced to support intervention at Tuam and at any site where intervention is required to address manifestly inappropriate burials. The *Institutional Burials Act 2022* provides a lawful basis for the excavation, exhumation and identification of remains, and their dignified reburial. Government has made an Order under the Act to establish an independent Office to lead an intervention at the site of the former Mother and Baby institution in Tuam.

The recruitment campaign for a Director to head up the Independent Office is currently underway, with a view to the intervention at the site commencing as early as possible in 2023. In addition, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has issued a circular to all City and County Councils requesting that Development Plan processes give adequate consideration to incorporating appropriate measures to ensure the protection of unrecorded burial sites associated with an institution.

Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme: Intensive work is ongoing on the Payment Scheme to provide financial payments for an estimated 34,000 people and a form of enhanced medical card for an estimated 19,000 people who were resident in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, at a cost of approximately €800 million. During 2022, the General Scheme and Heads of Bill to provide for the Payment Scheme were published and completed pre-legislative scrutiny. The Bill was then published and is currently advancing through the Houses of the Oireachtas. In parallel with the legislative process, rigorous work is underway on the development of the significant structures needed to administer the Payment Scheme, including an independent Executive Office situated in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Payment Scheme will open as soon as possible once the legislation is passed and enacted, and the administrative framework is in place.

National and Local Memorialisation: The Government approved high-level proposals for a National Centre for Research and Remembrance. The Centre will stand as a national site of conscience to honour equally all those who were resident in Industrial Schools, Magdalen Laundries, Mother and Baby Homes, Reformatories, and related institutions. It will comprise a museum and exhibition space; a research centre and central repository of records; and a place for reflection and remembrance. Located on the site of the former Magdalen Laundry on Sean McDermott Street in Dublin 1, it will also contribute to the social and economic regeneration of Dublin's North East Inner City through the provision of social housing, educational and community facilities.

The National Centre will be a national institution, which achieves a global and national reach, as well as having strong connections to, and benefits for, the local community. A Steering Group, chaired by the former Secretary General to the Government and current Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, has been established and is driving work on the planning and detailed development of the National Centre. Under the auspices of this Group, the OPW have begun the first phase of works to make the remaining buildings at the site safe to access and to facilitate future works.

With regard to local memorialisation, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has established a Working Group of Departmental and Local Authority officials to advance this commitment. The Working Group has consulted widely and is currently drafting best practice guidance for local authorities in relation to local memorialisation.

In addition to national and local memorialisation initiatives, a commemorative grant scheme is in place and open to applications from survivor groups.

Research: A research project on language and terminology, conducted by a team based in the University of Galway and funded under the COALESCE Research Fund was announced on 17 May 2021. The aim of this project was 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 research was completed in 2022 and will be published by the University of Galway shortly.

In addition, through the Irish Research Council, a Postgraduate Scholarship in Childhood Disadvantage was developed and opened for applications for the academic year commencing September 2022. The Irish Research Council is currently considering applications for the academic year commencing September 2023.

Crucially, all of the actions within the Action Plan are underpinned by the formal State **apology** and free **counselling support** for all survivors.

| Theme | | Actions | Status |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1 | A Survivor Centred Approach | 1. Development of a Strategic Action Plan and Engagement with Former Residents | Ongoing |
| | | 2. Immediate Counselling Support | Achieved |
| 2 | Apology | 3. Apology by An Taoiseach | Achieved |
| 3 | Access to Personal Information | 4. Information and Tracing Legislation | Achieved |
| | | 5. GDPR Right of Access to Commission Records | Achieved |
| | | 6. Central repository of institutional records | Ongoing |
| 4 | Archives and Databases | 7. National Memorial and Records Centre | Ongoing |
| | | 8. Public Access to Original State Files | Ongoing |
| | | 9. Expansion of the database | Medium/Longer term |
| | | 10. Appointment of an archivist | Achieved |
| 5 | Education and Research | 11. Second level curriculum | Ongoing |
| | | 12. Research Scholarships | Achieved |
| | | 13. Research on Terminology | Achieved |
| | | 14. Further Research on Death Registration Records | Medium/Longer term |
| 6 | Memorialisation | 15. National Memorial | Ongoing |
| | | 16. Local Memorials | Ongoing |
| | | 17. Survivor-led annual commemoration | Achieved |
| | | 18. Children's Fund | Ongoing |
| 7 | Restorative Recognition | 19. Health Supports | Ongoing |
| | | 20. Financial Support | Ongoing |
| | | 21. Inheritance Tax | Ongoing |
| 8 | Dignified Burial | 22. Burials Legislation | Ongoing |

The year in numbers

1,070

people on our
dedicated
mailing list

29 of 70

Action Plan
Milestones
achieved

8 of 22

Actions
achieved

2

Acts
enacted

3

Bills
published

17,510

people on
the Contact
Preference
Register

50

hours of
debate in
the Houses of
the Oireachtas

2,086

completed
requests for
birth and early
life information

800

people have
received
information from
the Commission's
archive

Milestones

2021

16 November 2021:

Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions published

2022

12 January 2022:

Birth Information and Tracing Bill 2022 published

22 February 2022:

Institutional Burials Bill 2022 published

28 February 2022:

First Quarterly Update on the Action Plan issues to the mailing list

30 June 2022:

President signs Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 into law

31 May 2022:

Second Quarterly Update on the Action Plan issues to the mailing list

29 March 2022:

General Scheme of the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill published

1 July 2022:

Contact Preference Register opens

International public information campaign on Birth Information and Tracing Act launched

22 June 2022:

Birth Information and Tracing Bill 2022 passed by the Oireachtas

13 April 2022

First meeting of the National Centre for Research and Remembrance Project Steering Group

