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An Coimisiún Pleanála  
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17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Reference: LH28.324153**  
**Cork City Council Case Reference: 2544442**

To whom it concerns:

Please find enclosed a collation of 156 observations made in support of the appeal by Bessboro Mother and Baby Home Support Group (BMBHSG) against the grant by Cork City Council to Estuary View Enterprises 2020 Limited on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 of Conditional Permission for a Large-Scale Residential Development at a site located at Bessborough, Ballinure, Blackrock, Cork.

Consistent with our aims and ethical protocols, over the past month, the Clann Project has provided information to people affected by Ireland's system of institutionalisation and forced family separation who wish to object to the proposed development at Bessborough. Cognisant that affected people constitute a diverse population who remain marginalised in myriad ways, we were concerned that many may be unfamiliar with An Coimisiún Pleanála's procedures and that the €50 fee may represent a significant barrier to engagement. We were also mindful that some people affected by Bessborough or related issues might not wish for their personal addresses to be published.

Accordingly, to provide practical support, we facilitated a collective submission process to alleviate these burdens. Clann established a dedicated email address to collect observations from members of peer support networks for affected people. We received 157 submissions through this email address, 156 of which have been compiled into the attached PDF.<sup>1</sup> Recognising the potential obstacles to engagement, we also provided a template to support those who wished to make a

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that one potential observation was not included in this collection. The original email contained no text in the body of the message, and despite our efforts to contact the sender for a corrected version, we received no reply.

submission but may have found it difficult to articulate their views. This approach helped to ensure that the people most affected by the proposed Bessborough development were able to express their objections clearly and effectively.

To safeguard the integrity of the process, we did not circulate the template and dedicated email address to the general public. Access was instead restricted to the 5,839 members of the online peer support forums of Adoption Rights Alliance, the BMBHSG, the St Patrick's Mother and Baby Home Support Group and the Sean Ross Abbey Mother and Baby Home Support Group. Instructions were provided within these forums and via a password-protected page on the Clann Project website.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of the attached observations are from people directly affected by forced family separation and institutionalisation, many of whom have a direct link to the Bessborough Mother and Baby Institution. Of the 156 submissions included, four were made by family members, friends and supporters of affected people who wished to register their objections. These observations can be found at the end of the PDF, preceding the Appendix. In line with our ethical protocols, we have retained the names and surnames of contributors while redacting their email and postal addresses.<sup>3</sup>

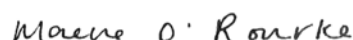
**In accordance with An Coimisiún Pleanála's submission requirements, the postal address for service of any further correspondence relating to these observations is c/o Clann at the address provided at the head of this letter.**

The enclosed observations reflect a shared conviction that the proposed development is wholly inappropriate, given the unresolved questions surrounding the burial locations of mothers and infants who died at Bessborough. There is deep concern among affected people and their families that the land has not yet been subject to a sufficiently comprehensive investigation. We urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to take these testimonies into account and to refuse this planning application.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Claire McGettrick, born Lorraine Hughes**  
Co-Director, Clann Project



**Dr Maeve O'Rourke**  
Co-Director, Clann Project  
Senior Lecturer,  
Irish Centre for Human Rights,  
University of Galway

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<sup>2</sup> A copy of the instructions provided to members of peer support networks is provided in the Appendix at the end of this document.

<sup>3</sup> One individual asked to remain anonymous.