



**An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige**
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

Questions and Answers

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The Scheme

What is the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme?

The Government has approved proposals for the design of a Scheme, to be known as the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme. It has also approved the drafting of legislation to establish the Scheme.

Why is this Scheme being introduced?

This Scheme is a key commitment in the Government's response to the Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes on 12 January 2021.

The Government agreed that a Scheme should be established which would include a financial payment and a form of enhanced medical card.

How was the Scheme developed?

The Government asked an Interdepartmental Group (IDG) to develop proposals for this Scheme. The IDG was instructed to take account of the recommendations of the Commission of Investigation but was not limited to these recommendations.

To assist the IDG in developing proposals for the Scheme, a national and international public consultation process took place and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), at the request of the Minister for Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth, also provided an advisory paper to the Group.

The Government considered the IDG's report, the views of survivors as set out in the consultation report and the advice from IHREC before agreeing a Scheme which will see an estimated 34,000 people qualifying for financial payments and 19,000 people benefiting from an enhanced medical card.

You can access copies of the IDG Report and the Consultation Report on the Department's website [here](#). The IHREC Advisory Paper is available on their website at www.ihrec.ie.

How much will the Scheme cost and how will this be funded?

The State will fund the Scheme and it is estimated that it will cost approximately €800 million. The Government intends to seek contributions towards the cost of the Scheme from the religious congregations who were involved in operating the institutions.

What's included in the Scheme and who is eligible

The Scheme will include financial payments and a form of enhanced medical card.

What are the financial payments?

There are two types of financial payment:

- A **general payment** to recognise time spent in the institution, harsh conditions, emotional abuse and other forms of mistreatment, stigma and trauma experienced while resident in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution.
- A **work-related payment** (where relevant).

Who will be eligible for a general payment?

You will be eligible for a general payment if you were either:

- a) A pregnant or unmarried mother who was resident in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution for any period of time, including when you were under 18 years of age at the time of being pregnant.
- b) A person who was resident as a child in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution for a period of six months or more (please see footnote¹.)

Who will be eligible for a work-related payment?

You may be eligible for a work-related payment if you were a:

- a) pregnant or unmarried mother who was resident in a County Home Institution for more than three months,
- b) pregnant or unmarried mother who was resident in Tuam Mother and Baby Home, for more than three months,
- c) pregnant or unmarried mother who was required to undertake 'commercial' work without pay outside the grounds or setting of a Mother and Baby Home Institution while resident there for more than three months.

¹ St. Patrick's / Pelletstown is covered under this planned Scheme and was also covered in the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme. A person who already received a payment in respect of their experience at St Patrick's / Pelletstown under the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme (RIRS) will not be able to apply for a payment in respect of the same experience under this Scheme. However, no person will be excluded from applying from this Scheme on the basis that they received a payment under the RIRS in respect of their experience in another institution. For example, a person who received redress for experiences in an industrial school, can apply to this Scheme for a payment in respect of their time spent in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution. Similarly, a person who received redress for experiences in St. Patrick's / Pelletstown as a child, can apply to this Scheme for a payment in respect of their time spent in that institution as a mother or in another Mother and Baby or County Home Institution.

What are the payment rates for the general and work-related payments?

The level of the financial payment will depend on the amount of time spent in one of the institutions. It is intended that your payment will be calculated using the awards levels below.

Time Spent in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution	General Payment for mothers and children	Work Payment (for mothers who qualify only)	Total Amount if qualifying for general payment and work payment
	(€)	(€)	(€)
Less than 3 months (mothers only)	5,000	0	5,000
Between 3 and 6 months (mothers only)	10,000	1,500	11,500
Between 6 months and 1 Year	12,500	3,000	15,500
1 - 2 Years	15,000	6,000	21,000
2 – 3 Years	20,000	12,000	32,000
3 - 4 Years	25,000	18,000	43,000
4 – 5 Years	30,000	24,000	54,000
5 – 6 Years	40,000	30,000	70,000
6 – 7 Years	45,000	36,000	81,000
7 – 8 Years	50,000	42,000	92,000
8 – 9 Years	55,000	48,000	103,000
9 – 10 Years	60,000	54,000	114,000
10 Years + (MAX)	65,000	60,000	125,000

Who will be eligible for an enhanced medical card?

You will be eligible for an enhanced medical card if you were resident in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution for six months or more.

What services will be available through the enhanced medical card?

The enhanced medical card will involve the provision without charge of the following primary and community health services:

- GP services;
- prescribed drugs, medicines, aids and appliances;
- dental, ophthalmic and aural services;
- home nursing;
- home support;
- chiropody/podiatry; and
- physiotherapy.

As well as the above health services, eligibility for a form of enhanced medical card also entails the following benefits:

- Cardholders are not be required to pay (i) the €100 Emergency Department statutory charge or (ii) the €80 public hospital statutory charge.

