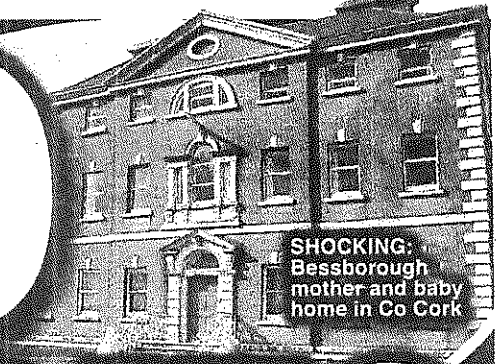


HSE SCANDAL EXCLUSIVE

NUNS SOLD 'DEAD' BABIES TO AMERICA

Report on TWO homes 'ignored by government'



SHOCKING:
Bessborough
mother and baby
home in Co Cork



By Patricia
DEVLIN

NUNS falsified the deaths of Irish babies before selling them to parents in the USA, *The Irish Daily Star* can reveal.

But the shocking HSE report into two mother and baby homes is being "ignored" by the Government, according to former HSE chief Phil Garland (inset).



■ SEE PAGES 4&5

FORMER HSE CHIEF LIFTS



EXCLUSIVE

■ Patricia **DEVLIN**
Special investigation

A SHOCKING report that found nuns working in mother and baby homes falsified infant deaths before selling the babies in the US was ignored by the Government, a former HSE chief has claimed.

Former HSE Children and Family Services assistant director Phil Garland says the explosive 2012 report was passed to then Minister for Children Frances Fitzgerald and Health Minister James Reilly — but despite recommendations for a State inquiry, no action appears to have been taken.

Breaking his silence for the first time on the reports he helped compile, Mr Garland told *The Star*: "The HSE and the Government weren't interested. And they still aren't."

Cash

The sensational "draft reports" surround both Bessborough institution in Co Cork and Sacred Heart Mother and Baby facility in Tuam, Co Galway and reveal claims that:

- * Irish parents were told their babies were dead before the tots were sold to desperate American couples for cash;

- * **The Church was defrauding the Government, women and adoptive parents of cash;**

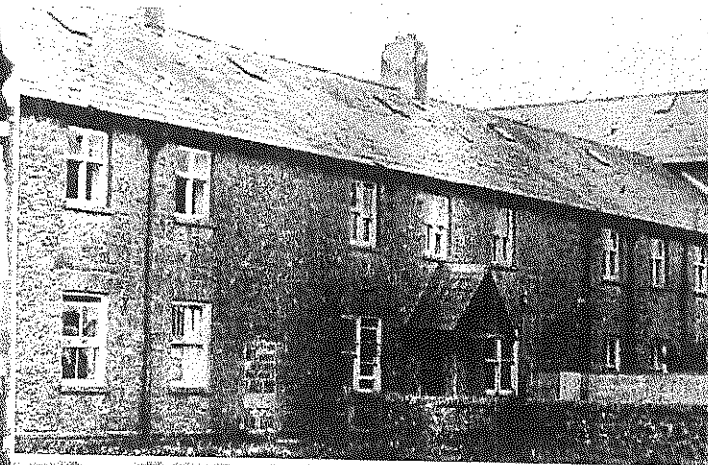
- * Doctors, social workers and workers who helped 'traffic' children are still employed in HSE;

- * Bishops sent written requests for babies to be made available for adoption;