Government approves proposals for a National Centre for Research and Remembrance

3 October 2022:

Information and Tracing Services under the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 open

7 July 2022:

Institutional Burials Bill 2022 passed by the Oireachtas

13 July 2022:

President signs Institutional Burials Act 2022 into law

27 July 2022:

Government approves proposals to establish an Office to oversee excavation at the site of the former Mother and Baby Institution in Tuam

Third Quarterly Update on the Action Plan issues to the mailing list

4 October 2022:

Government makes an order under the Institutional Burials Act 2022 to establish an independent Office to lead an intervention at the site of the former Mother and Baby institution in Tuam

25 November 2022:

Campaign to recruit a Director to oversee the excavation at Tuam begins

15 November 2022:

Government approves proposals for a Special Advocate for Survivors

11 October 2022:

Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill 2022 published

Actions and progress

The Action Plan sets out 22 Actions under eight different themes, as follows:

| | |
|--|--|
| | Theme 1: A Survivor-Centred Approach |
| | Theme 2: Apology |
| | Theme 3: Access to Personal Information |
| | Theme 4: Archives and Databases |
| | Theme 5: Education and Research |
| | Theme 6: Memorialisation |
| | Theme 7: Restorative Recognition |
| | Theme 8: Dignified Burial |

This Report provides details on progress under each of these themes and its related actions. In all cases, where an action is not yet complete, we've given an indicative timeline for its completion, along with detail on related milestones and progress to date.

Theme 1

A Survivor Centred Approach

Ongoing engagement with survivors and former residents, and their representative groups, is fundamental to the State’s response. This engagement has been, and remains, essential throughout the design and delivery of all of the actions contained in the Action Plan.

The Government is also very conscious of the fact that ongoing public discourse around these issues can be extremely difficult for many survivors and former residents. We wish to ensure that support is available for anyone who may need it.

As such, actions under this theme centre on the development of the Action Plan itself, engagement with survivors and former residents, and the provision of counselling supports.

Further detail on the specific actions under this theme – as set out in the Action Plan - and progress to date, is contained in the table below.

Action 1

Development of a Strategic Action Plan and Engagement with Former Residents

| Milestones | Lead Dept (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|--|---------------------|---|
| <p>1.1</p> <p>A Strategic Action Plan published.</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | The Action Plan was published on 16 November 2021. Throughout the year, quarterly updates on implementation have been issued to the Department’s dedicated mailing list – which has over 1,000 members – and published on the DCEDIY website, to inform survivors and former residents of progress. Updates also issue frequently on notable developments. These updates will continue in the coming year. |
| <p>1.2</p> <p>Consultation with Collaborative Forum regarding a proposed enhanced model of engagement.</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | <p>An outline proposal for the appointment of a Special Advocate for Survivors was prepared and discussed with the Collaborative Forum of Former Residents of Mother and Baby Homes and Related Institutions, and other stakeholders, including groups based in the UK. This process was independently facilitated.</p> <p>Alongside this, the Department undertook a ‘right of reply’ process which facilitated publication of the Forum’s report in full in November 2022. The Forum’s recommendations had previously been published in April 2019 and directly informed the actions set out in this Action Plan.</p> |

| Milestones | Lead Dept (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>1.3</p> <p>Enhanced model of engagement agreed by Government.</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | <p>Following the consultation with the members of the Collaborative Forum, detailed proposals were finalised and brought forward for Government agreement and approval on 15 November 2022.</p> <p>Government has approved the appointment of a Special Advocate for Survivors. The role of the Special Advocate will be to amplify the voices of survivors to ensure that their views are central to the delivery of the State's response to the legacy of institutional trauma.</p> <p>The Special Advocate will be operationally independent of the Department, and will be supported by a small secretariat and an Advisory Council of survivors. This will ensure the Advocate's work is informed by the lived experience and needs of those most centrally affected.</p> <p>Further information on the role of the Special Advocate can be found at Government's announcement here.</p> |
| <p>1.4</p> <p>Arrangements for enhanced model of engagement put into place.</p> | DCEDIY | <p>Original target date: Q2 2022</p> <p>Ongoing to Q3 2023</p> | <p>Following Government approval, arrangements are now being made for the recruitment and establishment of the Special Advocate for Survivors.</p> <p>The appointment of the Special Advocate will be made by the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth following a transparent and independently-managed open recruitment process. Recruitment for the position will begin shortly.</p> |

Action 2

Immediate Counselling Support

| Milestones | Lead Dept (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| <p>2.1</p> <p>Counselling support available for former residents through the National Counselling Service at the time of publication of the Report of the Commission of Investigation.</p> | D/Health, HSE | Achieved | <p>Immediate counselling support was available to survivors and former residents at the time of publication and continues to be available.</p> |
| <p>2.2</p> <p>Ongoing counselling support available for former residents.</p> | D/Health, HSE | Achieved | <p>The out of hours counselling service has been extended to 7 days a week. It is available free of charge. Survivors and former residents can self-refer or be referred by a medical professional.</p> <p>For those who are hard of hearing, the service is supplemented by Irish sign language support.</p> <p>Additional funding was provided for this in 2021 on an ongoing basis.</p> |

Theme 2

Apology

In publishing the Commission's Report, the Government recognised that a sincere apology to those who were failed by the State through their experiences in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions must be made.

The Taoiseach delivered this apology on 13 January 2021 in Dáil Éireann, and this apology forms the basis for the restorative action contained within the Action Plan.

