



Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3TT

Nick Mitford
Clerk
Committee for the Executive Office
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast

10 December 2025

Dear Nick,

Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 5th November and the correspondence discussed at the Committee meeting of 22nd October 2025. The Department has provided a response to the correspondence, as requested (Annex 1).

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
TEO Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

ANNEX 1 - RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE LETTER

Clarification on whether Clause 3(d) “is intended to encompass adoption agencies, adoption societies, or other non-residential bodies”.

Why are such bodies not “explicitly listed in the Bill or its schedules now, rather than left to be added later by regulation”.

Under clause 2(2) of the Bill, the inquiry may determine the facts in relation to prescribed institutions, public bodies or other persons that were involved in the admission, care, and departure of ‘relevant persons’ from prescribed institutions. This includes the placement of children, born while their mothers were under the care of the prescribed institutions, for adoption, fostering or any other arrangement for the care of a child. Effectively, any placement of a child other than with its biological parent. These are the ‘pathways and practices’ of the prescribed institutions, which may, therefore, include adoption agencies, adoption societies, or other non-residential bodies.

Clause 3(d) provides the inquiry with the flexibility to include a range of “other institutions” as well as those known as Mother and Baby Institutions or Magdalene Laundries or workhouses (within the meaning of the Poor Relief Acts (Northern Ireland) 1838 to 1937). This includes, for example, individual adoption agencies, adoption societies, ‘baby homes’ and private nursing homes. There is no requirement that such institutions be residential in nature.

However, as outlined in the public consultation, it is not the intention that the inquiry review the entire adoption or care system from 1922 to 1995.

Placing the list of prescribed institutions in regulations rather on the face of the Bill allows time to consult with the chairperson and also to consider the evidence provided from the Independent Panel as well as any other recommendations for inclusion. The regulations are subject to affirmative resolution of the Assembly.



Committee for the Executive Office

[REDACTED]
Assembly & Legislation Section
Executive & Central Advisory Division
Stormont Castle
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3TT

[REDACTED]

5 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Scheme Bill – Clause 3(d)

At its meeting on 22 October 2025, the Committee for The Executive Office considered correspondence from an individual regarding clarification on the scope of Clause 3(d) of the Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Scheme Bill.

Following consideration of the correspondence the Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department, and to ask TEO to address the concerns as outlined by the individual in the correspondence.

I would appreciate a response by Wednesday 19 November 2025.

Yours sincerely

Nick Mitford
Clerk Committee for the Executive Office