



Chairman
Jonathan Patton

Chief Executive
Roisin Coulter

06 June 2025

Mr Nick Mitford
Clerk Committee for the Executive Office
Room 247, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Mr Mitford

TRUTH RECOVERY PROCESS AND REDRESS BILL

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 2025 regarding the Truth Recovery and Redress Bill and actions being taken by the South Eastern Trust to accelerate access to records for victims and survivors of Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries, Workhouses and related pathways and practices.

The Trust has been engaged with Joy Carney, Project Manager for the Truth Recovery Programme Records (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries, Workhouses and related pathways and practices), in a bid to identify any historic records which may be relevant to this process. Mrs Carney had previously issued the Trust with a copy of Registered Adoptions between the period 1931 to 1995, to enable the Trust to identify the existence of historical records held in storage for this period. The Principal for Adoption and Permanency (Mrs Pamela Robinson) established that the Trust identified that it held 1200 files pertaining to this period. Mrs Robinson also located 6 Adoption Register books ranging in date of adoption orders from 1951 to 2009 from the Lisburn and Downpatrick areas.

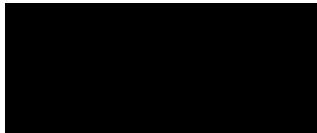
Mrs Carney and her Team completed a site visit on the 7 October 2024 to view the Register books held. Due to their fragile condition and the likelihood of loss of information through handling (the abraded foreedges of the pages in the earliest book in particular), Mrs Carney recommended that they should all be digitised as a matter of urgency and that the digital surrogates be accessed for business use, in place of the originals. Mrs Carneys Team kindly agreed to digitise the relevant records for ease of access.

The Trust Information Governance Team has also drawn up a Data Sharing Agreement with PRONI in relation to the Truth Recovery process which was issued on the 28 November 2024, to ensure compliance with Data Protection requirements.

It was established that the Mother and Baby Homes and the Magdalene Laundries, which are the subject of the Truth Recovery process were not located within the South Eastern Health and Social Care catchment area. However, the Trust can offer assurances that it will respond to any request to identify specific records to assist in this process of recovery.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



ROISIN COULTER

Chief Executive