# CLANN: IRELAND'S UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN: GATHERING THE DATA

## Statement of Witness 15

| | |
|---|---|
| **Reference Code:** | CLANN/WIT15 |
| **Status:** | Adopted Person |
| **Institution(s)/Agencies:** | Temple Hill Infant's Hospital, Blackrock, Dublin; St. Patrick's Guild; Health Service Executive |
| **Date:** | 15th June 2016 |
| **Transcript:** | 7 pages |
| **Records/Papers included:** | Yes |
| **Access Conditions:** | Anonymised statements are freely available to the public. |
| **Conditions Governing Reproduction:** | Statements can be reproduced, however the citation below must be used at all times. |

To cite this statement:

O'Rourke, M., McGettrick, C., Baker, R. and Hill, R. (2018) "Statement of Witness 15." *Clann: Ireland's Unmarried Mothers and their Children: Gathering the Data.* Dublin: Justice for Magdalenes Research, Adoption Rights Alliance, Hogan Lovells.



**WITNESS STATEMENT OF** [redacted]

I, [redacted], of [redacted] WILL SAY:

1. I make this statement for the purpose of providing evidence to the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation established by the Irish Government pursuant to Section 3 of the Commissions of Investigations Act 2004.

2. I make this statement as an adopted person.

**Circumstances of my Birth and Early Life**

3. I was born on [redacted] 1967 on [redacted] (in [redacted] On [redacted] 1967, I was taken to Temple Hill in Dublin by my birth mother and her parents where I remained until I was adopted on [redacted] 1967. I am now [redacted] years old.

4. From what my birth mother has told me, a week after I was born a priest arranged for me to be fostered, though she does not know with whom. I do not think it was through any official channel and I have not been able to find any record of being fostered there. I have found a record of my christening in [redacted] (page 2). The godparents named on my baptismal certificate were [redacted] locals – one was the [redacted] at the maternal hospital in [redacted] the other was a [redacted] – and both were heavily involved in the church.

5. My birth mother says she collected me (though I am not sure where from) on the same day that she was flying back to Dublin. There we were met by her parents and were driven straight to Temple Hill where I was placed for temporary nursing care while my birth mother took time to try and find a way of keeping me herself. She visited Temple Hill twice after that. On the second visit she was turned away from the door with a nun saying to her that she had no right to be there that day as my new parents were coming to collect me. The poor woman was just turned away. If what the nun told her was true this must have been on [redacted] 1967. The Adoption Order was granted on [redacted] 1968 (page 3).

**Information and finding out about my Birth Parents**

6. My adoptive brother (who was also adopted from Temple Hill [redacted] years later) and I have always known that we were adopted. We never really questioned anything and my adoptive parents have never told me about the procedure by which they adopted us, though I did always know that I had been born in [redacted] We grew up near [redacted] and I do have an early memory of being brought there, though I cannot remember whether that was to collect my brother or for some other reason.

7. I first approached the nuns at St Patrick's Guild at their offices at Haddington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin in 1986 when I was 18. Looking back, what Sister [redacted] told me then was true. She told me that my birth mother was in [redacted] to work, in her early twenties

[redacted]

when I was born, and that my birth father was a [redacted] She also said that a priest (a family friend) had helped my birth mother while she was in [redacted] The nun told me that she could give me my mother's name, [redacted] because there were thousands of [redacted] in Ireland and I would never be able to find her with this information. That is what I accepted at the time and I was happy with that information as it was more than I had ever had. My memory of that meeting was that the nun had glee in her eyes and a horrible satisfaction about her when she told me [redacted] was my birth mother's name and that I had no chance of finding her. I had brought my best friend to the meeting and she got the same feeling from the nun. My file was on the table in front of the nun and she took great satisfaction in me not being able to see what was in it while sitting at the other side of the table. She was laughing inwardly at me – that is how I remember that meeting.

8. I only approached the nuns again in 1997. This time I asked them to make contact with my birth mother. After a few weeks (I do not remember exactly how long) they phoned me to say they had received a letter from my birth mother. I made an appointment to go to Haddington Road to collect it but I cancelled and asked for the letter to be posted to me (the nuns have a record of this though I do not remember why I cancelled). The handwritten note said that it was good to know that I had had a happy life and that she was sorry but that she could not make herself known to me. The letter was signed [redacted] At that time I put all thoughts of my birth mother away, thinking there was nothing more I could do. I ripped up the letter after a while as I saw no point in keeping it. For me this was an acceptance that I was adopted and I had no way of finding out any more about myself or my birth parents.