Action 3

Apology

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|---------------------|--|
| 3.1 An Taoiseach will issue a formal apology on behalf of the State for the hurt experienced by many former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. | D/Taoiseach | Achieved | The Taoiseach delivered a formal apology on behalf of the Government, the State and its citizens on 13 January 2021. A number of other public bodies, such as local authorities, have offered separate apologies for their failures to appropriately provide for the mothers and children in their care. |

Theme 3

Access to Personal Information

The Government recognises that a person’s right to their identity is an important human right and that each person should have full access to all of his or her information where available. As such, Government commitments under this theme relate to:

- the enactment of Information and Tracing Legislation;
- access to personal information; and

- the bringing together of 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.

There has been significant progress in this area since the publication of the Action Plan – full details are set out in the tables below.

Action 4

Information and Tracing Legislation

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---------------------|---|
| 4.1 Draft legislation published to allow for access to birth certificates and early life information. | DCEDIY | Achieved | The General Scheme of the Birth Information and Tracing Bill was published in May 2021. |
| 4.2 Pre-Legislative Scrutiny completed. | Houses of the Oireachtas, JOC CEDYI | Achieved | Pre-legislative scrutiny was completed in December 2021. |
| 4.3 Bill published and introduced in the Houses of the Oireachtas. | DCEDIY | Achieved | The Birth Information and Tracing Bill was published on 12 January 2022. |

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|------------------------|--|
| <p>4.4</p> <p>Legislation enacted and commenced, with services being delivered.</p> | <p>DCEDIY</p> <p>Partners: Adoption Authority of Ireland; Tusla</p> | <p>Achieved</p> | <p>The Birth Information and Tracing Act was signed into law in June 2022.</p> <p>The Act enshrines in law the importance of a person knowing his or her origins. It provides a full and clear right of access to birth and early life information for persons who have attained the age of 16 years. In summary, the Act provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • release of the birth certificate, birth information, early life information, care information and medical information for all persons who were adopted, boarded out, the subject of an illegal birth registration or who otherwise have questions in relation to their origins (hereafter referred to as a “relevant person”) • release of information to the child or next of kin of a relevant person in specified circumstances • a statutory tracing service for persons wishing to make contact, share or seek information • a Contact Preference Register, established in law, through which people can register their preference in relation to contact with a relative, as well as seek or share information • counselling and other supports for those parents and relevant persons who seek it; and • the safeguarding of relevant records <p>The Act also amends the Civil Registration Act 2004 and the Succession Act 1965 to address key issues arising for people affected by illegal birth registration.</p> <p>Following the signing into law of the Act, the first suite of provisions within the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 came into effect from 1 July 2022. Information and Tracing services opened on 3 October 2022. To date, 2,086 requests for information under the legislation have been completed, and 211 connections have been made.</p> |

Action 5

GDPR Right of Access to Commission Records

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---------------------|---|
| 5.1 Commission's archive of records transferred to DCEDIY. | DCEDIY | Achieved | DCEDIY is in possession of the Commission's archive of records and is now the data controller for all the personal data contained within those records. Tusla also has a copy of the Commission's database and related records. |
| 5.2 Information Management Unit (IMU) established within DCEDIY. | DCEDIY | Achieved | A new Information Management Unit has been established to lead on management of the Commission's archive, as well as management of Departmental records more generally. This unit is headed by a Principal Officer with legal and data protection expertise and includes the Department's Data Protection Officer, and an archivist (see Action 10). |
| 5.3 Information published on how individuals may request access to personal data which is contained within the archive. | DCEDIY | Achieved | Following engagement with the Office of the Attorney General, the Data Protection Commissioner, and independent experts in the area of GDPR, the Department published information for individuals including its privacy notice indicating what personal data the Department holds and how it processes it, and a guide on how to request access to personal information (Subject Access Request (SAR)). A dedicated phone line provides information for callers on the SAR process, and information on this is also regularly communicated to survivors and former residents via quarterly updates pursuant to the Action Plan. This will continue in 2023. |
| 5.4 Ongoing processing of Subject Access Requests (SARs) by the DCEDIY Information Management Unit | DCEDIY | Ongoing | As of 30 January 2023, 824 Subject Access Requests have been received, of which 807 have been completed. |
| 5.5 Introduction of new Regulations to improve GDPR access to personal health data contained within the Commission's archive. | D/Health | Achieved | On the 10 March 2022, the Minister for Health signed the new Data Protection Act 2018 (Access Modifications) (Health) Regulations 2022. Following this, DCEDIY reviewed all requests for information from the archive where medical information had been withheld and any such data has since been provided to those individuals. |

Action 6

Central repository of institutional records

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>6.1</p> <p>Initial legal basis for safeguarding of records established through the Birth Information and Tracing legislation (see Action 4).</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | <p>Part 7 of the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 provides for the safeguarding of relevant records and is now law.</p> <p>The Adoption Authority of Ireland has been added to the list of scheduled bodies subject to the National Archives Acts 1986-2018.</p> <p>The Adoption Authority has now appointed a Senior Archivist (Grade II), an Archivist (Grade III) and an Executive Officer to fulfill its obligations under both the National Archives Acts and the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022.</p> <p>In 2022 the Board of the Adoption Authority issued two directions under Section 48 of the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 for the transfer of relevant records.</p> |
| <p>6.2</p> <p>Further milestones to be developed in the context of work on the National Centre for Research and Remembrance (see Action 7).</p> | D/Taoiseach | Timeline contingent on Action 7. | Contingent on Action 7. |

Theme 4

Archives and Databases

Under this theme of archives and databases, the actions relate to:

- The establishment of a National Centre for Research and Remembrance, related to institutional trauma during the 20th century, which 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.
- Ensuring that relevant original files are made publicly available in the National Archives of Ireland (NAI) in accordance with the terms of the National Archives Act 1986.
- Consideration of a plan for further expansion of the Commission database through the creation of linked databases on boarded out children and children who transferred from mother and baby homes to industrial schools.
- The appointment of a qualified archivist to lead work on preservation of, and public access to, the records held by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.



