**Mother and Baby Homes Report**

**03.12.2020**

**Briefing note**

Minister Roderic O’Gorman has today (December 3rd) announced that the final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission will be published on the week of January 11th, subject to Cabinet agreement. This announcement was communicated directly to survivors earlier this morning.

Publication of this Report will be a landmark moment for the many thousands of former residents, their families and advocates, in particular those who directly contributed to the Commission’s work by sharing their deeply personal and lived experiences.

The Report is nearly 3,000 pages long with individual chapters for each of the institutions and specific issues which the Commission was tasked with examining.

**Why is the Government waiting until January?**

The Report makes a number of recommendations, which require detailed consideration in order for the Government to respond as substantively as possible. That work is ongoing between Government Departments, and is at an advanced stage.

Work is also underway across Government to ensure that supports are in place for survivors and their families for the report’s publication in January.

Over the last number of weeks, the Minister spoken to former residents and advocates, and there was a preference expressed that the Report not be published during the Christmas period.

By committing to publication within the week of January 11th, he is respecting that wish, while providing certainty to the many people who are awaiting this Report’s publication.

**How will the Report be published?**

Minister O’Gorman will bring forward a memo to Cabinet seeking approval to publish the Report.

Subject to Cabinet approval, the Minister and the Taoiseach will host a private, online briefing for survivors, at which they will outline the main findings of the Report.

Following this briefing, the full Report will be published online.

The Commission’s previously unpublished Sixth Interim Report will be published alongside the final Report.

Subsequent to publication, there will be time allotted in the Oireachtas to discuss the Report’s findings.

**When will the historic burials legislation be brought forward?**

This morning, Minister O’Gorman also announced his intention to bring a memo to Cabinet on the week of January 11th, seeking approval to proceed with the Certain Historic Burials (Authorised Interventions) Bill.

This will allow for exhumation and dignified reburial of the site at Tuam. Subject to Cabinet approval, this Bill will then be referred for pre-legislative scrutiny.

**What is the report going to say?**

At this point it is not possible, nor indeed appropriate, to share the detail of the report prior Government approval having been granted and without survivors having been the first to learn of the contents.

Time will be needed for survivors and for the public to go through and consider the report. It is detailed, extensive and covers many different institutions over a 75 year period. It is the product of five years of intense work.