

24 February 2021

Ms. Maeve Doherty
DPO and Solicitor to the Commission
Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation
73 Lower Baggot St
Dublin 2
By email

Re: Commission of Investigation (Mother and Baby Homes and certain related Matters) Records, and another Matter, Act 2020

Dear Ms. Doherty

I refer to your letter dated 24 February 2021.

We note from your letter that you will provide a spreadsheet of the 550 witnesses to the Minister on Friday 26th Friday and those witnesses that have specifically requested that their personal information be redacted in accordance with section 6 of the 2020 Act will be identified by their CC number. You state that this will allow the Minister to take such steps to redact the personal data of those witnesses, including from the audio files.

Section 6 of the 2020 Act requires that a person who gave evidence to the confidential committee make a request in writing to the Commission to redact from that evidence or document “*all personal data relating to that person before that evidence or document is deposited with the specified Minister in accordance with subsection (2) of section 43 of the Act of 2004*”. Can you please confirm what steps the Commission of Investigation will take to meet its statutory obligations in this respect.

Can you also confirm whether the contents of the database, now due to transfer, includes other identifying information apart from the audio files of witnesses that requested their information be redacted pursuant to section 6 of the 2020 Act prior to it being transferred to the Minister under section 43 of the 2004 Act. We are unclear from your latest correspondence as to whether the now restored version of the database from summer 2020 is transferring or the version that had included the redactions the Commission implemented on foot of requests from witnesses under Section 6 of the 2020 Act.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Yours sincerely

Caoimhe Sheridan
Assistant Commissioner