Action 7

National Centre for Research and Remembrance

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and Status | Progress and next steps |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| <p>7.1</p> <p>Appropriate groups and structures established.</p> | <p>Initial work led by cross-Government Steering Group</p> <p>Partners – DCEDIY, DTCAGSM, D/Taoiseach, D/Education, DFHERIS, NAI, NMI, OPW, DCC,NEIC</p> | <p>Achieved</p> | <p>On 29 March 2022, Government approved high-level proposals for a National Centre for Research and Remembrance, to be located on the site of the former Magdalen Laundry on Sean McDermott Street in Dublin 1.</p> <p>This Centre will stand as a site of conscience to honour equally all those who were resident in Industrial Schools, Magdalen Laundries, Mother and Baby Homes, Reformatories, and related institutions.</p> <p>Although 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, including in conjunction with some local museums, to enable survivors to visit more easily. The National Centre will be a national institution, which achieves a global and national reach, as well as having strong connections to, and benefits for, the local community.</p> <p>Work is underway to progress the planning and development stages of the National Centre. A Steering Group, chaired by the former Secretary General to the Government and current Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, is driving this work.</p> <p>A number of work streams are to being progressed, spanning various technical aspects of the initiative, as well as engagement with survivors and with the local community in Dublin's North East Inner City. This will ensure that the development of the National Centre is directly informed by those most centrally involved, their families and representatives.</p> <p>In July 2022, Dublin City Council voted to transfer the identified site at Sean McDermott street to the OPW. The OPW have recently begun the first phase of works to make the remaining buildings at the site safe to access and to facilitate future works.</p> |
| <p>7.2</p> <p>Project plan drafted.</p> | <p>Steering Group</p> | <p>Q1 2023- Q1 2024</p> | <p>Project planning is currently underway and will be advanced in phases in line with the Public Spending Code. The present focus is on the development of a detailed business case for approval by Government in Q2 2023. This, in turn, will support more detailed project planning in subsequent phases in the latter half of 2023 and early 2024. Consultation with relevant stakeholders will form part of this project planning work.</p> |

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and Status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|---|--|
| 7.3 National Centre for Research and Remembrance established. | Steering Group | Timeline contingent upon Action 7.2 | The work to establish the National Centre for Research and Remembrance is a multi-annual capital project. For this reason, it is not yet possible to provide a definitive timeline. However, the Steering Group has advised that it anticipates an indicative timeline of 5 years. |
| 7.4 Process established for capturing survivor accounts for publication and for archiving for posterity in the National Centre for Research and Remembrance. | DCEDIY | Timeline to be confirmed as part of project plan for National Centre for Research and Remembrance | The Minister is working to bring an outline proposal to Government in early 2023 and he will then initiate a comprehensive consultation process with survivors to ensure their views inform its design and delivery. |

Action 8

Public Access to Original State Files

| Milestones | Lead Depts/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| 8.1 Original D/Health files identified and transferred to DCEDIY. | DCEDIY, D/Health | Q4 2023 Ongoing | A significant volume of files has now transferred to DCEDIY. This work is on target for completion by the end of the year. |
| 8.2 Original files catalogued by DCEDIY archivist. | DCEDIY | Q4 2024 Ongoing | Files are catalogued by the DCEDIY archivist as they transfer to the National Archives. Progress continues to be made on this work. |
| 8.3 Original files reviewed in the context of relevant legislation such as GDPR and the National Archives Act 1986 by DCEDIY archivist and Certifying Officer. | DCEDIY | Q4 2024 Ongoing | Work is on-going to review files and assess them for suitability for transfer to National Archives in accordance with legal requirements. |
| 8.4 Original files transferred from DCEDIY to the National Archives. | DCEDIY Partner: NAI | Q4 2021 – Q1 2025 Ongoing | The first transfer of files meeting the criteria for transfer to National Archives took place in December 2021. The second transfer of appropriate files took place in November 2022. |

Action 9

Expansion of the database

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>9.1</p> <p>Options for consolidation of records and expansion of the database scoped.</p> | <p>DCEDIY</p> <p>Partner: D/Education</p> | <p>Original target date: 2022</p> <p>Ongoing through 2023</p> | <p>This action is contingent on the creation of a legislative basis for the use of the data for this purpose, the establishment of a central repository of records and, ultimately, a National Records Centre. See Actions 6 – 8 for further detail.</p> |

Action 10

Appointment of an archivist

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>10.1</p> <p>Appointment of an archivist.</p> | <p>DCEDIY</p> | <p>Achieved</p> | <p>An archivist was appointed and is in post since February 2021.</p> |
| <p>10.2</p> <p>Survey completed of digital records in MBHCOI archive to facilitate IMU in responding to Subject Access Requests.</p> | <p>DCEDIY</p> | <p>Achieved</p> | <p>13,714 digital files (157 GB approx.) were surveyed by the Archivist to identify all files that contained personal data, and which were not hosted on a searchable platform in the archive. Files that were identified were then transferred to a searchable platform.</p> |
| <p>10.3</p> <p>Cataloguing of paper and digital records in MBHCOI archive to facilitate eventual transfer to NAI completed.</p> | <p>DCEDIY</p> | <p>Original target date: Q4 2022</p> <p>Ongoing to Q4 2023</p> | <p>All institutional records have now been catalogued. The process of cataloguing the administrative records of the Commission of Investigation is ongoing.</p> <p>The Archivist is working to create initial high level catalogue descriptions of digital records.</p> |
| <p>10.4</p> <p>Paper records rehoused to ensure preservation.</p> | <p>DCEDIY</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>A significant proportion of the paper archive has been rehoused to ensure preservation.</p> |

Theme 5

Education and Research

The Government recognises the importance of education and research in seeking to understand and learn from the experiences of past generations. As such, actions under this theme centre on:

- The use of the short video – produced by the Commission – in the second-level curriculum.
- Funding scholarships in the memory of all

children who died in these institutions

- Research on language and terminology
- Further research on the death registration records of children born in Mother and Baby Homes who went on to live in the community or other settings, in order to determine some of the long term consequences which may have been experienced by those children.