9. In 2008 I went to [redacted] not with the intention of searching for anything, but to visit the place where I was born. While I was there something came over me and I called into the Superintendent Registrar Office in [redacted] There I explained my story and they helped me search for my records. I found my birth certificate (page 1) and learned that my birth mother's real name was [redacted] The name [redacted] had given me was [redacted]

10. The birth certificate showed that [redacted] middle name was [redacted] I do not know whether she chose to use this name or whether the nuns were reluctant to give me her true name for some other reason. It was like a lightbulb turned on in my head and in 2010 I began having serious doubts about the information I had been given to date. I now wonder whether [redacted] did write the letter I was shown in 1997. I began to question my identity too and realised that I had always presumed that my birth mother was Irish, but I did not know for certain. I really knew nothing. The identity of my birth father became more important than it ever had been and I knew my birth mother was the only person who would be able to tell me anything about him. The need and right to get information became my focus.

11. It was in 2014 that my first serious efforts to track down my birth mother began. I contacted St Patrick's Guild in February 2014 and they put me on a waiting list. I phoned them and sent emails asking for any information they held. They gave me the usual basic non-identifying information (this correspondence is at pages 4-17). In August 2014, I requested information through the Freedom of Information Act from the HSE Consumer Affairs Department for Dublin & Leinster. That department could not give me any information because I was adopted so they forwarded on my request to St Patrick's Guild (page 18). The nuns then had no choice but to send me my file (pages 19-22).

12. This is how I discovered that I was placed in Temple Hill for temporary nursing care. The words "Not For Adoption" are written at the top of a page showing my feeding and weight chart (page 21). (It was only later when I received a letter from [redacted] telling me how she had been turned away from the door at Temple Hill that this began to make sense (pages 33-34). I am angry and saddened for both [redacted] and myself as we were never given the chance to be together. Whatever choice [redacted] might have had was taken away from her by the nuns and my suspicion is that her parents had something to do with it too.) My original name, [redacted] is on the file along with my birth surname which has been tippexed over but it is still easy to make out. The file also states that my birth mother made a decision after five or six weeks of me being in Temple Hill to place me for adoption (page 22). (This is not how [redacted] describes it). Her age of [redacted] is given and the area in [redacted] where her family lived. From these details and my own search for [redacted] birth certificate, I was able to find three people matching the basic details I had. I searched Facebook for these women under their married names and came across a photograph of a woman who looks too much like me to be able to deny that we are closely related.

13. In September 2014 told the nuns what I had been able to find out and asked what they suggested I do (pages 24-27). I had not wanted to do this but was advised by someone who knows a lot about adoption and tracing that I ought to stay on good terms with the nuns as it would probably be better to have a third party involved in any possible contact. St Patrick's Guild had previously told me that they would have no way of knowing where my birth mother lived but, miraculously, within a week of telling them I had tracked her down myself, they too had discovered where she lived. One of the nuns, Sister [redacted] then got in touch with [redacted] by letter. She suggested I send her a short note describing myself which she would pass on to [redacted] if she got in touch.

14. [redacted] phoned the nun and said that she was upset and distressed that I wanted to make contact. St Patrick's Guild sent me a letter on 2 October 2014 saying that the nun had read my note to [redacted] over the phone and that she was happy that I was ok (page 27). [redacted] said she looked after me in [redacted] and that her parents arranged her flight to Ireland to bring me with her, that they met us at the airport and brought us to Temple Hill

and her parents arranged everything thereafter. The nun advised [redacted] to take a few weeks to think about everything and to get in touch whenever she was ready.

15. [redacted] phoned again and on 29 October 2014 St Patrick's Guild sent me another letter saying that it was very painful for [redacted] to re-visit the past and that she felt there would be no benefit to either of us to be in contact. I still had questions and I asked the nun to ask [redacted] if she would give me answers (pages 28-31). The nun did this and sent me a letter telling me what [redacted] had said: that she believes I was fostered for a short while and knows nothing about my baptism in [redacted] She said it was a very difficult time for her and that my natural father knew about me but she heard nothing more from him after I was born. She gave a few details about him in this letter. She thanked me for respecting her decision not to meet and hoped that I would be at peace with it. It was there that the nuns left things and they told me then that they could not take things any further.