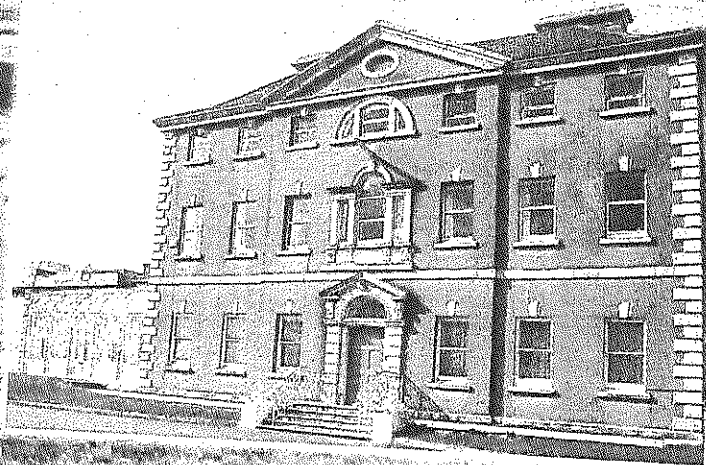
- * **Over 1,000 records were unearthed by civil servants, including letters and photographs;**

- * HSE chiefs believe actions uncovered "could be criminal".

Speaking to *The Star* this week, Mr Garland said: "I know this information went to the very top of the HSE and to the then Minister for Children and Youth Affairs."



PROBE: Tuam Mothers and Babies Home in Co Galway and (below) Bessborough in Co Cork are subject of Commission of Investigation



EMAIL: Dr Davida De La Harpe



EARLY WARNING: Philip Crowley

**BABIES WERE
FALSELY DECLARED AS
DEAD AND FLOGGED TO
WEALTHY AMERICANS
DEPARTMENTS DENY
MINISTERS WERE TOLD**

* Doctors, social workers and workers who helped 'traffic' children are still employed in HSE;

* Bishops sent written requests for babies to be made available for adoption;

* Over 1,000 records were unearthed by civil servants, including letters and photographs;

* HSE chiefs believe actions uncovered "could be criminal".

Speaking to *The Star* this week, Mr Garland said: "I know this information went to the very top of the HSE and to the then Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald. The departments and the Minister just weren't interested."

"We wanted this to go much, much further. It didn't and I don't know why."

The allegations transpired after the discovery of a "large archive" of files by a HSE worker in Co Galway in 2012.

Health chiefs were immediately notified how the records, which included photographs and documentation, pointed to possible criminal activity operating in institutions during the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

Concerns

The evidence uncovered was so strong it led HSE Chief Dr Declan McKeown to warn: "This may prove to be a scandal that dwarfs other(s)."

Two "draft" reports on "deep concerns" were then written by the then Consultant Public Health Physician.

They included recommendations for a State inquiry to then Health Minister James Reilly.

The documents include an email sent on October 12, 2012, by Dr McKeown to Mr Garland and another HSE colleague.

A social worker trying to "piece together" the information, which included photographs and documents, had collated a database of "up to 1,000 names".

He added he would draft an "early warning" letter for the attention of Philip Crowley, the HSE's National Director Quality Improvement, "suggesting that this goes all the way up to the Minister".

The email goes on: "This may prove to be a scandal that dwarfs other, more recent issues with the Church and State, because of the very emotive sensitivities around adoption of babies, with or without the will of the mother."

"A concern is that, if there is evi-

dence of trafficking babies, that it must have been facilitated by doctors, social workers, etc. And a number of these health professionals may still be working in the system.

"It is important to send this up to the Minister as soon

as possible: With a view to an inter-departmental committee and a fully fledged, fully resourced forensic investigation and state inquiry."

On the same day a more detailed account of the concerns raised in the records was again sent via email to HSE Assistant National Director Dr Davida De La Harpe and Mr Garland.

In this paper, labelled "strictly confidential", Dr McKeown said that there were serious concerns surrounding the infant mortality rate in

the Co Cork home.

Death records over a 19-year period showed that a quarter of all babies born at the institution were recorded as having died within the first 12 months of their life.

'Parents were charged with the upkeep of their children but it appears now that adoptive parents were also charged for the upkeep of the same baby'

However, Dr McKeown said evidence was pointing to the belief that until the introduction of adoption legislation in 1950, nuns in Bessborough were falsely recording baby deaths.

**WEALTHY AMERICANS
DEPARTMENTS DENY
MINISTERS WERE TOLD**

Nuns stole and but Government

"It has been mooted that this combination of evidence may point to babies being identified for adoption, principally to the USA, but has been recorded as infant deaths in Ireland and notified to the parents accordingly."