Action 11

Second level Curriculum

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|---------------------|---|
| <p>11.1</p> <p>Request sent by D/Education to NCCA asking that it consider the Commission's video and supplementary materials for inclusion in the second-level curriculum.</p> | D/Education | Achieved | The Department of Education has requested the NCCA to consider the Commission's short video and supplementary materials, to support schools in enabling students in second level to learn about and understand this important and sensitive aspect of Ireland's recent history. |
| <p>11.2</p> <p>Matter brought to council of NCCA for its consideration and decision on approach and next steps.</p> | D/Education, NCCA | Ongoing | Following consideration by NCCA Council, the Department of Education is currently giving consideration to how best the important and sensitive matter of Mother and Baby Homes, and Ireland's other historical Institutions, may be treated, in an age and development appropriate manner, within the post-primary setting. |

Action 12

Research Scholarships

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---------------------|--|
| 12.1 Postgraduate scholarship established in partnership with the Irish Research Council. | DCEDIY Partners: DFHERIS, IRC | Achieved | A Postgraduate Scholarship in Childhood Disadvantage opened for applications through the Irish Research Council in September 2021. Three scholarships were available for September 2022, with one successful applicant. The Irish Research Council is currently considering applications for the academic year commencing September 2023. |
| 12.2 Review of postgraduate scholarship. | DCEDIY | 2027 | Review of postgraduate scholarship to take place in Year 5. |

Action 13

Research on Terminology

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13.1 Steering committee established. | DCEDIY | Achieved | The Project Steering Committee began its work in March 2021. It included four members of the Collaborative Forum. |
| 13.2 Research project commenced. | DCEDIY | Achieved | A research project, conducted by a team based in the University of Galway and funded under the COALESCE Research Fund was announced on 17 May 2021. Public consultations commenced in September 2021. The aim of this project was 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. |
| 13.3 Research completed and report submitted to Department. | DCEDIY | Original target date: Q4 2021 Ongoing to Q1 2023 | The research was completed in 2022 by the research team and the final report is due to be submitted to the Project Steering Group in February 2023, and sent to the Minister and his Department at the point of publication. |
| 13.4 Outcomes of research disseminated. | DCEDIY | Original target date: Q1 2022 Ongoing to Q1 2023 | The report is due to be published by the University of Galway in Q1 2023. It will be also be shared with the Department's dedicated mailing list upon publication. The Department will further consider how best to incorporate the learnings of the research into future communications. |

Action 14

Further Research on Death Registration Records

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|--|---|
| 14.1 Options for further research scoped. | DCEDIY | Original target date: 2022 Ongoing through 2023 | DCEDIY to explore this commitment in the context of the expansion and future use of the database, including the legislative basis for same. |



Theme 6

Memorialisation

Throughout DCEDIY's extensive engagement with survivors and former residents, memorialisation has repeatedly been raised as an issue of profound importance and a very important part of the healing process for those affected. The Government also acknowledges that memorialisation plays a role in helping to remove the stigma and shame which has deeply affected so many.

Memorialisation means different things to different people, and so it is key that the design and establishment of memorials should be led by survivors and former residents. Related to this theme, actions include:

- The development of an all-Ireland memorial in consultation with former residents and other key stakeholders (related to Action 7 above).
- Supporting local memorialisation projects, funded by local authorities, in line with the wishes of former residents.
- Continuation of the Commemoration Grant Scheme established in December 2019 to support survivor centred advocacy organisations in commemorating their experiences in a manner of their choosing.
- The creation of a specific fund which supports children who experience disadvantage in the present day, to honour the memory of the children who died in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions.

Action 15

National Memorial

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| <p>15.1</p> <p>Appropriate groups and structures established.</p> | <p>Initial work led by cross-Government Steering Group</p> | <p>Achieved</p> | <p>On 29 March 2022, Government approved high-level proposals for a National Centre for Research and Remembrance, to be located on the site of the former Magdalen Laundry on Sean McDermott Street in Dublin 1.</p> <p>This Centre will stand as a site of conscience to honour equally all those who were resident in Industrial Schools, Magdalen Laundries, Mother and Baby Homes, Reformatories, and related institutions.</p> <p>Although 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, including in conjunction with some local museums, to enable survivors to visit more easily. The National Centre will be a national institution, which achieves a global and national reach, as well as having strong connections to, and benefits for, the local community.</p> <p>Work is underway to progress the planning and development stages of the National Centre. A Steering Group, chaired by the former Secretary General to the Government and current Ambassador of Ireland to the United Kingdom, is driving this work.</p> <p>A number of work streams are being progressed, spanning various technical aspects of the initiative, as well as engagement with survivors and with the local community in Dublin's North East Inner City. This will ensure that the development of the National Centre is directly informed by those most centrally involved, their families and representatives.</p> <p>In July 2022, Dublin City Council voted to transfer the identified site at Sean McDermott street to the OPW. As of November 2022, the OPW have begun the first phase of works to make the remaining buildings at the site safe to access and to facilitate future works.</p> |
| <p>15.2</p> <p>Project plan drafted.</p> | <p>Steering Group</p> | <p>Q1 2023- Q1 2024</p> | <p>Project planning is currently underway and will be advanced in phases in line with the Public Spending Code. The present focus is on the development of a detailed business case for approval by Government in Q2 2023. This, in turn, will support more detailed project planning in subsequent phases in the latter half of 2023 and early 2024. Consultation with relevant stakeholders will form part of this project planning work.</p> |