16. I did not have any trust in the nuns and needed to be sure that they had told me the truth so I decided to write to [redacted] myself. She replied with a very nice letter within a fortnight, in November 2014 (pages 32-33). (This letter is extremely personal and I do not wish to release anything that might harm my chances of future contact with my birth mother so I have chosen to redact it here.) [redacted] told me the story of why she went to work in [redacted] how she met my father and gave me his full name. He let her down when she needed support and she said she had no more contact with him. She also gave me a bit of basic medical history about herself (thankfully nothing serious). She told me how she was turned away from Temple Hill when she tried to visit me for a second time. The nun told her she had no business being there as my adoptive parents were collecting me that day. She said how difficult it was for her to write this letter to me, that it had been such a long time and that she hoped that I had a good and happy life. (Regretfully I had ripped up the letter the nuns had given me in 1997 so could not compare the handwriting this letter, which I know is from [redacted] I mentioned the 1997 letter when I wrote to [redacted] but she did not comment about it at all.) I wrote back in February 2015 to touch base and ask how she was, trying to keep in contact. I said I understood that she could not make contact but that I would be there if she changed her mind. I enclosed a couple of photographs of myself. I got no reply so I wrote again in June of this year. This time I enclosed my phone number. Again I have heard nothing. That is where I am at the moment – my mother and I have not been reunited.

17. I am now searching for my birth father. I am also planning to apply to the data protection department in [redacted] to see if I can find out anything about the first few weeks of my life.

**Access to Information**

18. The nuns were just so unhelpful throughout all the years I dealt with them. I do not get angry easily or often but this is something I am very passionate about – they just do not do themselves any favours. My file should have been given to me when I first got in touch with St Patrick's Guild. At the very least they should have offered it to me when I made enquiries in 1997 and 2014. They had more information to give than just the basic stuff they claimed to have. They dragged everything out for as long as they possibly could, giving excuses about lack of access to information. They were very quick to take action when it suited them though – when I misremembered about my contact with them in 1997, when I told them I had traced my birth mother myself, and when their hand was forced by the freedom of information request.

19. I had a good up-bringing and wanted for nothing from my adoptive parents but I have lived my life always feeling that I had to be grateful for not ending up in an orphanage and always thankful for my up-bringing. This is fair enough to an extent and it is something every individual, adopted or not, might think about. But there was always the wonder of who I resembled physically and personally. I would often see a man or woman, fancy that I looked like them and think they could be my natural parents or relatives. Very often people tell me I do not look or act Irish and that I look more like an Eastern European woman. Even my accent puzzles people; I have grown up in [redacted] and people often refuse to believe this. For years I had myself convinced that my natural parents had to be from somewhere else in Europe.

20. I do not know how to feel that I belong anywhere and am still not settled in my personal life. How am I supposed to know if this is down to being adopted? I have nothing to compare the feeling with but sometimes I envy other people who seem to be more grounded because of the natural closeness they have with their families. I find it hard to trust people. In saying that, I have reached the age where I am more confident in myself but I have built my life around these feelings and have accepted them as simply being part of me. Sometimes I feel I am not capable of feeling true emotions – the only people I wholeheartedly love and truly care about are my two daughters and now my granddaughter. I have hardened myself against being let down and disappointed by anyone.

21. Dealing with St Patrick's Guild has not been a good experience. I have no tolerance for them. Someone once said to me that as these nuns have no life experience and do not know how to cope emotionally with people like me, they simply do not know how to be nice. It is no excuse as far as I concerned. As Christians they are a disgrace and although it might have been their predecessors who did all the damage to women and children, the least they could do is admit to their mistakes and try to make amends by helping us and by being more human. They are well able to use emails and the internet so they have no

excuse for still living in the past. They should realise that their reputations are already severely damaged and that continuing to insist on protecting themselves will one day result in their 'pots of gold' being discovered and them becoming even more isolated and unsupported. I believe money is a huge factor for them and they might gain some respect back if they gave this money to people and charities who really need it.

