



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

Adoption Services,  
Child and Family Agency,  
Merlin Park,  
Galway.

An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach,  
Páirc Mherlinne  
Gaillimh.

[Redacted]

28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Michael O' Flaherty

[Redacted]

Re: Tracing Enquiry – Ref.

[Redacted]

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your completed enquiry form. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your patience in waiting for an appointment. It is important that you notify us of any change of address or phone numbers so we can update your details. We certainly will do all we can to help when we are in a position to offer you an appointment with one of our social workers.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Staff Officer

Mr. Peter Dunne  
Ballymacward.

Bon Secours Hospital  
Tuam  
County Galway

Telephone 093.24176



Dec 24 1988

Dear Michael,  
Thank you for your letter. Unfortunately we have no  
Records. but more than likely you were baptised in  
Tuam. You could write to The Presbytery, Dublin Road,  
Tuam and they will help you.

Sorry I cannot help you further  
With best wishes. God bless you & yours

Sr. M. Teresa, M.A.B.M.

Michael, I have got in touch with Tuam Presbytery. They  
have no Records. Write to: Galway Co. Council. Births Certs.  
Department  
Galway.

Send them a stamped addressed envelope. & £3. Postal Order. They  
will send you your birth certificate. You may be baptised in KILLERIN  
TUAM. Write there.



Ospideal Cholaiste na hOllscoile Gaillimh.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, GALWAY, IRELAND.

Telephone

Fax.

4th November, 1998.

Mr. M. Flaherty,

**Re: Request for Medical Records**

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

Further to your letter dated 30th October, 1998 requesting your medical records, additional information is required in order to process your request.

Please describe the records in as much detail as possible, that is:

- your exact name and address at the time the record was created
- the hospital attended
- the dates of attendance at the hospital
- other details you consider appropriate to assist in locating your record

I enclose an Access to Information Application Form which you can use to furnish the above details, if you so wish.

Before access to personal information is given you must provide proof of identity.

As soon as you provide the above information your request will be processed.

Yours sincerely

SEO Services

2-11-98

Hello,  
My name is Ann Flaherty  
& I am married to Michael Flaherty  
first of all, we don't have your  
address & we have asked the  
Social Worker to send this letter  
to you on our behalf, if you will  
to keep this matter a secret between  
ourselves then this is O.K.

Michael & I.  
married in 1975, & we have 2 children  
a girl Emer 21 next month & David  
aged 17 years. Michael spent 26 years  
in the Army, he has now retired  
& works part-time in the local Police  
Station, he also is a S.P.A. Referee  
& is kept quite busy.

This is just a brief outline of our family  
& perhaps when you read it you  
can see your way to ~~contacting~~ writing

to us, please be assured we ~~are~~ are  
not trying to cause trouble, Michael  
would just like to have some  
contact with you; we are not looking  
for anything ~~from~~ from you except recognition.

- Michael Flaherty

D. O. B. [REDACTED]

- Place of Birth: Tuam Home.

Discharged on [REDACTED] 12/48.

- Mother.

Patricia Flaherty

- Admitted to Tuam Home on  
[REDACTED] 12/1948.

Age 20 yrs.

Address of Next of Kin, grandfather  
Michael Flaherty  
Ballina  
Ballygheeran

Discharged from Tuam Home on [REDACTED] 12/1949.

Details of Birth

Time of Birth: ~~7th~~ 8PM

Birth weight: 7lbs 10ozs.

Full term

Normal Delivery -

First Pregnancy.

Details of Foster Care

Transferred from Team Home  
on [REDACTED] 11/1953 to

Mrs Kate Mc Gann  
Clough fifteen.

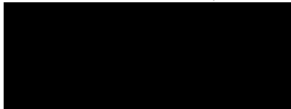


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An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach,  
Páirc Mherlinne  
Gaillimh.

20<sup>th</sup> February 2018


Michael Flaherty,  


Dear Michael,

Further to our telephone conversation last week I am writing to you to give you some information about your health from your boarded out file as you requested.

It appears you had a hospital admission when you were one day old on the /02/1948 for a hernia operation. You were readmitted to Galway Regional Hospital before your first birthday for treatment of the same issue. There is a note on your file saying you had a hernia operation also in November 1961.

Apart from this you are described in notes as having had generally good health. There is a note that you missed school in June 1960 due to ear and neck pain. There are a few mentions that you had enuresis during your childhood. The last mention of a health issue is that you attended a doctor on the 13/01/1965 for abdominal pain.

I hope this information is useful for you Michael. If you would like to contact me to discuss this further please contact me at 

Yours Sincerely,

  
Social Work Team Leader





Bord Sláinte an Iarthair  
**Western  
Health Board**



Your Ref. :

Our Ref. :

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Child Care Unit,  
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,  
Galway,  
Ireland.

18th September, 1998

Mr. Michael Flaherty,  
[Redacted Address]

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

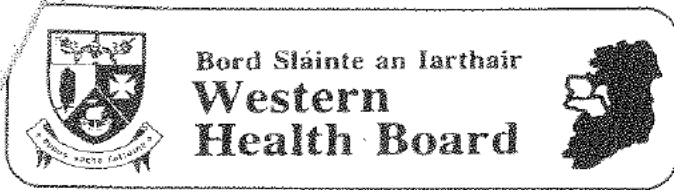
I am writing to you in connection with your tracing request. I gathered from our phone conversation on 14th September, 1998 you do not seem happy with the progress I have made to date. The following is an outline of what I have covered so far.

I met with you and your wife for the first time on 4th August, 1998 at my office in the Child Care Unit, Merlin Park, Galway. During that interview I gave you a written account of the details I ascertained covering your early childhood from the records of the Tuam Home. I indicated during that interview that I would do my best to locate your birth mother but it may take some time. There is normally a waiting list for persons interested in tracing their birth parents, but because your wife told me on the phone that you would only be in Galway for a short time I agreed to meet with you on the 4th August, 1998.