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---|--|
| 15.3 National Centre for Research and Remembrance established. | Steering Group | Timeline contingent upon Action 15.2 | The work to establish the National Centre for Research and Remembrance is a multi-annual capital project. For this reason, it is not yet possible to provide a definitive timeline. However, the Steering Group has advised that it anticipates an indicative timeline of 5 years. |
| 15.4 Process established for capturing survivor accounts for publication and for archiving for posterity in the National Centre for Research and Remembrance. | DCEDIY | Timeline to be confirmed as part of project plan for National Centre for Research and Remembrance | The Minister is working to bring an outline proposal to Government in early 2023 and he will then initiate a comprehensive consultation process with survivors to ensure their views inform its design and delivery. |

Action 16

Local Memorials

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|--|--|--|
| 16.1 Working Group established to progress this commitment. | Local Authorities Partners: DHLGH, DCEDIY | Achieved | The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has established a Working Group of Departmental and Local Authority officials to advance the commitment to local memorialisation. |
| 16.2 Guidance and support available to survivors and former residents in accessing local authority services. | Local Authorities Partners: DHLGH, DCEDIY | Original target date: Q1 2022 Ongoing to Q1 2023 | The Working Group has met monthly in the past year. It has consulted widely, including with survivor representatives/advocates, experts and local authorities, and commissioned an independent consultation exercise with survivor advocacy groups. Building on this strong evidence base, a report is being drafted with a view to its issuance to local authorities in Q1 2023. This report will contain best practice guidance for local authorities in relation to their engagement with survivors and their representatives regarding accessing local government services. |
| 16.3 An assessment of any gaps in the provision of local authority services completed. | Local Authorities Partners: DHLGH, DCEDIY | Achieved | This examination is complete and will form part of the Working Group's report and guidance to issue to local authorities in Q1 2023. |

Action 17

Survivor-led Annual Commemoration

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|---------------------|---|
| <p>17.1</p> <p>Review of the Commemorative Grant Scheme undertaken to explore events in a Covid-19 context, and amended scheme in place.</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | <p>The scheme is in place and open to applications. Terms and conditions were reviewed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure the scheme supported and encouraged virtual or other Covid-compliant forms of commemorative events.</p> <p>The Scheme has been promoted on the DCEDIY website, and through each of our Quarterly Updates to the mailing list.</p> |

Action 18

Children's Fund

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>18.1</p> <p>Design and development of funding scheme</p> | DCEDIY | <p>Original target date: Q1 2022</p> <p>Ongoing to Q2 2023</p> | <p>An expert panel to support DCEDIY in the design and development of the remit of the Children's Fund is being finalised. The Panel will comprise academics and practitioners who have a broad spectrum of experience across areas that influence childhood disadvantage. Once established, the panel will provide practical options for use of the fund.</p> |
| <p>18.2</p> <p>Launch of Children's Fund</p> | DCEDIY | <p>Original target date: Q2 2022</p> <p>Ongoing to Q2-Q3 2023</p> | <p>Proposals from panel to be reviewed and decision to be made on what mechanisms to use to advance proposals into action.</p> |
| <p>18.3</p> <p>Disbursement of funding to grantees</p> | DCEDIY | <p>Dependent on 18.2</p> | <p>Funding to be administered via most appropriate mechanism.</p> |

Theme 7

Restorative Recognition

This theme encompasses measures related to health supports and financial supports. We recognise that no financial award or health service provision can take back the hurt, loss and distress that has been experienced. Rather, the actions related to this theme and all themes seek to offer recognition, support and a sincere effort to rebuild trust.

Commitments under this theme include:

- Development and rollout of a bespoke Payment Scheme.
- The provision of:
 - access to counselling support through the National Counselling Service in the HSE for all survivors and former residents;
 - access to a Patient Advocacy Liaison Support service, delivered via an expansion of HSE Live;
 - a form of enhanced medical card to survivors and former residents of Mother and Baby and County Institutions (where they were resident for a period of more than six months).
- A targeted programme of health research to assist and inform the development of future service provision for former residents.
- Development of ex-gratia repayment for those who were boarded out and were subject to a tax liability following the inheritance of a farm from foster parents.