Finally in respect of all recipients of a financial payment under the Scheme:

- the ex-gratia payment received from the State will not be included in the assessment of means for a medical card or a GP visit card;
- the ex-gratia payment received from the State will not be included in the assessment of means under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009, also known as the *Fair Deal* scheme.

It is important to note that counselling services are already available to all survivors and former residents, free of charge, through the National Counselling Service.

What Institutions will be covered by this Scheme?

This Scheme will cover the Mother and Baby Institutions investigated by the Commission of Investigation and all County Home Institutions (listed below).

Mother and Baby Home Institutions

- St Patrick's / Pelletstown, Navan Road, Dublin 7
- The Tuam Children's Home, Tuam, Co. Galway
- Bessborough Mother and Baby Home, Cork
- Manor House Castlepollard
- Sean Ross Abbey
- Árd Mhuire Dunboyne
- Bethany Home, Dublin
- Denny House, Dublin
- Miss Carr's Flatlets, Dublin
- The Regina Coeli Hostel, Dublin
- The Castle Newtowncunningham, Co. Donegal
- The County Clare Nursery, Kilrush, Co. Clare
- Belmont Flatlets, Dublin
- St. Gerard's, Dublin

County Home Institutions

- Sacred Heart Home and Hospital, Carlow
- St. Felim's County Home and Hospital, Cavan
- St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis, Co Clare
- Cork County Home and District St. Finbarr's, Cork City
- Our Lady of Lourdes Home, Midleton, Co Cork
- Mount Carmel Home, Clonakilty, Co Cork
- St. Patrick's Hospital, Fermoy, Co Cork
- St. Joseph's Home, Stranorlar, Co Donegal
- St Kevin's Institution (Initially the Dublin Union)
- St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, Co Galway
- St. Columbanus Home, Killarney, Co Kerry
- St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co Kildare
- St. Columba's County Home, Thomastown, Co Kilkenny

- St. Vincent's Hospital, Mountmellick, Co Laois
- St. Patrick's Home, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim
- St. Ita's Home, Newcastlewest, Co Limerick
- St. Camillus Hospital, Limerick
- St. Joseph's Hospital, Longford
- Sacred Heart Home, Castlebar, Co Mayo
- St. Joseph's Home, Trim, Co Meath
- St. Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan
- St. Vincent's Hospital, Tullamore, Co Offaly
- Sacred Heart Home, Roscommon
- St. John's Hospital, Sligo
- Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, Co Tipperary
- St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel, Co Tipperary
- St. John's Hospital, Dungarvan, Co Waterford
- St. Mary's Hospital, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
- St. John's Hospital, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford
- St. Colman's, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow

Will I be able to apply on behalf of someone who has died?

It will be possible for the children, spouse or estate of a deceased person to make applications for a financial payment where the person died on or after the date of An Taoiseach's apology to survivors on 13th January 2021.

Applications - What do I need to do now?

I want to apply for this Scheme – what do I need to do now?

You don't need to do anything at this time. Once the Scheme has been established it will be well publicised and clear direction and support will be provided to those who want to apply.

Who will administer the Scheme and assess my application?

The Scheme will be administered by an independent Executive Office within the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. All applications will be assessed by trained staff working in this Executive Office.

What documentation will I need to apply for the Scheme when it is open for applications?

The Government is committed to making the application process as straight-forward as possible. To qualify for the Scheme a person will have to provide evidence that they were resident in a Mother and Baby or County Home Institution for a defined period of time. The Executive Office will support and assist you with your application. To ensure a supportive approach, it is intended that the legislation establishing the Scheme will provide a lawful basis to allow an applicant, as part of their application and in compliance with their rights under the GDPR, to request the Executive Office to obtain copies of the applicant's institutional records from the Commission of Investigation's archive and database, where applicable. This should facilitate a user-friendly process where the State assists in shouldering the burden of proof.

Will there be an appeals process?

Yes, the Scheme will include an appeals process for those who are not happy with the decision in relation to their application.

I am an older applicant, will my application be prioritised?

Yes, once the Scheme is open for applications it is intended that priority will be given to those who are elderly and any other categories it is felt should be prioritised.

For how long will the Scheme be open?

It is intended that the Scheme will be open for up to 5 years after its establishment date.

Will the Scheme include a waiver? Will I receive financial support if I want to get independent legal advice?

If you decide to accept a payment under the Scheme you will have to sign a legal waiver. Signing the waiver means that you will not be able to take a case against the State to court after accepting a payment under the Scheme. To help you to decide if you want to take the payment and sign the waiver, you will be entitled to financial support for independent legal advice. When you are asked to sign the waiver, you will also already know how much is being offered to you by the Scheme. Until you accept an offer under the Scheme, you will still have the right to bring a case to court if you wish. However, if you have received a settlement through the courts in respect of your experience in an institution covered under this Scheme, you will not be entitled to receive an award under this Scheme.

