

Fianna Fáil Press Office
Mary Fitzpatrick
Dublin Central

18th January 2018

DCC councillors must reject proposal to dispose of historic Magdalene site – Fitzpatrick

- ***Sale of Sean McDermott St site reflects State's lack of commitment to regenerate the inner city -***

Fianna Fáil General Election Candidate in Dublin Central, Mary Fitzpatrick has said that Dublin City Council's plan to sell the last remaining Magdalene Laundry on Sean McDermott St must be rejected.

Late last year it was revealed that Dublin City Council had accepted a proposal to sell the building on Sean MacDermott St, Dublin 1 to a large Japanese hotel chain.

She commented, "It is five years since the then Taoiseach, Enda Kenny delivered a landmark apology to the victims and survivors of the Magdalene Laundries. Yet they, their families or the local community have not been meaningfully consulted on the future of the last remaining Magdalene laundry on Sean McDermott Street.

"Dublin City Council's proposal fails to appropriately respect those that were incarcerated in the laundry.

"Furthermore, there is a chronic housing need in the inner city. As it stands in this area, there are more than 2,000 applicants on the local authority housing while 350 are currently registered as living in homelessness.

"If this Council understood the depth of the housing crisis, surely they would work to ensure that plans for this site would at very least include a substantial number of social and affordable housing units.

The development proposal which will be put to Councillors for their approval earmarks four social units and not one affordable housing unit.

“This a significant state owned 2 acre site right in the heart of our capital city of enormous strategic importance and potential.

“Any notion that the State should sell this prime urban, public site reflects a deep lack of commitment from the State to regenerate this area and must be rejected.

“We must achieve a better outcome; One that respects and values the Magdalene women, the local community and its distinct history, and also the future strategic importance of this valuable site for Dublin Central.”

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