



James M. Smith
Department of English
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

27 March 2012

Senator Martin McAleese
Independent Chairperson
Inter-Departmental Committee
to establish the facts of state involvement with the Magdalen Laundries
Montague Court
Montague Street
Dublin 2

Dear Senator McAleese,

I am writing to follow up on our discussion about survivor testimony from our meeting in February.

At that time, you expressed a preference for receiving written testimony from survivors. We also briefly discussed the possibility of a meeting with a group of survivors at some later point where you would give the ladies an opportunity to interact with you in person.

On behalf of the JFM Committee I wanted to inform you that we are actively engaged in the process of recording and transcribing testimony from survivors who are in touch with the group. We have obtained signed consent forms empowering JFM to share this testimony with you to enhance the work of the Inter-Departmental Committee. We envisage forwarding you copies of the transcripts within a matter of weeks. Again, given JFM's longstanding concern to protect the women's identities, we would ask that the transcripts be protected and not be distributed further.

There is one point of detail on which we would welcome your guidance. Would it be preferable if we were to arrange for the testimony to be sworn to and witnessed (insofar as it is possible logistically to do this)? If you can direct us in this regard we would appreciate it.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

James M. Smith (Electronic Signature)

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cc. Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., Minister for Justice

Ms. Kathleen Lynch, T.D., Minister for State, Disability, Equality and Mental Health