Action 19

Health Supports

| Milestones | Lead Dept/ Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|--|--|
| 19.1 Staff recruited to deliver Patient Advocacy Liaison Support service (PALS). | D/Health Partner: HSE | Original target date: Q3 2021 Ongoing to Q1 2023 | HSELive will add the PALS service to the existing HSE Mother and Baby Home Helpline (Tel: 1800 817 517) to provide information, signposting and support to former residents through a dedicated team. A recruitment plan is being progressed by HSE. It is expected that recruitment will take approximately 6 months to complete. |
| 19.2 Access provided for survivors and former residents to a Patient Advocacy Liaison Support service. | D/Health Partner: HSE | Original target date: Q1 2022 Ongoing to Q3 2023 | Service delivery is expected to commence in Q2/3 2023, further to progression of Milestone 19.1 |
| 19.3 Awareness raising campaign for Counselling and PALS services. | D/Health Partner: HSE | Original target date: Q1 2022 Ongoing to Q3 2023 | HSE 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. |
| 19.4 An enhanced medical card provided to all former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions (where they were resident for a period of more than six months). | DCEDIY Partner: D/Health | 2022 Ongoing in line with Action 20 | Work on the enhanced medical card is being progressed through the IDG on the development of the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme. |
| 19.5 Health research commissioned on the future needs of former residents. | D/Health Partner: HRB | Original target date: Q4 2022 Ongoing | A detailed proposal was developed 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. This was reviewed by an international scientific panel. Access to a database of former residents was identified by the International Peer Review as a condition of funding for this research programme. Representatives from the research team, the Health Research Board and the Department of Health met with DCEDIY to clarify the availability of data. Unfortunately, based on the information provided, the research team concluded that the programme as envisaged was not viable and, as a result, could not proceed to contract stage in the present format. However, the engagement of survivors and former residents with the Payment Scheme could provide opportunities for establishing further information about this population. This information, along with consent to be approached to participate in health research, could enable consideration of an alternative research project or projects. |

| Milestones | Lead Dept/ Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|--|---------------------|--|
| <p>19.6</p> <p>Review of demand and capacity of Counselling Service to inform allocation of resources.</p> | HSE | Achieved | In 2021 the National Counselling Service received 204 referrals, with a further 50 received in 2022. There is no waiting list for this service. The number of clients referred to this service in 2022 has reduced despite awareness raising with referral agents. The NCS continues to prioritise these clients with immediate allocation to counselling if this is the client's choice. It is important to note that a survivor can self-refer to the service and does not need to be referred via a medical practitioner. |

Action 20

Financial Support

| Milestones | Lead Dept/ Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|--|---------------------|--|
| <p>20.1</p> <p>Inter Departmental Group established to design proposals for scheme.</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | The Interdepartmental Group (IDG) was established and met on six occasions. They presented a report in November 2021 on development of the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme. |
| <p>20.2</p> <p>National consultation on the Scheme completed.</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | An independently facilitated public consultation was undertaken during March and April 2021. Almost 450 written submissions were received and there were 17 online meetings with 159 participants. |
| <p>20.3</p> <p>IDG Report approved by Government</p> | DCEDIY | Achieved | The IDG report was considered by Government and policy proposals were approved by Government and published in November 2021. In designing the Payment Scheme, Government agreed proposals which were informed by a variety of inputs and sources including an Interdepartmental Group, consultation with survivors and former residents and the IHREC. |

| Milestones | Lead Dept/ Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>20.4</p> <p>Legislation underpinning the scheme published and enacted.</p> | DCEDIY | <p>Original target date: 2022</p> <p>Ongoing to 2023</p> | <p>The General Scheme of the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill was published in March 2022 and was referred to the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee for Pre-Legislative Scrutiny.</p> <p>The Joint Oireachtas Committee undertook a public consultation process on the draft legislation, and hearings were held. DCEDIY engaged with the Committee as part of this process. The Committee published its report on this process in July 2022.</p> <p>The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme Bill was approved by Government and was published in October 2022. The Bill is currently making its way through both Houses of the Oireachtas.</p> <p>This legislation, including detailed regulations made under it, will facilitate the establishment of an independent Executive Office, situated within the Department, to administer the Scheme.</p> |
| <p>20.5</p> <p>Scheme open for applications.</p> | DCEDIY | <p>Original target date: 2022</p> <p>Ongoing to 2023</p> | <p>While the legislation is progressing, work is underway to set up the independent office to deal with the applications to the Scheme. Some aspects of the work to open the Scheme can only happen after the legislation is in place and this may take some months. The Department is committed to opening this Scheme as soon as possible.</p> |

Action 21

Inheritance Tax

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| <p>21.1</p> <p>Development of ex-gratia repayment scheme including application process and evidence requirements</p> | <p>DCEDIY; D/Finance</p> <p>Partners: Revenue</p> | Achieved | <p>An Interdepartmental Working Group has been established to undertake the necessary scoping work and develop a project plan.</p> |
| <p>21.2</p> <p>Government approval of proposals</p> | DCEDIY; D/Finance | Q3 2023 | <p>The Interdepartmental Working Group are currently considering the matter and the appropriate approach to this Scheme.</p> |
| <p>21.3</p> <p>Legislative amendments to ensure that CAT is not applied to payments</p> | D/Finance | Contingent upon Action 21.2 | |

Theme 8

Dignified Burial

This theme and its actions relate to the advancement of burials legislation to support the excavation, exhumation and identification of remains, and their dignified reburial. This legislation will support intervention at the Tuam site and any other site where intervention is required by virtue of the manifestly inappropriate nature of the interments.

Additionally, this theme also contains actions relating to engagement with survivors and 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.



