

Survivor meeting yesterday

Claire McGettrick [REDACTED]

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To: James Smith [REDACTED], Mari Steed [REDACTED], Katherine O'Donnell [REDACTED], Maeve O'Rourke [REDACTED], Raymond Hill [REDACTED]

Hi folks,

This is a very brief synopsis of what happened yesterday - I haven't a whole lot of time, so it'll be the bones of it - Mari can fill in any gaps I've left out! - We need to get a few views on this as it's quite worrying.....

Because of the way the whole thing was rushed (plus illness in one case), not everyone could make it - so we had [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and Mari there in her dual capacity.

We ran into Kathleen Lynch briefly - she told us Shatter is getting the report soon - the two of them will read and discuss it and it will then be released. - In other words, confirming our thoughts that McAleese reporting and Shatter releasing are two different timeframes.

The aforementioned different "structure" meant that there was a brief chat (small talk, no opportunity for questions) and then survivors were brought in for one-on-ones with Nuala and McAleese to "clarify" things. - It is shameful that they didn't tell us about this beforehand - the women should have been afforded the opportunity to participate in an informed manner.

The minute we got them on their own (which was after the first survivor went in) we told them not to sign anything, which doesn't appear to have happened.

The women each emerged out of their one-on-ones looking very cagey with an "I'm not allowed to tell" face....very, very worrying....

They asked [REDACTED] how she got in there, was she abused, was her hair cut. [REDACTED] said no she wasn't abused - we clarified to her that she was because she was confined.

[REDACTED] didn't say much...very worrying...

[REDACTED] said they asked her how she got in etc - same as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] report was that they wanted to "solidify details"- she got the distinct impression McAleese hasn't read the testimonies. She emphasised human rights and other main points and emphasised that the women were all living in poverty. - McAleese said the report is impartial, that people will be surprised by some content, that Shatter will take it seriously and that a lot of people are watching.

[REDACTED] report was more worrying - she said McAleese said memory fades with time, what the women remember mightn't have happened - said "if your mother was sitting here she probably wouldn't remember everything". She was also asked if she wouldn't mind being taped anonymously. [REDACTED] also got the impression that McAleese hadn't read the testimonies.

Basically, everything that was asked could have been found in the testimonies.....

I've written to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and have strongly advised them to tread cautiously from here on out and to not agree to be taped. I've also asked them for a synopsis of what was said in the one-on-one.

That's it for now folks, sorry it's not more substantial.....

Claire