22. They have the information we adoptees and natural parents are entitled to. I am one of the lucky ones because I was able to get my original birth certificate. My search for my father will continue and I will not give up on [redacted] She had other children who are my half siblings and we deserve to know each other. This is another part of adoption that causes a lot of pain and it is all down to the church, the government and previous generations.

I believe that the contents of this statement are true.

Signed [redacted]

[redacted]

Date 15/06/16

All unmarked redactions have been carried out by the Clann Project. Redactions carried out by original data controllers are marked with ODC.

[redacted]



[TRANSLATION]

№ 1925

# EXTRACT FROM THE REGISTER OF BIRTHS

Of the Parish of [redacted], in the [redacted]

[PAGE 97]

**Birth in the Parish of St. Peter, in the Island of Jersey.**

| No. | Date and Place of Birth. | Christian Names, if any. | Sex. | Name and Surname of Father. | Name and Maiden Surname of Mother. | Rank or Profession of Father. | Signature, Description and Residence of Informant. | When Registered. | Signature of Registrar. | Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 966 | [redacted] 1967 [redacted] Maternity Hospital | [redacted] | Female | ~ | [redacted] | ~ | [redacted] Mother of the child [redacted] | [redacted] 1967 | [redacted] Deputy Registrar | ~ |

I hereby certify that this is a true and faithful Translation of an Entry in the Register of Births in the Parish of [redacted] in the [redacted]

Witness my hand, this 8th day of April 20[redacted]

[redacted] Deputy Superintendent Registrar.

ODC

ODC

CHURCH OF [redacted] DIOCESE OF [redacted]

# CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

This is to certify that, according to the Register of Baptisms kept at the above church,

[redacted]

who was born on the [redacted] day of [redacted] in the year 1967

was baptised according to the Rites of the Catholic Church on the 22nd day of March, in the year 1967

L.S.

[redacted]
Parish Priest/~~Curate~~

Date 28. 5. 68.

Cóip deimhnithe de thaifid ins an gClár d'Uchtleanaí.

Certified copy of entry in the Adopted Children Register.

ÉIRE IRELAND

F 712
2

| Uimh. an taifid. o. of entry. | An dáta a rugadh agus an tir ina rugadh Date and Country of birth | An ainm baiste nó an chéad ainm Christian name or first name | An Gnéas Sex | Ainm, Seoladh agus slí bheatha an uchtóra nó na n-uchtóirí Name, address and occupation of adopter or adopters | Dáta an Orduithe Uchtála Date of Adoption Order | Dáta an taifid ag Ard-Chláraitheoir Date of entry and An tArd-Chlár |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 374 | [redacted] 1967 (SIXTY-SEVEN) [redacted] | [redacted] | FEMALE | [redacted] ODC | EIGHTH FEBRUARY 1968 | [redacted] 3 ARD CLÁRAITHEOIR CÚNTA |

Deimhnítear gur tógadh é seo ó chlár leabhar atá a choimead ag an Ard-Chláraitheoir.
Certified to be taken from a register in the custody of an tArd-Chláraitheoir.
Arna thabhairt faoi Sheala Oifig an Ard-Chláraitheora.
Given under the Seal of Oifig an Ard-Chláraitheora.

An lá seo de
This EIGHTH day of APRIL 2
Scrúdaithe
Examined

(8156)C2197,136010,1,000Bks,7/82,WSM1. Tend.

1st letter I wrote to St Patrick's Guild:

01/02/2014

Dear Sister [redacted]

Following on from our conversation on Wednesday 29/01/2014, I am writing to you in connection with my adoption in 1967.

I was born on [redacted]/1967 in [redacted] and adopted from Temple Hill, Blackrock, County Dublin.

I visited [redacted] a few years ago and I was able to get my original birth certificate which shows the name and address of my birth mother. She had named me [redacted] and I was baptised in [redacted] in March 1967.

I would like to find out why I was born in [redacted] and then adopted here in Ireland. There is no record of me being adopted in [redacted] – if there was I would not have been able to get my original birth certificate.

There are a lot of things I would like to know and would appreciate any information you have. I don't want to regret it if I never seriously try to get this information and I will also be able to tell my own daughters what I find out as they are very keen to start searching on my behalf.

What were the circumstances surrounding my birth mother being in [redacted]

Did she live there?