"This would have been possible before the introduction of adoption legislation. However, it will take a more detailed study of practices and the accounting in Bessborough before this theory is proven or disproven."

The documents also touched upon evidence of similar — and more serious — practices taking place in Tuam.

"In common with Bessborough there is some evidence of coercion in that women were forced to stay in the home with their babies until well past the point that they were fit for

discharge.

"During this time parents were charged with the upkeep of their children but it appears now that adoptive parents were also charged for the upkeep of the same baby."

"Babies were offered for adoption from the Bessborough and Tuam homes at up to three years of age. The trauma involved in this is revealed in an archive of photographs of children who were sent for adoption to the USA."

Safety

It concluded: "In both of these cases, there are issues of concern in relation to historic patient safety, medical care, accounting irregularities and possible interference with birth and death certification which requires further investigation."

"Children, if not the mothers who passed through these systems, are likely to still be alive and at the very least any knowledge of their histories should be fully investigated and made

First Page.

Superintendent Registrar's District of Ballina

05698885

Marriage
No. 25
Registered
by me, this
12th
day of
April
1905

J. M. F.
Sp. Registrar.

1904 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina in the Registrar's District of Ballina
in the Union of Ballina in the County of Mayo

No. (1.)	When Married (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Age (4.)	Condition (5.)	Rank or Profession (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7.)	Father's Name and Surname (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father (9.)
25	25 th February 1904	Owen Gallagher	22	Bachelor	Farmer	Bachs Ballina	San Gallagher	Farmer
		Bridget Connor	h.	Spinster	-	Ballina	M ^{rs} Connor	Shoemaker

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us Owen Gallagher in the Presence of us, William Robinson and Katie Kelly
Bridget Connor

Marriage
No. 26
Registered
by me, this
13th
day of
April
1905

J. M. F.
Sp. Registrar.

1904 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina in the Registrar's District of Ballina
in the Union of Ballina in the County of Mayo

No. (1.)	When Married (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Age (4.)	Condition (5.)	Rank or Profession (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7.)	Father's Name and Surname (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father (9.)
26	28 th February 1904	Pat. Gaffney	22	Bachelor	Fiddler	Ballina	Ellis Gaffney	Fiddler
		Susan Murphy	-	Spinster	-	Ballina	Pat. Murphy	Sp.

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us Pat. Gaffney in the Presence of us, Michael x Murphy and Ellen x Murray
Susan x Murphy J. Keany

Marriage
No. 27
Registered
by me, this
14th
day of
April
1905

J. M. F.
Sp. Registrar.

1904 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina in the Registrar's District of Ballina
in the Union of Ballina in the County of Mayo

No. (1.)	When Married (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Age (4.)	Condition (5.)	Rank or Profession (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7.)	Father's Name and Surname (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father (9.)
27	1 st March 1904	James Smith	Full	Bachelor	Farmer	Breahty Ballina	John Smith	Farmer
		Mary Ruane	-	Spinster	-	do.	M ^{rs} Ruane	do.

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us James Smith in the Presence of us, Pat. x Ruane and Ellen Naughton
Mary x Ruane Witness J. Keany

Marriage
No. 28
Registered
by me, this
12th
day of
April
1905

J. M. F.
Sp. Registrar.

1904 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina in the Registrar's District of Ballina
in the Union of Ballina in the County of Mayo

No. (1.)	When Married (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Age (4.)	Condition (5.)	Rank or Profession (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7.)	Father's Name and Surname (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father (9.)
28	15 th March 1904	Thomas Smyth	Full	Bachelor	Farmer	Ballymurray	M ^{rs} Smith	Farmer
		Bridget Connell	Full	Spinster	-	Clonagan	Red Connell	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Ballina according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us Thomas x Smyth in the Presence of us, Samuel Kennedy and Bridget Kennedy
Bridget Connell