Action 22

Burials Legislation

| Milestones | Lead Dept/Agency (and Partners if applicable) | Timeline and status | Progress and next steps |
|--|---|--|--|
| 22.1 Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of draft legislation completed. | DCEDIY | Achieved | The General Scheme of the legislation was referred to the Joint Oireachtas Committee in mid-January 2021. It underwent Pre-Legislative Scrutiny in the first half of 2021 with the Joint Oireachtas Committee publishing its final report on 15 July. |
| 22.2 Bill published and introduced in the Houses of the Oireachtas | DCEDIY | Achieved | The Institutional Burials Bill 2022 was published in February 2022. The legislation completed its passage through the Oireachtas and was enacted in July 2022. |
| 22.3 Independent Office established. | DCEDIY | Original target date: 2022 Ongoing to Q1 2023 | In October 2022 Government made an Order under the Institutional Burials Act 2022 to establish an independent Office to lead an intervention at the site of the former Mother and Baby institution in Tuam. The making of the Order followed on from Resolutions in the Dáil and Seanad in September 2022 approving a draft Order that was agreed by Government in July 2022. The recruitment campaign for a Director to lead the intervention was launched by the Public Appointments Service in November 2022. It is anticipated that the Director will be appointed and the Office established in Q1 2023. |
| 22.4 Schedule of works initiated at the Tuam site. | Future Independent Office of Tuam Director | Original target date: 2022 Ongoing to 2023 | It is anticipated that work can get underway in early 2023. |
| 22.5 Plans in place for dignified local memorialisation of known or agreed burial sites | Local Authorities Partner: DHLGH | Ongoing to 2023 | As indicated above (see action 16), work on this commitment is well advanced and best practice guidance for local authorities, in relation to local memorialisation, is being drafted with a view to its issuance to local authorities in Q1 2023. |
| 22.6 Circular issued to advise planning authorities of the precautionary approach to be taken in their statutory development plan to the proper safeguarding of burial sites from potentially harmful development. | DHLGH | Achieved | In November 2022, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage wrote to all City and County Councils requesting that Development Plan processes give adequate consideration to incorporating appropriate measures to ensure the protection of unrecorded burial sites associated with an institution. The Circular is available to view online here . |

Appendix 1

List of acronyms

| | |
|------------------|---|
| DCC | Dublin City Council |
| DCEDIY | Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth |
| DFHERIS | Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science |
| DHLGH | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage |
| DTCAGSM | Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media |
| GDPR | General Data Protection Regulation |
| HRB | Health Research Board |
| HSE | Health Service Executive |
| IDG | Interdepartmental Group |
| IMU | Information Management Unit, DCEDIY |
| IRC | Irish Research Council |
| JOC CEDiy | Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth |
| NAI | National Archives of Ireland |
| NCCA | National Council for Curriculum and Assessment |
| NEIC | North East Inner City |
| NMI | National Museum of Ireland |
| OPW | Office of Public Works |
| PLS | Pre Legislative Scrutiny |
| SAR | Subject Access Request |

Appendix 2

Glossary

A Bill

A draft of a proposed new law. Government Ministers can bring forward Bills, and these are called Government Bills. Other TDs and Senators can also bring forward Bills, and these are called Private Members' Bills (PMBs). Before a Bill can be enacted, it must be passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas; the Dáil and the Seanad. A Bill must pass through five Stages in both the Dáil and Seanad before it can be enacted into law.

An Act

Once a Bill is passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas, it is signed into law by the President, and it becomes an Act. This means it is added to the Statute Book.

COALESCE Research Fund:

The Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges Fund is a programme created by the Irish Research Council to fund research that examines national and global challenges facing society.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

A law in place since May 2018 that sets rules for the collection and processing of personal information from people who live in the European Union (EU).

General Scheme:

A General Scheme is an early draft of legislation that the Government wants to introduce. It outlines the main objectives the Government wants to achieve in the legislation. A parliamentary committee then examines the draft and can make suggestions about how it could be improved before the final Bill is published.

Interdepartmental Group (IDG):

A group of officials from various government departments responsible for reviewing policies, procedures or legislation or creating draft policies, procedures and proposals for approval by Government. Different IDGs can be set up for different purposes.

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth:

This group of Senators and TDs considers, and reports to the Houses of the Oireachtas, on the expenditure, administration and policies of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and the State bodies for which the Department is responsible.

Pre-Legislative Scrutiny:

The process allowing parliament to examine draft legislation (General Schemes) and report back with suggestions to the Minister sponsoring the legislation. The relevant Oireachtas Committee can invite stakeholders to participate by attending meetings to discuss legislation.

Subject Access Request (SAR):

An important feature of the GDPR which allows people to request and receive a copy of all the personal data that a company or organization has collected about them.

Stakeholder:

A person or group who may be affected by the Government's work in a particular area.

Appendix 3

Useful contacts

DCEDIY mailing list

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth maintains a mailing list for people with an interest in these issues. If you would like your email address to be added to this list to receive future updates, please send an email to **motherandbabyhomes@equality.gov.ie** requesting that your details be included.

HSE Information Line

The HSE operates a dedicated Freephone information line for survivors and former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, which can be reached at **1800 817 517**.

Counselling Support

If you feel that you need to talk to a counsellor, you can contact the HSE National Counselling Service. If you decide to call, please identify yourself as a survivor of the institutions and you will be prioritised for the next available counselling place. Information about the service and contact details can be found on the HSE website, or by calling **1800 817 517** (Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm, Saturday 9am – 5pm).

Outside of these hours, you can also contact the CONNECT free telephone counselling and support service at **1800 477 477** (6pm – 10pm Monday to Sunday).

For more support options, including phone, text or online, visit yourmentalhealth.ie or call **1800 111 888**.

The Adoption Authority of Ireland

The Adoption Authority of Ireland can be reached by phone at **+353 (0)1 230 9300**, or by post to Shelbourne House, Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 H6F6. Further information is available at www.aai.gov.ie

Tusla – The Child and Family Agency

Tusla - Child and Family Agency can be reached by phone at **+353 (0)1 771 8500**, or by post to The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Saint John's Road West, Dublin 8, D08 X01F. Further information is available at www.tusla.ie

Birth Information and Tracing Services

If you want to make an application for access to information, for tracing services or to register preferences to the contact preference register, this can be done on **birthinfo.ie**. This website also contains more information on the Act and the services it established.



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