

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 November 2025 20:52

Subject: Reply in relation to Marianvale Mother and Baby Home. Dear

Nick and Assembly members,

In response to your recent letter, there should be no planning application passed for the redevelopment of the site of Marianvale in Newry, the former Mother and Baby Home until the true location of any unmarked burials is found via an in-depth investigation of all the land and records available.

This investigation to be carried out by a totally independent team with no links, past or present, with the Catholic Church in Northern Ireland. In our families experience with burial land in the Bog Meadows at Milltown Cemetery, the Church funds the work by Archaeology Companies and others they have links with, and therefore they control the information that is released.

A extensive look at the actual sale documentation of the land to the current owner also needs to be exhamined. Are the church still involved in the planned development in any way for potentially monetary gain going forward?

A dead child is just as important as a living child to its Mother and family members. A missing child, dead or living, is emotionally devastating and the all-consuming focus to find them never leaves.

Many families we have personally assisted to find information for missing children, have been searching for decades. The control the RC Church has on parishioner's from birth to death and afterwards must not be allowed to continue in respect of records and information.

Our research shows the vast figure of infants who died in these institutions are in the hundreds every year. Many of the records show the cause of death as Marasmus (Malnutrition).

Allowing the redevelopment of this land without confirming the truth for families first, allows the disposal of potential evidence which may lead to a criminal investigation in the future. A way must be found to remove all records from the Church, that includes records of bodies being signed over for Body Donation without the consent of the family.

At present we are assisting four families who's infants we believe were used for organ retention. All details have been forwarded to the relevant hospitals. We are awaiting the results.

Plots were purchased / leased in Milltown Cemetery by Trusts in Northern Ireland and Institutions including one grave we have found registered to 'Marianvale Newry'.

Our research has shown, and we have had it confirmed by Belfast City Council District Registrars office that a document, separate from a death certificate, was issued authorising a body to be buried, even when stillborn.

For example:

A burial going to a council cemetery will be issued by the District Registrar, a 'Funeral Directors Card'. This paperwork travels with the corpse to the chosen cemetery. The details of the person being buried or cremated is on this paperwork. More information is added including the plot number the burial takes place in. It is then returned to the District Registrar where it is kept in their archives.

However the Church have been allowed to have their own registrar and they issue the paperwork that authorises a burial to take place in a RC cemetery. This paperwork is known by the gravediggers as the 'Green Form'.

This form travels with the corpse, again more information is added including plot number. This is not returned to the district registrar's office, but is returned to the church.

Therefore it is possible the church is still holding this information on any burials that took place in Marianvale and other institutional cemeteries under their control. It is crucial that a way is found to remove all records from the church.

[REDACTED] has previously worked on the site in Marianvale and she will forward the research of that time to you.

With our research on the Marianvale site, and [REDACTED] history with the site. There is evidence based information gathered and she would be the best person to oversee any Archaeology investigation of this site.

A serious objection to this planning application must be made to find the truth and safeguard all families involved with Marianvale, otherwise ambiguity remains.

At present our families are having to watch while the mass graves of hundreds of infants are reclaimed and sold as new plots into our community. Plots in land that is Bog Land and under the water table. I have attached some examples taken last Saturday the 15th of November 2025.

While the church reaps the rewards financially, families are powerless against this abuse and distress continues on a daily basis.

It is also an urgent requirement that the Private Members Bill to remove Private Cemetery brought forward by Nuala McAllister and currently going through the house, gains speed to protect all burials in RC Cemeteries.

Please confirm you have received this email response.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]