

8<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Correspondence from Minister Norma Foley

Good morning,

I hope you are keeping well.

This morning, I received Government approval to publish the 'Report on Negotiations with Religious Organisations associated with Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme'. I am now sharing this information directly with you before it is published more widely at the following link [gov.ie - Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme - Background and Legislation](#) [to follow the link, tap/click on the bold text].

The negotiator, Sheila Nunan, was tasked with leading a process of negotiation with religious bodies with historical involvement in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions with a view to securing a financial contribution from those organisations towards the cost of the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme.

Ms. Nunan's report indicates that just two of the eight bodies have offered a contribution towards the cost of the Payment Scheme.

She has recommended acceptance of an offer of a cash contribution of €12.97m by the Sisters of Bon Secours, and Government has agreed to accept this offer.

She has also recommended active consideration of an offer of a building by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Government has agreed that I should consider this offer and engage further with the congregation in relation to it.

A third body offered a conditional donation of €75,000 to be used as a charitable donation towards a charitable purpose associated with mother and baby home survivors.

The remaining bodies did not offer any contribution.

While acknowledging the financial contribution by the Sisters of Bon Secours, I am deeply disappointed by the overall response of the religious bodies. I would encourage them to reflect further on their shared, collective responsibility for the tragic legacy of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions and the intergenerational impacts which endure. I would urge them to reflect further on their willingness to make a meaningful contribution to the Payment Scheme and note that my Department is

available to engage with them on this matter at any stage.

I want to thank Ms. Nunan for her excellent and extensive work on the negotiations. She approached the task with clear intent, integrity and in-depth attention to detail, and her full report is testament to that. I understand that it was a challenging process, particularly as it was, of necessity, a voluntary process whereby the negotiator could not compel bodies to produce information or offer contributions. In that regard, I will ask my officials to liaise with the Office of the Attorney General to consider if any further options are now available to the State.

The report itself is attached and its second and third parts (appendices of technical details and financial assessment) are too large to send by email so these will be available at the link above shortly.

I understand that you may feel upset with today's announcement. Please remember that support is available and details of that support can be found [here gov.ie - Counselling and Health Supports](#) [to follow the link, tap/click on the bold text].

Finally, I also wish to re-emphasise that Government is committed to implementing all aspects of the Action Plan. The benefits provided under the Payment Scheme, as well as the commitments and initiatives being implemented more broadly under the Action Plan, remain in place regardless of the response of the religious bodies.

With warm regards and good wishes

Norma Foley,

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality