

Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR)  
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Bailieborough,  
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10<sup>th</sup> April 2017

An Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald  
Department of Justice and Equality  
51 St Stephens Green  
Dublin 2  
D02 HK52  
By post and email to [frances.fitzgerald@oireachtas.ie](mailto:frances.fitzgerald@oireachtas.ie)

**RE: Dublin Honours Magdalenes**

Dear Minister Fitzgerald,

Justice for Magdalenes Research (JFMR) has recently had a constructive meeting with officials and public representatives from Dublin City Council (who own the former Magdalene institution on Sean McDermott Street) and the CEO of Respond! who own the campus at High Park which was the site of another Magdalene institution.

As you know the Magdalene redress scheme proposed by Mr Justice Quirke and fully accepted for implementation by the Department of Justice on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013, recommended that Magdalene women be consulted with a view to commemorating the experience and legacy of the Magdalene institutions. Both the DCC and Respond! are keen to work with JFMR to facilitate a gathering of interested Magdalene women for this consultative process. Dublin City Council has recently voted to put a stay on further plans for the sale and development of the campus at Sean McDermott Street until the process of consultation with Magdalene survivors has been conducted. JFMR is also in communication with an agent representing the owners of the former Magdalene at Donnybrook and expect that they too will join with us to ensure this consultative process takes place.

We envisage inviting former Magdalene women to Dublin to visit the sites and to have a facilitated meeting whereby their deliberations are recorded and subsequently honoured. Women who cannot attend will be invited to make written submissions to the consultation process.

Mr Justice Quirke also recommended that a dedicated unit be established within the Department of Justice to be a point of contact for former Magdalene women and to facilitate women who may wish to meet each other. As this unit has not yet been established we request that you appoint officials within your department to work with us on issuing an invitation to all of the women who have been in contact with the Department

in relation to the redress scheme and to arrange for the accommodation and other logistical details in hosting this event which we propose will take place this summer.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience,

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
Katherine O'Donnell Maeve O'Rourke   
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Katherine O'Donnell, Maeve O'Rourke and Claire McGettrick  
On behalf of JFM Research