Is there any information about my father?

How did I end up in Ireland?

How long was I in [redacted]

How did I get to Ireland – plane, boat?

How long was I in Temple Hill before being adopted?

Is there any information about my birth mother's family?

There are so many questions and I would like to contact anyone named in my file that has any information.

I am in contact with a social worker in the fostering and adoption department in [redacted] and she is following up on the information I have given her.

I am registered with the Adoption Authority of Ireland and with the Adoption Registry in [redacted]

I understand that you have a lot of enquiries from others and that the HSE will be taking over all the files you hold this year. I hope my enquiry will be looked at and taken seriously considering I have contacted you at this stage when you are in the process of closing down.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554


17th February 2014

Our Ref. [redacted]

**PERSONAL**

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

We received your letter of enquiry dated February 2nd, 2014, and sent by registered post, on February 6th.

We are putting your request on our Transfer Waiting List as of February 2nd. I am enclosing a leaflet which gives you updated information about this.

If at all possible we will try to respond more fully to your letter at a later date.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Sr. [redacted]
Director of Services


Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

To
[redacted]

04/15/14 at 12:34 PM

Dear [redacted]

We spoke in February about my file and you sent me a letter with the Reference Number: [redacted]

Due to sheer luck [redacted] got in touch with me a few weeks ago, soon after you and I spoke on the phone. She seems like a lovely woman and we have had a number of chats about my adoption, and adoption in general. [redacted] offered to try to find some information about my adoption and I gave her my full permission to do so.

I spoke to her yesterday and she told me that she was able to find a contact of my birth mother, [redacted] and that she had passed on this information to you.

I realise that my file is on the transfer list for the HSE and hence I could be in for a long wait before anyone from the HSE contacts me, but I am wondering if you would be able to get in touch with the contact [redacted] has found? If not, then could you give [redacted] permission to make contact?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To

[redacted]

04/16/14 at 3:21 PM

[redacted]

I received your email yesterday. Yes, I had received a message from [redacted] some days ago but until now I was not able to put it with the record until today.

I have just sent a message to [redacted] On reading the record I find that some of the information she writes about does not correspond with the details that we have here. It is going to be necessary to do some research before we can be sure that we have found or located the correct person. It will not be possible to do anything about that until at least early May.

If it is possible we will try to respond to your query – but we do have a number of enquiries between September and November 2013 that we must try to deal with. I do appreciate that it the waiting is and will be difficult and as I say we will do whatever we can about the matter.

Every good wish in this Easter season,

Yours sincerely,

Sr. [redacted]

To [redacted]

04/16/14 at 3:56 PM

Dear Sister [redacted]

Thank you for your reply.

I understand that everything has to be investigated thoroughly before any possible contact with anyone can be made.

I look forward to hearing from you in May.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To

[redacted]

05/21/14 at 12:27 PM

Dear Sister Francis,

I am just wondering if anyone has had a chance to investigate the information given to you by [redacted]?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

05/30/14 at 7:07 PM

[redacted]

I have had a quick look at the record we have in your regard. You will remember that an enquiry was made in 1997 and a letter was sent to you from your birthmother. Apparently at that time she was not in a position to respond positively to your request. There has not been any contact with or from her since that time. The person with whom we had contact is not the person whose name was given to us by [redacted]

Have you put your name on the National Adoption Contact Preference Register – this would be a way of finding out if she has made any independent enquiry about you. You may have done this already.

We will keep your enquiry with the record. Just now we are still working with enquiries received up to October last, and have just commence work on November. The waiting list was closed at the end of November. It is difficult to say whether or not there will be an opportunity to do any follow up enquiries on your behalf – if so we will let you know, if not, then the enquiry will be transferred with the records to the agency appointed to receive them. As yet this has not been agreed. When we do have information we will update you on it.

Every good wish,

Sr. [redacted]

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

06/01/14 at 12:58 PM

Dear Sr[redacted]

Thank you for your reply.

I understand that you are busy with other enquiries and accept that my enquiry is on a waiting list to be transferred to another agency. But would you try to make contact for me again as the years have passed and maybe my birthmother's circumstances have changed and she may be able and willing to respond.

[redacted]is willing to help in any way possible and if you are agreeable maybe she could make contact on yours and my behalf?