Sara
Winifreds
Parents

I, John Boyd Deputy Registrar of Marriages, in the District of Ballina in the County of Mayo, do hereby Certify, That this is a true copy of the Registrar's Book of Marriages within the said District from the Entry of the Marriage of Owen Gallagher and Bridget Connor Number 25, to the Entry of the Marriage of Thomas Smyth and Bridget Connell Number 28.
Witness my hand, this 28 day of August 1907
I have examined the above, and have compared it with the said original Registrar's Book, and hereby certify that it is a true copy.
Witness my hand, this 21 day of November 1907
J. M. F. Superintendent Registrar.

* Should the copy be certified by the Deputy Registrar & Deputy Superintendent Registrar jointly, insert "we" for "I".

* Deputy.

*PATRICK HUGHES MARRIED ELEANOR BROGAN

JOHN USA
CATHERINE 1861
MARY 1868
JAMES 1869
BRIDGET
ELLEN 1876

MARRIED
JAMES
KELLY

BRIDGET HUGHES
MARRIED
JOHN GROARK
(OR O'ROURK)

DAUGHTER
MARY GROARK
MARRIED
JAMES FERGUSON

male MARRIED Margaret Pearce
female MARRIED James Hennigan
Mary
John
Thomas
THEIR DAUGHTER
BRIDGET FERGUS
MARRIED
HUGH A. SHEERIN

SON
JOHN
SHEERIN

JOHN HUGHES MARRIED BRIDGET BROGAN

MARY BORN 1858
BRIDGET 1861
EDWARD 1866
ELLEN 1871
JOHN 1865

MARRIED
PATRICK
LAFFEY

MARRIED
MICHAEL
MCGUINNESS

unwed

MARRIED
ANNIE O'DONNELL
LIVED LANCASHIRE

HAD LARGE FAMILY.

EDWARD HUGHES
MARRIED
BRIDGET
HENNIGAN

ANNIE
KATE ELIZA
BRIDGET TERESA
JOHN
EDWARD
MARRIED MARY GARRETT
7 in Family
Living
ATTY MASS

MARRIED
THOMAS
FLANAGAN
1932
LIVED
Ballymore

MARRIED
MURPHY
(MICHAEL)

