

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 June 2025 13:59

Subject: Urgent Amendment Needed to Draft Bill on Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries

Dear Members of the Committee for the Executive Office,

I am writing to express grave concerns regarding the draft bill addressing the Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries in Northern Ireland, particularly the arbitrary cut-off date of 29 September 2011 for posthumous inclusion in the redress scheme. This exclusionary date unjustly omits many women and children who suffered, including my birth mother, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a young woman from the [REDACTED] became pregnant at [REDACTED] and was sent to Marianvale Mother and Baby Institution, where she gave birth to me. Due to the profound shame and stigma attached to her experience, she felt compelled to leave Derry and relocate to England. She later married, but I was the only child she ever had. In the brief weeks after my birth, [REDACTED] cared for me in the Magdalene Laundry, but we were torn apart. Over the years, both she and I desperately sought to reconnect, but restrictive rules and institutional gatekeepers kept us apart. Tragically, [REDACTED] passed away in [REDACTED] at the age of 54, and we never had the chance to meet again.

The 2011 cut-off date in the draft bill dismisses the enduring pain of those like [REDACTED] whose suffering is no less significant because she died before this arbitrary date. The redress scheme must reflect the full scope of the Truth, Acknowledgement, and Accountability enquiry (1922–1995) and include ALL affected individuals—living and deceased—without discriminatory time barriers. Recommendation 5 of the enquiry clearly advocates for a comprehensive redress scheme encompassing all women who spent time or gave birth in Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries, Workhouses, or related private nursing homes, as well as all children born to those women whilst institutionalised. The trauma endured by our loved ones, whether they passed before or after 2011, is equally valid and deserving of acknowledgement.

I urgently call for an amendment to Clause 31(5) to remove the 29 September 2011 cut-off date, ensuring posthumous claims are eligible for all affected individuals from 1922 onwards. This change is vital to deliver justice and honour the experiences of survivors and their families, including [REDACTED] and countless others.

I would welcome the opportunity to address the committee at some stage to further discuss the impact of this issue and the need for an inclusive redress scheme.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to your commitment to a fair and inclusive redress scheme.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