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554


20th June 2014

Our Ref. [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Further to your emails and letter, your request was re-allocated to me.

The information we have is:

*You were born on the [redacted] 1967 at [redacted] – [redacted]*

*You were baptised on 20th March 1967 at [redacted]*

*Application was made to us on the 29th March 1967 and you were transferred to St. Patrick's Infant Hospital, Temple Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin on 1st April 1967.*

*On the 11th July 1967, you were placed for adoption with [redacted]*
*The Final Adoption Order was granted on 8th February 1968.*

As you are aware, your natural mother was contacted via your maternal grandmother in 1997. She did phone me and subsequently, sent me a note for you – this was posted out to you on the 31st January 1997.

We spoke on the phone on 5th February 1997 and you read it out to me – *you said, at that time, you respected your mother's decision and it was a nice letter.*

The information that [redacted] gave you does not correspond with our record. It would not be possible to give out information about any person without their consent.

I hope this clarifies matters for you.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Social Worker


Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

06/23/14 at 10:00 PM
Dear Sister [redacted]

I received your letter this morning and admittedly I am disappointed that we could not arrange to meet and talk together about my query.

I need to point out to you that I originally spoke to Sister [redacted] in 1986 when I was 19 and not in 1997. I do not remember getting in touch with you in 1997 but please correct me if my memory is wrong. When I received that note of course I was respectful and accepting of it and so I carried on with my own life. But that was 28/29 years ago. I am at a different stage in my life now and the need to know more about myself has resurfaced. It never went away.

Many years have passed since then and people's circumstances change and so I need to ask you if my birth mother was ever directly contacted? Your letter stated that my maternal grandmother was your contact and that was 28/29 years ago. Is she still alive? Is it possible that the contact information you have differs from the information [redacted] gave you because of the years that have passed?

What, if any, information do you have about my natural father? Do you know his nationality? Is Nuala Irish, a native of [redacted] did she stay in [redacted]? Why was she in [redacted] and why was I brought to Ireland?

It is possible for me to carry out research of my own as I know my birthmother's name. But if there is anything else you can tell me I would be very thankful.

[redacted]

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554

26th June 2014

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Further to your email of the 23rd June 2014, you came and met [redacted] Social Worker, on the 12th September 1996.

As [redacted] was leaving your request was handed over to me on 17th January 1997.

On the 20th January 1997 I made contact with your maternal grandmother and asked her to get [redacted] to phone me.

On the 22nd January 1997 [redacted] phoned me. She said she was married. It was a happy marriage and she had children. She would not give me her married name, a telephone number or an address. She did, however, agree to write a note to you.

This came on the 30th January 1997. I phoned you and we made an appointment to meet on the 5th February 1997. However you phoned back and requested the letter be forwarded to you and cancelled the appointment. The sealed letter was sent out to you. I phoned you on the 5th February 1997 and you read the letter to me over telephone. You said you were happy enough with it and respected her decision. I have tried to contact your maternal grandmother but that phone is out of order. It is nearly 20 years ago – that lady could well be deceased. I am making some other enquiries to see if we can take this any further.

To the best of my knowledge your natural mother was Irish. I have no reason to believe otherwise. Why she was in [redacted] I do not know – it is not on the record.

[redacted] did make contact with us in April 2014 and sent information about a family. When this was checked with the record it did not correspond with the information on the record here. [redacted] was advised of this at the time. I hope this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Social Worker

Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

07/07/14 at 12:33 PM

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your letter. I have to hold my hands up and admit I was wrong about contacting you in 1997. The truth is I honestly did not remember and when I asked a couple of friends if they had any memory of me mentioning that I contacted you, they did. Now, I remember being given an information booklet about how adoptions affect birth mothers, natural parents, etc but I had put that memory with the time I met Sr[redacted] in 1985/86, along with receiving the note. Memory is a strange thing but I suppose I simply put it all away when I got the note and thought I had accepted that was the end of my search. I kept the note for a couple of years until I was doing a spring clean when I got rid of it. Do you have a copy by any chance?

[redacted] has been a great help and support and it was mere chance that we came in contact. She really is a wonderful person and has great respect for [redacted] as well as the other agencies and organisations she has dealings with. I have kept her informed of all our correspondence and at times when confusion and impatience overcomes me, she talks realistically about everybody's situations, and has a great calming effect on me.