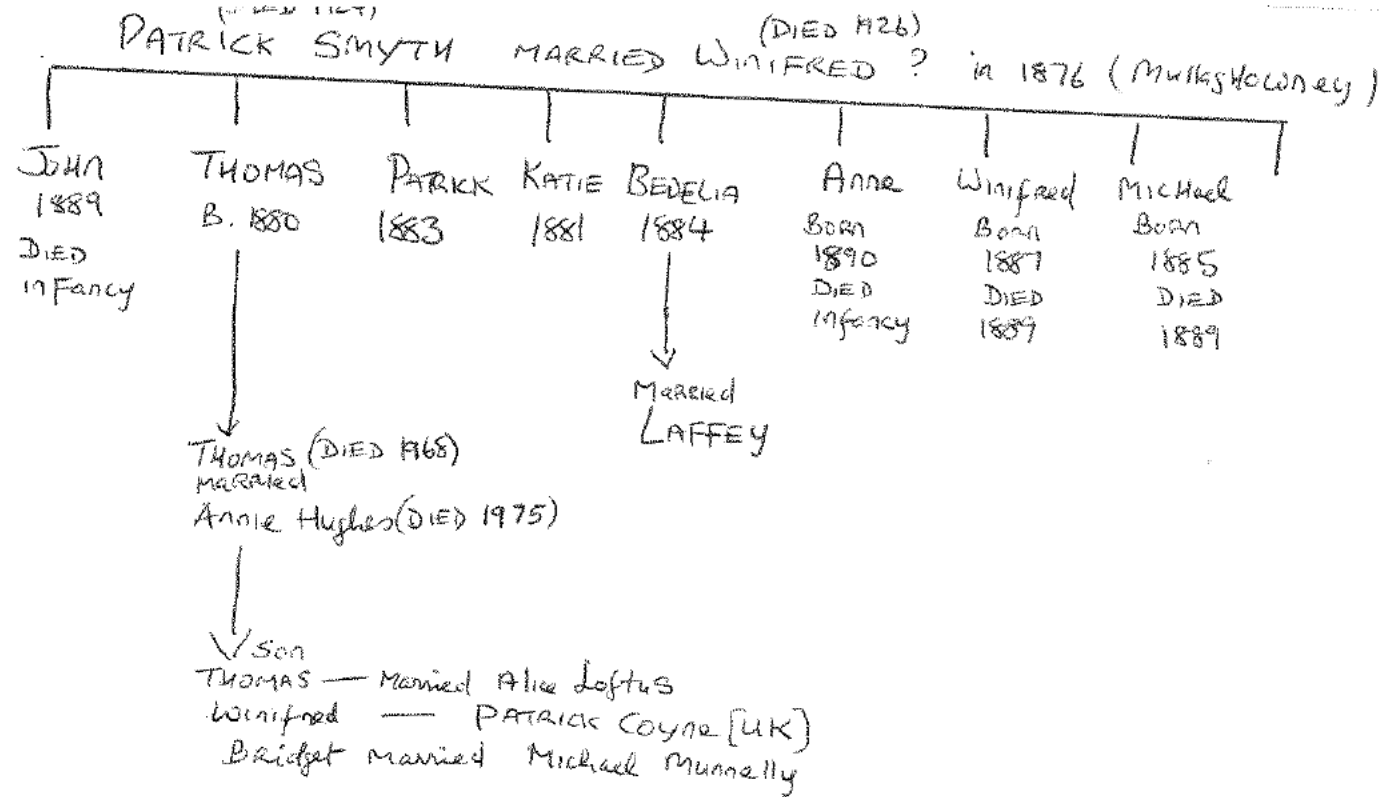
MARRIED
CATHERINE
CONNELL
in 1923

ANNIE HUGHES
MARRIED
THOMAS
SMYTH
in 1919

5 in family
Shop in
Ballymore

PATRICK
+ EDWARD
BORN
BURNLEY
LANCASHIRE
UK

DAUGHTER
WINIFRED
SMYTH
BORN 1930
CARMEL
SMYTH
LARKIN
THOMAS BORN 1923
MARRIED
AUCIE
LOFTUS
(NO FAMILY)
BRIDGET STILL BORN 1928
Living Ballina
(KILFAN)
MARRIED
MICHAEL
MURPHY



NB

THESE ARE
BURIED IN
BONNINGGLASS
CEMETERY
and HEADSTONES
ARE ONLINE

LIBER BAPTIZATORUM.

Notae Numeri.	Anno Domini 1898		Natus		Ex parentibus legitime Matrimonio junctis.	Habitantes in.
	Baptizatus Nomen	Cognomen	Die	Mensis	Notitia Parentum	Domicilium
illegitimate	404 Eugene	Blasius	5	Januarii	Mrs. A. Blake	Garden Street
405	Katharine	Smyth	5	"	James Smyth Anna Gallagher	Ballymunney
406	Shirley	McDonn	7	"	James McDonn James McBrane	Knox St.
407	Philip	Jacobus	10	"	Philip James Anna Higgins	Clare St.
408	Augusta	Smyth	5	"	Thomas Smyth Catherine Smyth	Will St.
409	James	Hudson	18	"	Thomas Hudson Cecilia Hayes	Leinster
410	James	Hudson	18	"	Thomas Hudson Cecilia Hayes	Leinster
411	Patritius	Smyth	19	"	Thomas Smyth Cecilia Hayes	Ballymunney
412	Augusta	McDonn	20	"	James McDonn James McBrane	Knox St.
413	Christina	McDonn	5	"	James McDonn James McBrane	Knox St.
414	Augusta	Egan	25	"	James Egan Anna Harrison	Quigley St.
415	Michael	Jacobus	28	"	Michael Jacobus Catherine Jacobus	Garden St.
416	Augusta	Hayes	30	"	Patritius Hayes Anna Hayes	Sp. Hill St.
417	Thomas	Hayes	26	"	Thomas Hayes Anna Hayes	Sp. Hill St.
418	Concepcion	McDonn	27	"	James McDonn James McBrane	Knox St.
419	John	Slattery	3	"	John Slattery Anna Slattery	Sp. Hill St.

