



Oifig an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna
Office of the Minister for Education and Skills

Mr Joe Costello, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

17 June, 2011

Dear Joe,

Further to our meeting on 24th May, 2011 with representatives of the Bethany Survivor's Group, I have reviewed the papers provided by Mr Niall Meehan together with the papers held in my Department, in relation to Bethany Home.

Clearly, the representatives continue to be deeply affected by their experiences, even after all of these years. As promised at our meeting, I have had the papers on the matter reviewed and the material provided by Mr Niall Meehan examined.

The Group perceive that the exclusion of the Bethany Home from the redress scheme was on religious grounds, however the religious ethos of an institution was not a criterion for inclusion within the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme. While catholic religious orders ran the majority of specified institutions, others were either run by organisations having a protestant ethos or run on a non-denominational basis.

The research undertaken revealed that the Home was certified in 1945 as a place of detention under the Children Act, 1908. In this regard, the Department of Justice and Equality has advised that it has not received any allegations of abuse from any female committed to the Home pursuant to the 1908 Act and that it would be happy to deal with any such cases on an individual basis.

As you are aware, the inclusion of the Bethany Home was previously considered and not included within the Redress Scheme, on the basis that it