The advantage of participating in the Scheme is that the process will be less difficult and also significantly less expensive than taking a case through the courts. Signing a waiver will not mean that you cannot discuss the payment you have received from the Scheme.

Do I need to make a GDPR Data Subject Access Request to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth while I am waiting for the Scheme to open?

A person is entitled at any time to make a Data Subject Access Request to the Department to access their personal data but there is **no** requirement to do this in order to be ready to make an application for this Scheme.

The Department is now responsible for the maintenance and storage of the records archive of the Commission of Investigation. It is also responsible for fulfilling data subject rights, including the right of access to personal data (for example, by former residents of the institutions examined by the Commission).

If you would like to access your personal data which may be held on the records of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation, we request that you fill out the Subject Access Request form and email this to the following address: sar@equality.gov.ie. All forms and relevant information can be found [here](#).

If you have queries or other requests, you can also email this address and we will get back to you as soon as possible. There is also a dedicated telephone information line available for people seeking

further information about making a Subject Access Request. The Department's SAR Information Line can be contacted on 01-2376001 from Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Living abroad

I am living abroad, what does this mean for me?

If you are living abroad and think that you may be eligible for this Scheme you will be able to apply in the same way as someone living in Ireland. The financial payments from this Scheme can be paid to a person regardless of where they are living. But, if you are also deemed eligible for an enhanced medical card, you will have to make a choice. You can choose to take the card and use it when you spend time in Ireland and/or should you decide in the future to move back to Ireland permanently, or you can opt to instead receive a once-off payment of €3,000 in lieu of the enhanced medical card as a contribution towards your individual health needs.

Next steps

What happens next?

Legislation will be needed to establish the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme and an independent Executive Office will have to be set up within the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to deal with applications to the Scheme. This important work has already commenced but it will take some time to bring legislation through both Houses of the Oireachtas and the Scheme will only be available once this legislation is passed

An Implementation Steering Group will be established to oversee and drive all aspects of the work for the Scheme to ensure that it is delivered in a way that is accessible, transparent, fair and kind to all those it serves.

When will I be able to apply for the Scheme?

It will take some time to make the arrangements for this Scheme but this work has commenced and it is hoped that the Scheme will be open for applications before the end of 2022.

Support

Where can I access Counselling Services?

The National Counselling Service provides dedicated professional counselling support to former residents of Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions. This service has been available to survivors and former residents, free of charge, since before the publication of the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation.

This dedicated counselling service is available from Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 5pm.

Access to this counselling service for former residents may be made by direct self-referral. You can do this by referring yourself to the service that is nearest to you. Written referral can also be made by health care professionals such as GPs.

Counselling is available face to face, by telephone or online through secure video. Face to face appointments are limited at present due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Details of the National Counselling Service and contact details for each area are listed below.

HSE Region	Area covered	Telephone number
CHO Area 1	Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim	1800 234 119
CHO Area 2	Galway, Mayo & Roscommon	1800 234 114
CHO Area 3	Limerick, Clare & North Tipperary	1800 234 115
CH Cork, Kerry	Cork & Kerry	1800 234 116
CHO Area 5	Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow & South Tipperary	1800 234 118
CH East	South Dublin, South East Dublin & East Wicklow	1800 234 111
CH Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow	South West Dublin, Kildare & West Wicklow	1800 234 112
CHO Area 8	Midlands: Laois, Offaly, Longford & Westmeath	1800 234 113
CHO Area 1/8	Louth, Meath, Cavan & Monaghan	1800 234 117
CHO Area 9	Dublin North & Dublin North City	1800 234 110

Outside of office hours, Connect Counselling provides telephone support. This service is available between 6pm and 10pm each day (7 days a week) on 1800 477 477.

For those living in the UK there are a number of organisations that offer support to survivors:

- [ICAP](http://www.icap.org.uk) (Immigrant Counselling & Psychotherapy) 0207 272 7906 www.icap.org.uk
- The [London Irish Centre](http://www.londonirishcentre.org), 0207 916 2222 www.londonirishcentre.org
- [Irish Community Services](http://www.irishcommunityservices.org) 0208 854 4466 www.irishcommunityservices.org
- [Leeds Irish Health and Homes](http://www.lihh.org) 0113 262 5614 www.lihh.org

For those based in the United States the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers can be contacted for support. Contact details for local centres can be found at <https://ciic-usa.org/find-your-local-irish-center/>.

Further information

Further information on the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme and the wider Government Action Plan are available on the Department's website [here](#).

The Department also maintains a mailing list for updates on all matters relating to Mother and Baby Home and County Home institutions including developments in relation to this Scheme. If you would like to receive these updates you can email: motherandbabyhomes@equality.gov.ie and ask to be added to the mailing list.