



Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

Our Ref: FOI/2018/0351

25 September 2018

Dear Ms. O'Rourke,

I refer to your request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for the following:

"A list (or index) of all records contained in the archive of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of state interaction with the Magdalen Laundries (also known as the McAleese Committee).

At page 135 of the report of the McAleese Committee it is stated that 'Official records relevant to its mandate were identified by the Committee across a broad range of substantive areas and in the archives of various Departments, State agencies and bodies. These records were also scattered between individual case-files, policy files and general correspondence files. The archive of the Committee's work will include copies of such official records identified from across all Departments, State agencies and bodies (the originals remaining in their original files and locations) and certain materials generated by or for the Committee. It was decided that the archive of its work would be stored centrally at the Department of An Taoiseach. Restrictions will apply in relation to access to the archive, as is standard for material containing sensitive personal data.'

For the avoidance of doubt, my request is for a list of all the contents of the archive which is now in the possession of your Department, albeit I expect and understand that you will protect sensitive personal data appropriately, for example by way of redaction."

The records of the Archive of the Inter Departmental Committee to Establish the Facts of State Involvement in the Magdalen Laundries (McAleese Archive) are stored in this Department for the purposes of safe keeping in a central location and are not held or within the control of the Department for the purposes of the FOI Act. They cannot therefore be released by this Department.



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I am also informing you that you may appeal this decision. An appeal involves a complete reconsideration by a more senior member of the staff of this Department. If you wish to appeal you may do so to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of the Taoiseach, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2, D02 R583, email foi@taoiseach.gov.ie, accompanied by the appropriate fee and using the reference number above. For non-personal requests, the fee is €30 (€10 for medical card holders). An appeal must be made within 4 weeks (20 working days) of the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Cillian Doyle'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cillian Doyle

Social Policy & Public Service Reform Division