← BROTHER
OF
SARA Winifred



From the Office of Older Person Services Mayo / Roscommon
Community Healthcare West
St. Mary's Headquarters,
Castlebar,
Co. Mayo.

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



29 October 2019

Private & Confidential

Ms Carmel Larkin



Re: Request for Access to Records of Winifred Smyth, deceased
Late of Breaffy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Dear Ms Larkin

I acknowledge receipt of copy of your baptism certificate and public services card as proof of identity in your request to access your late mothers, Winifred Smyth records held in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar, Co Mayo.

The following information highlighted in bold is also required in order to process your request:

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Section 37(8)(b) and Statutory Regulation SI No.218/2016, deal with the administration of requests for the release of the personal records of deceased persons. The Regulations provide that notwithstanding Section 37(8)(b), a request in relation to personal records of a deceased individual may be granted where:-

(a) the requester belongs to one of the following classes:

- (i) a personal representative of the (deceased) individual acting in due course of administration of the individual's estate or any person acting with the consent of a personal representative so acting,
- (ii) a person on whom a function is conferred by law in relation to the individual or his or her estate acting in the course of the performance of the function, or

(b) the requester is the spouse or the next of kin of the individual and, in the opinion of the head, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest, including the public interest in the confidentiality of personal information, would on balance be better served by granting than by refusing to grant the request.

The Regulation defines the next of kin as

- (a) issue,

- (b) parent,
- (c) brother or sister
- (d) a niece or nephew, or
- (e) any other person standing nearest in blood relationship to the individual in accordance with section 71(2) of the Succession Act, 1965.

I would be grateful if you would clarify under which of the above classes you are applying for access to the late Ms Winifred Smyth's records.

If you are applying under class (a) (i) above, you should provide the **original or Probate office copy of the Grant of Probate** or Administration and evidence of identity to confirm that you are the person named in the Grant or written consent that you are acting on behalf of the personal representative.

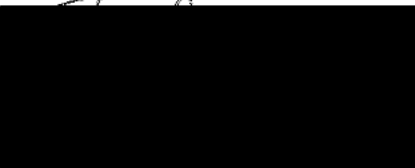
If you are applying under class (a) (ii) above, you should provide the **official copy of the court order** where applicable, evidence of identity to confirm that you are the person appointed by the court order or authorised by the Statute.

If you are applying under class (b), spouse or next of kin, please provide an affidavit stating the **relationship to the deceased up to the date of her death and exhibiting the necessary State Death Certificate**. I would also be obliged if you would inform me of any **public interest factors** you wish me to consider that may be in favour of releasing the records to you.

I also request **clarification as to the purpose for which the records are required** so that I can determine if the request comes within the scope of the Regulations.

Once I receive this information, I will process your request.

Yours sincerely,




Mayo Roscommon



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

From the Office of Older Person Services Mayo / Roscommon
Community Healthcare West
St. Mary's Headquarters,
Castlebar,
Co. Mayo.

 (094) 9042437/9042436
ext 2437 / 2436

30 September 2019

Private & Confidential

Ms Carmel Larkin
13 Cricket Court
Dunmore
Tuam
Co Galway

Re: Request for Access to Records of Winifred Smyth, deceased
Late of Breaffy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Dear Ms Larkin

I refer to your letter dated 10 September 2019 addressed to me, wherein you request access on to your late mothers, Winifred Smyth records held in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar, Co Mayo. Your correspondence will be processed under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 as it relates to the records of a deceased person.

