

Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3TT
[REDACTED]

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

29 September 2025

Dear Nick,

Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Bill – Clerical Abuse Query

Your letter of 12 September 2025 referenced the query from the Justice Committee which *'requested clarification of whether clerical abuse is covered by the provisions of the bill or whether it will form a strand of the inquiry, particularly given the clerical aspect of many of the institutions within its scope'*

Historical Clerical Child Abuse (HCCA) is being considered in a separate process. As the Committee will be aware an Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG) has commissioned research on HCCA. Ministers are now considering the research.

It is important to acknowledge that unfortunately some people will be victims and survivors of more than one process, so there may be overlap. For example, some victims and survivors who were in a children's home (covered by HIA), may also have been in a Mother and Baby Institution (will be covered by Truth Recovery) and some may indeed also be relevant for HCCA, if a victim of clerical abuse.

If a victim's experience is relevant to the terms of reference of the inquiry, they would be able and supported to provide evidence to the public inquiry. But the focus for the Truth Recovery Public Inquiry is on those affected by Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses and their pathways and practices.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer



Committee for the Executive Office

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

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12 September 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Bill – Clerical Abuse Query

At its meeting on 10 September 2025, the Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice regarding its views on the Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Bill.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department as the Justice Committee have requested clarification on whether clerical abuse is covered by the provisions in the Bill or if it will form a strand of the Inquiry, particularly given the clerical aspect of many of the institutions within its scope.

I would appreciate a response by 26 September.

Yours sincerely

Nick Mitford
Clerk Committee for the Executive Office