

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**To survivors and former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions, their families and advocates,**

I want to update you today in relation to a number of actions which I have been prioritising over recent months. Most importantly, I want to let you know that I plan to bring two significant items to Government for approval next week.

The first of these developments is an **Action Plan for Survivors and Former Residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions**. This Action Plan is a framework to support implementation and oversight of the 22 commitments made by Government in response to the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in January 2021. The Plan takes account of the Commission's recommendations as well as the expressed needs and concerns of survivors, former residents and their families. While developing the Action Plan, and conscious of the need to move swiftly, we have also been working to progress priority actions. For each action, the plan will identify milestones and timelines, and set out progress to date and next steps.

The second development I intend to bring to Government is a detailed and costed proposal for a **Payment Scheme**. The Scheme will provide financial payments and a form of enhanced medical card to defined groups in acknowledgement of suffering experienced while resident in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions.

Once the details are approved by Government, all the relevant information and related documents will be shared directly with you by email and published on my Department's website.

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your ongoing patience during this process. The additional time needed to finalise Government's deliberations on these complex issues is regretted and I want to reassure you that this will not cause a delay in the scheme opening up to applications. My Department will continue the significant work already in progress to establish the Scheme and make it available for applications in 2022.

I look forward to further engaging with you in the coming weeks and months about these wide ranging measures. In the interim, feel free to contact my Department should you have any queries. Our Information Line can be contacted on 01-6473200 from Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5:30pm or by email at [motherandbabyhomes@equality.gov.ie](mailto:motherandbabyhomes@equality.gov.ie)

Best wishes,

Roderic O'Gorman TD  
Minister for Children, Equality, Disability Integration & Youth