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (Section 37(8)(b) and Statutory Regulation SI No.218/2016, deal with the administration of requests for the release of the personal records of deceased persons. The Regulations provide that notwithstanding Section 37(8)(b), a request in relation to personal records of a deceased individual may be granted where:-

(a) the requester belongs to one of the following classes:

- (i) a personal representative of the (deceased) individual acting in due course of administration of the individual's estate or any person acting with the consent of a personal representative so acting,
- (ii) a person on whom a function is conferred by law in relation to the individual or his or her estate acting in the course of the performance of the function, or

(b) the requester is the spouse or the next of kin of the individual and, in the opinion of the head, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest, including the public interest in the confidentiality of personal information, would on balance be better served by granting than by refusing to grant the request.

The Regulation defines the next of kin as

- (a) issue,
- (b) parent,

Dear Minister Zappone

I had a meeting with Colette Daley and Ann to be told my file is now closed.

The information they gave me make it no easier for me to get closer on my mother.

They gave me two places she is buried with no proof, what I found very upsetting that I still not able to place some flowers on her grave.

Thanking you

Carmel Larkin

Details Taken from the Tuam Home Register:

Register 61

Winifred Carmel Smith

DOB [REDACTED] Born in tuam Home

Discharged [REDACTED]

Mother:

Mother in Home- aged 38 years

Occupation: Housework

Discharged [REDACTED]

Register 63

Winifred Smith

BM Admitted to Tuam Home [REDACTED]

Mother in this home [REDACTED]

Register 33

Winifred Smith BM admitted [REDACTED]

Maternity Register

Page 14

BM Winifred Smith

Ballina [REDACTED]

Forceps Delivery on [REDACTED] at 8pm

Baby delivered by doctor

Female- Full term weighing 7lbs

Date Discharged [REDACTED]

Normal State of Health on discharge with BM

Adoption & Tracing

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON

(78) D 21904-2-600-2/22 A.T.A.Co., Ltd. Sch. 17A. G 701

(78) D 21904-2-600-2/22 A.T.A.Co., Ltd. Sch. 17A. G 701

Tuam Home Register Entries

Winifred	Maternity Book 4 Winifred Smyth [REDACTED] Discharged [REDACTED] with mother
Winifred	Indoor Admission & Discharge Book 8 Winifred Smyth [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Winifred Carmel	Admission Book 9 [REDACTED]
Winifred	Admission [REDACTED] Winifred Smith [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Winifred Carmel	Admission [REDACTED] Smith, Winifred Carmel [REDACTED]
Winifred	Admission & Discharge Book 8 [REDACTED] Winifred Smyth [REDACTED]
Winifred Carmel	Admission & Discharge Book 8 [REDACTED] Winifred Carmel [REDACTED] Boarded Out
Winifred	½ Yearly Mother's Returns [REDACTED] Winifred Smith [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Winifred	½ Yearly Mother's Returns [REDACTED] Winifred Smyth [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Winifred	C3 Monthly Returns Children [REDACTED] Winifred Carmel Smith [REDACTED] Boarded Out
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns [REDACTED] Winifred Carmel Smith, [REDACTED]

Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel	
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel,	
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel,	
	Mother discharged	
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel,	
		(wrong age)
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel,	
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel,	
Winifred Carmel	½ Yearly Children's Returns	
	Winifred Carmel,	



Diocese of Killala

Certificate of Baptism

Parish of Kilmoremoy

It appears from the register of Baptisms of the above parish that

Winifred Carmel Smith

Son/daughter of

Winifred Smith BREAFFY

was born on the [redacted] day of [redacted] [redacted]

and was baptised according to the rite of the Catholic Church

on the [redacted] day of [redacted] [redacted]

the sponsors being

[redacted]

by the Rev. [redacted]

Record

of

Confirmation

Record of Marriage

Given this [redacted] day of [redacted] 20 17

Parish Priest,
Parish Office, The Pastoral Centre,
Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Signed: [redacted]

Stamp