

Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3TT



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

13 January 2026

Dear Nick,

**Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses)
and Redress Scheme Bill – Departmental Amendments**

Following the letter from Ministers committing to provide the initial drafted clauses, as requested the Department have provided in **Annex 1**, the Committee with the four specific Inquiry-related amendments (as drafted), and in addition three specific redress-related amendments, and as noted in our letter of 8 January the Department will follow up with the remaining four redress-related amendments in w/c 19 January 2026.

The Department consider it is important to re-iterate; this is not a definitive or final list, and the Department is likely to bring additional amendments for Consideration Stage. But need to consider some areas in more detail.

Yours sincerely



TEO Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

ANNEX 1

No.	Clause	Part	Commitments / Amendments	Draft Departmental amendment
Part 1: Commitments / Amendments from 26 November opening remarks				
1.1	Clause 1	Inquiry	Departmental commitment Cross jurisdictional movement will be part of the external Terms of Reference.	No amendment required
1.2	Clause 4	Inquiry	Inclusion of those who may have become pregnant whilst under the “care of” a prescribed institution.	Clause 4, Page 3, Line 16 At end insert- ‘(i(a) a woman or girl who had become pregnant while she was under the care of the workhouse;’
1.3	Clause 5	Inquiry	Amendment to Clause 5(1) to ensure that the chair must sit with at least one other panel member.	Clause 5, Page 3, Line 35 Leave out from ‘either’ to end of line 37 and insert ‘a chairperson with one or more other members.’
1.4	Clause 15	Inquiry	Addition of subclause in 15(4) which notes that the chairperson must consider the extent to which a restriction order may hinder the participation of a relevant person in the inquiry. i.e. amendment to ensure that should a person not have prior access to information related to them, there would be an obligation on the chair to balance that when making their decision on a restriction order.	Clause 15, Page 9, Line 18 At end insert- ‘(e) the extent to which any restrictions might impede the participation of relevant persons in the inquiry.’
1.5	Clause 18	Inquiry	Amendment of clause 18(3) to ensure the inquiry would be in a position to provide a series of modular / interim reports before the final report is submitted to FMdFM.	Clause 18, Page 11, Line 18 Leave out ‘a report’ and insert ‘one or more reports’ See Footnote 1.

No.	Clause	Part	Commitments / Amendments	Draft Departmental amendment
1.6	Clause 31	Redress	Departmental Amendment being drafted Amendment to ensure that only the children of women who were admitted to a relevant institution for 'shelter and maintenance' are eligible for redress.	Amendment to follow w/c 19 January
1.7	Clause 32	Redress	Amendment of clause 32(2) to move it from negative resolution to draft affirmative.	Clause 32, Page 18, Line 26 Leave out subsection (3) and insert- '(3) Regulations under subsection (2) may not be made unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.'
1.8	Clause 38	Redress	Increasing the time limit to appeal a redress determination from 30 to 90 days.	Clause 38, Page 21, Line 18 Leave out '30' and insert '90' See Footnote 2.
1.9	Clause 39	Redress	Departmental Amendment being drafted Amendment of 'Service' to 'The Executive Office' which will make TEO responsible for arrangements for advice and assistance.	Amendment to follow w/c 19 January
1.10	Clause 40	Redress	Departmental Amendment being drafted Inclusion of an offence for contravening a restriction order from the Redress Service. Outlining that a person who contravenes a restriction order may be liable for a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both. Similar to that provided in Clause 23.	Amendment to follow w/c 19 January
1. 11	TBC	Redress	Departmental Amendment being drafted	Amendment to follow w/c 19 January

No.	Clause	Part	Commitments / Amendments	Draft Departmental amendment
			Amendment to outline that the Redress Service have responsibility for promoting the redress scheme based on agreed funding from TEO.	
Part 2: Other amendments being drafted				
2.1	Sch 2	Redress	Amend “Hopedene House” to “Hopedene Hostel”. The 2021 Queen’s/Ulster University report listed this institution as “Hopedene House”, but it has been brought to our attention that “Hopedene Hostel” was more commonly used. PRONI has confirmed this.	Schedule 2, Page 29, Line 18 Leave out ‘House’ and insert ‘Hostel’
Part 3: Other amendments where legal and drafting advice is being taken				
3.1	Clause 12	Inquiry	Departmental Amendment being considered Contributions to be sought following the public inquiry from those deemed to have systemically failed.	Remains under consideration until policy, legal and drafting advice taken
3.2	Clause 17	Inquiry	Departmental Amendment being considered Provisions to be considered after 17 (2) on how PII process will happen procedurally, and / or potentially detail a Closed Material Procedure or equivalent.	Remains under consideration until policy, legal and drafting advice taken
3.3	Clause 33	Redress	Departmental Amendment being considered Provisions to enable President to delegate determinations to Secretary of the Redress Service for straight forward applications.	Remains under consideration until policy, legal and drafting advice taken

Footnote 1: Clause 18(3) is now explicit that the chair may deliver one or more interim reports. An interim report can contain anything that the report of the inquiry can contain (see subsection 2 that this can be recommendations/ or anything else relevant). This allows for the ultimate flexibility as to content and format, structure and division of sections or themes.

Footnote 2: Clause 38 gives 90 days’ right of appeal. 38(2)(b) was retained to allow the even longer appeal time in exceptional circumstan