I understand your position and that you can only offer non-identifying information, and that I am not the only person you are dealing with. Now that I know for definate that [redacted] married and has other children, it has increased my need to find out all I can. So I really appreciate the fact that you are making enquiries to see if you can take it any further and I am very open to you contacting anyone who knows, or knew [redacted] or any other member of her family.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

07/15/14 at 10:22 AM

Dear Sr [redacted]

I'm wondering if you have managed to make enquiries with [redacted] and her family?

Also, could you post out to me any non-identifying information you have? Some of the things you said in your last letter don't correspond with what Sr [redacted] told me in 1885/86.

Regards,

[redacted]

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Consumer Affairs
Dublin Mid-Leinster
Oak House
Lime Tree Avenue
Millennium Park
Naas
Co. Kildare

Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]

6th August 2014

**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

[redacted]

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Dea[redacted]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 31st Jul 2014 and received in this office on the 5th August 2014.

I wish you that we do not hold the records for St. Patrick's Guild therefore I have forwarded your request for records on to:

[redacted]
**St Patrick's Guild**
**203 Merrion Road**
**Dublin 4.**

Sr. [redacted] will acknowledge your request and advise you of an anticipated decision date.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
**Consumer Affairs**
**HSE – Dublin/Mid-Leinster**
**Location 2**

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554


20th August 2014 [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

On Tuesday last (12th ) we received a letter from [redacted] Consumer Affairs, HSE along with the Freedom of Information request which they had received from you. They have referred the query on to us and have asked that we contact you, directly. I have to tell you that the adoption records are specifically excluded from Freedom of Information requests. However, I will try and give you the non-identifying information that is available in your regard.

Sr. [redacted] has taken up this enquiry on your behalf and she is trying to see if we can locate your natural mother once again. There was a contact with her in 1997 but as you are aware she was not in a position to respond in a positive way at that time. There has not been any contact with or from her since that time.

It is going to be necessary to try to locate your natural mother and to put the questions you have to her. She is the only person who will be able to answer your questions about [redacted]. The information we have is that you were born at the maternity hospital in [redacted] on [redacted] 1967 and that you were baptised at [redacted] on March 22nd 1967. It was not until March 29th 1967 that an application was made to St. Patrick's Guild to arrange for temporary nursery care for you while your natural mother was making her decision about your future. And then on April 1st 1967 you were admitted to St. Patrick's Infant Hospital, Temple Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin for temporary nursery care.

There is no information given in regard of the pregnancy or birth. There is a brief record of the period you spent in Temple Hill. (A copy of this record is attached). When you were admitted on April 1st 1967 (you would have been about 5 ½ weeks old then) your weight was given as 9lbs 4ozs. It was stated that you had had BCG, but there is little other detail. During the three months or so that you were in Temple Hill you gained weight steadily except for a short time in April and appeared to enjoy good health with the exception of two bouts of bronchitis (June, July) for which you received treatment. On July 11th 1967 you were placed with your adoptive parents, [redacted] The Adoption Order was made on February 8th 1968.


Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

If I may refer back to your letter of February 2nd last. In this letter you said that you were able to get your original birth certificate, and you mention that you are in contact with a social worker in [redacted] It could be helpful if you write yourself to the maternity hospital (Medical Records Section) in which you were born to enquire if they have retained records as far back as 1967 and, if perhaps, they might be able to locate a record of your time at that hospital. If this were the case, this in turn could open up some further lines of enquiry. The social worker may be able to identify the hospital for you and / or to determine whether or not it is still active or if it has merged with another hospital or health facility. Of course, you may have done all of this already!

As I have mentioned above your natural mother is the only person who will be able to reply to your questions about [redacted] There are 'pieces' of information only. At the time of the application to [redacted] in 1967 your natural mother had a temporary address in [redacted] her family home was in the [redacted] area. It was through this address (i.e. [redacted] that a contact was made with your natural mother in January 1997. An attempt was made to make contact via this address again, recently, but this did not work. Sr. [redacted] wrote to you about this effort in June last.

You were born in [redacted] on [redacted] 1967 and placed in St. Patrick's Infant Hospital (for temporary nursery care) on April 1st 1967 so it appears that you were in [redacted] for some weeks only. There is no information as to who brought you from [redacted] to Dublin, nor about how you travelled.