After our meeting I contacted Fr. Waldron, fortunately I got an address for your birth mother on 11th August, 1998. I wrote to your birth mother on 14th August, 1998. She has not replied to my letter. I have written again today.

With regard to meeting with you in Dublin. During our meeting on 4th August, I told you I would meet with you when I am next in Dublin. As I do not know when I will be in Dublin again it might be more appropriate for you to come to Galway to meet me. Please contact me at the above number if you wish to make an appointment.

With regard to your medical details, I have checked through your file.



There are reports on the file that you were in hospital for a hernia operation in November/December 1961. It maybe useful for you to write to the Social Work Department, University College Hospital, Galway requesting details of your admissions to hospital. They should be able to furnish you with exact dates and reasons for admission to the hospital.

I will contact you as soon as I hear from your birth mother.

Yours sincerely,

Social Worker.

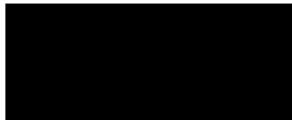


Ospideal Cholaiste na hOllscoile Gaillimh,  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, GALWAY, IRELAND.



1st December, 1998.

Mr. M. Flaherty,




**Re: Request for Medical Records**

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 for records held by this Board.

I enclose the schedule giving you a summary of the review rights under the Act which was omitted from the acknowledgement letter dated 25-11-'98.

Your request is currently being processed and you should receive a final decision regarding your request by 10-12-'98.

If you have any questions or concerns about your request please contact Mr.   
SEO Services.

Yours sincerely,



A/General Manager.

**Freedom of Information Act 1997**  
Summary of Review Rights under the Act

**You are entitled to a review of the Health Board's response to your FOI request.**

For example, where the Health Board decides to-

- ♦ Refuses your FOI request
- ♦ Exclude all or part of particular records
- ♦ Give access in a form other than as you request
- ♦ Charge a fee or deposit

The Act gives you the right to seek a review of such decisions and actions.

**Reasons for Decisions**

If you sought access to reasons for a decision by a Public Body, you are also entitled to a review of the response to that request if you are dissatisfied with the records received.

**Decision on FOI Request**

A final decision on your request will normally be sent to you within four weeks of its receipt. Where it is necessary to seek deposits or to consult third parties, this deadline is extended appropriately. If you have not received a decision within the allotted time, you are automatically entitled to ask the Health Board for a review of the matter.

**Internal Appeal**

If you are unhappy with the decision or response to your FOI request and wish to seek a review, you can do so by writing to the Internal Reviewer, Dr. Sean Conroy, Regional Manager Corporate Affairs, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.

You should state:

- ♦ The details of your initial request,
- ♦ What decision or action you wish to have reviewed, and
- ♦ The reasons why you believe our response have been inadequate.

You will normally have 4 weeks to appeal but in appropriate circumstances late appeals will be allowed.

**The review is a full and new consideration of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff than the nominated FOI Decision Maker of the Health Board.**

**External Appeal**

Where you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review you can make a further appeal to the:

**Information Commissioner, 18, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.**



Ospideal Cholaiste na hOllscoile Gaillimh.  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, GALWAY, IRELAND.

14th December, 1998.

Mr. M. Flaherty,  
[REDACTED]

**Re: Request for Medical Records**

Dear Mr. Flaherty,

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 for records held by this Board.

Following an extensive search of medical records store areas no records relating to your request were found. The records you are seeking date back to the 1950's, during our search no records for this period were found.

Having spoken with [REDACTED], Social Worker, Child Care Unit, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway, there are no details of your medical history, on your record, in the Child Care Unit.

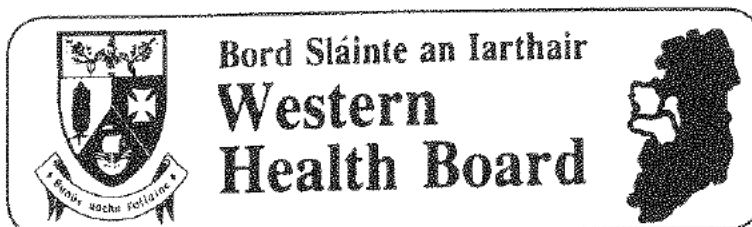
[REDACTED] stated that the information she gave you earlier this year is all that is in your record, in her department.

Under the terms of the Act the Western Health Board is required to advise you of your right of review and I attach hereto a schedule which gives you a summary of the review rights under the Act.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
A/General Manager.

Arbhisí Curam Phobail,  
25 Bothar Caislean Nua,  
Gaillimh.



Community Care Services,  
25 Newcastle Road,  
Galway.

Do Thag  
Your Ref.:

Mó Thag  
Our Ref.:

01 December 1999

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Mr. Michael O'Flaherty,  
[REDACTED]

**Re: Freedom of Information Act, 1997.**

Dear Mr. O'Flaherty

I am writing with reference to your application under the Freedom of Information Act, 1997 for records held by this Board. Your request dated 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1999 was received by this office on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1999.

I am responsible for making the decision regarding access to the information you have requested and may be contacted by telephone at [REDACTED] should you have any questions or concerns. The final decision will normally be sent to you within 4 weeks of receipt of your request. This means that you can expect to receive our decision by 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1999.

In certain circumstances, under the Freedom of Information Act, a final decision may take longer than four weeks. Should this be indicated in relation to your request, I will promptly advise you in writing. Should my decision not reach you on time, please feel free to telephone me to discuss any difficulties.

*Yours sincerely,*

[REDACTED]  
**General Manager,**