



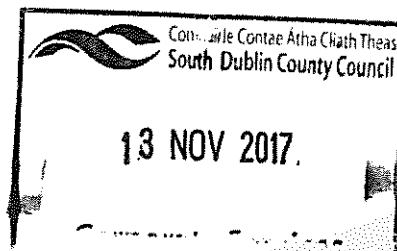
An Roinn Leanaí  
agus Gnóthaí Óige  
Department of  
Children and Youth Affairs

Oifig an Aire  
Office of the  
Minister



10 November 2017

Mr Colm Murphy  
Meeting's Administrator  
Corporate Services Department  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24



Ref No. M06/0917

Dear Mr. Murphy

Thank you for your letter concerning the need for a full state investigation to be carried out on Vaccine Trials held in institutions run by the Church and State.

You may wish to note that medicinal trials are a matter for the Department of Health and I note that you have also written to the Minister for Health on this issue.

Separately, the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes and certain related Matters was established by Government (S.I. No. 57 of 2015) in response to significant public concerns relating to the care and welfare of the women and children who were resident in these specific institutions. The comprehensive scope of the Commission's remit ensures it can provide a full account of what happened to women and children in these specific institutions during the period 1922 to 1998.

Article 1(II) of the terms of reference of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes and certain related Matters compels it to examine the living conditions and care arrangements experienced by women and children during their period of accommodation in these institutions. In addition to this broad requirement, Article 1(V) of the Terms of Reference refers specifically to the examination of vaccine trials in these institutions.

The Commission has sufficient scope and the necessary legal powers to examine these matters, and to make a determination on their relevance to the central issues in question, and where appropriate to make any recommendations to Government which the Commission deems necessary. As the Commission is independent in the conduct of its investigations it should be understood that the precise timing and approach to the gathering and examination of evidence are matters for the Commission to decide and progress.

I hope that this is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Hughes  
Private Secretary to Minister Katherine Zappone, TD