

James Smith

Letter for Senator McAleese

Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh				Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 7:13 AM
To: James Smith	, mar in.mcaieese	1		
Cc: alan.shatte	DPBrennar	kathleen.lynch	msteed	
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Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your email. Martin has asked me to reply to clarify some points.

As you are aware, the mandate of the Committee is a fact-finding one, aimed at establishing the facts of State involvement in the Magdalen Laundries. We are not authorised to consider or decide on individual cases or complaints. Nonetheless and as discussed at our meeting, if former residents of the Laundries wish to share their stories with us, with a view to assisting us fulfil our mandate to identify State involvement, we would welcome that input. Any input of this kind is entirely voluntary and wholly confidential.

At an early stage in the process, we prepared a short questionnaire, which may assist women in focusing their input on the areas of greatest relevance to our mandate. If the women prefer, they may also simply write to us, setting out their story as a letter or in the manner of their choice. A number of women have already used these options to share their stories with us, either directly or through representative groups.

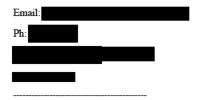
There is no need for input submitted in this way to be sworn or witnessed – this is not a legal forum and the Committee does not have a mandate to consider individual complaints. We would not like any excessive formality in the process to risk altering this perception among the women.

Thanks again for your continuing input to the process. Please do call me at any point if it would be helpful to discuss this or any other issues.

Best wishes

Nuala

Nuala Ní Mhuircheartaigh



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