



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
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30th December 2020

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 44239.20

To ask the Minister for Health if sufficient mental health supports will be put in place in advance of the publication of the report of the commission of inquiry to include all adoptees and survivors and not just those that could participate in the commission's inquiry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The [Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes](#) was established by Government in 2015 to provide a full account of what happened to women and children in Mother and Baby home institutions during the period 1922 to 1998.

A Collaborative Forum was also established to make recommendations relating to health and well-being supports for former residents. The forum highlighted the need to ensure that former residents had access to psychological support.

The HSE National Counselling Service (NCS) has been requested to provide counselling to former residents of Mother and Baby Homes.

The HSE's NCS has 20 years experience in providing counselling and psychotherapy to a wide range of clients including those who have experienced psychological difficulties due to time spent in institutions such as Mother and Baby Homes.

Counselling is available face to face, by telephone or online through secure video.

This service is available to adults living in Ireland who are former residents of Mother and Baby Homes (mothers or children).

Potential clients can self-refer by phoning the NCS Freephone number. They may also be referred through their GP or other healthcare professional. If this is the case a written referral is required.

Details are available on the HSE Website: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/national-counselling-service/counselling-service-for-former-residents-of-mother-and-baby-homes/>

The HSE developed an implementation plan in relation to provision of counselling services to former residents of Mother and Baby Homes.



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This plan recommended development of additional WTE Counsellor/therapist posts in each NCS service along with Senior Counsellor/Therapist to ensure appropriate governance and clinical supervision. Plans are in place to ensure counselling can be provided to former residents who seek counselling whilst recruitment of new staff is ongoing. €1.7million euro was allocated to the HSE in 2020, this funding will recur in 2021.

Former residents can also access a wide range of general mental health supports through the HSE's [yourmentalhealth.ie](https://www2.hse.ie/mental-health/) web site: <https://www2.hse.ie/mental-health/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services