You will find that between this letter and the non-identifying information attached (on separate pages) that there is some repetition. There are also 'gaps' in that some of the information you ask about was not made available at the time that the application was made.

Can I clarify one question with you, in the query addressed to the HSE you ask 'was I baptised here?' but in your letter of February 2nd you say you were baptised in [redacted] in 1967. That is the information that was given to you in Sr. [redacted] letter of June 20th 2014 and it is included again in the information attached to this letter.

Give yourself some time to read through the information in this letter and the pages attached and if you have any further queries or need clarifications of this please let Sr. [redacted] or myself know.

Meanwhile Sr. [redacted] is following up on the 'search enquiry' on your behalf and in due course she will let you know the outcome of her enquiries.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Director of Services

Not for Adoption

# ST. PATRICK'S INFANT HOSPITAL

Ward St Agnes Ward.

Name [redacted] ODC 1470.

Date of Birth [redacted]-67 Admitted 1-4-67

| DATE | DIET | WEIGHT |
|---|---|---|
| 1-4-67 | 5 x 7½ F.C. | 9-4 |
| 3-4-67 | ½ Ord | 9-4½ |
| 6-4-'67 | | 9-10. |
| 10-4-67 | | 9-9 |
| 13-4-67 | 5 x 7 ⅔ | 9-8½ |
| 17-4-67 | 9 3. Ord. | 9-6½ |
| 20-4-67 | 5 x 7½ F.C. | 9-8 |
| 24-4-67 | ½ Ord. | 9-10½ |
| 27-4-'67 | 5 x 8 ⅔ | 9-10 |
| 1-5-'67 | ½ sugar | 10-1 |
| 8-5-'67 | ½ cred. | 10-7 |
| 11-5-67 | | 10-8½. |
| 15-5-'67 | 2 spoonfeeds | 10-12½ |
| 20-5-'67 | | 10-13½ |
| 24-5-67 | | 10-12½ |
| 27-5-67 | 3 spoonfeeds. | 10-11 |
| 31-5-67 | | 11-1 |
| 3-6-67 | | 11-6 |
| 9-6-'67 | | 11-10½ |
| 10-6-'67 | | 12-0 |
| 13-6-67 | | 12-7 |
| 17-6-67 | | 12-7 |
| 24-6-'67 | | 12-8 |

See [redacted] side - copied on a Separate page 8F.

[redacted] ODC

SF/BJ

***Born:*** [redacted] 1967 at [redacted]

***Baptised:*** March 22nd 1967 at [redacted]

There is no information given in regard of the pregnancy or birth.

[redacted] was about 5½ weeks old when she was placed in the care of St. Patrick's Guild. She was admitted to St. Patrick's Infant Hospital, Temple Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin for temporary nursery care on April 1st 1967. There is no information given as to why, how, when, or by whom [redacted] was brought from Jersey to Dublin.

[redacted] had her BCG injection prior to her admission. On April 1st her weight on admission was given as 9lbs 4 ozs [redacted] health was generally good during her time at Temple Hill. There was a slight weight loss around mid-April 1967 but she picked up well. There were two bouts of bronchitis in June and July 1967. These were treated with antibiotics for some days.

No vaccination experiments or medicine / medical trials were permitted at St. Patrick's Infant Hospital, Temple Hill.

On July 11th 1967 [redacted] was placed with her adoptive parents [redacted] ODC [redacted] ODC The Adoption Order was made on February 8th 1968.

The information given in regard of the natural mother was that she was said to be [redacted] years old. She was single, Irish and a Roman Catholic. Her parents and family were aware of her pregnancy. The natural mother was (or had been) employed in a local industry. The family home was in the [redacted] area. At the time of the application to St. Patrick's Guild the natural mother had a temporary address in [redacted]

The natural mother did contribute towards the upkeep and maintenance of [redacted]

There is very little information given in regard of the natural father. He was said to be single and Irish. He was employed as a [redacted] A first name only is given and he was said to have come from the [redacted]

No description is given in regard of either of the natural parents and no other family background or medical / health history is given.

The natural mother was upset and distressed at having to allow [redacted] to be placed for adoption but made her decision about this in the belief and hope that it would give her the opportunity to grow up in the loving care of two parents in a family home. The natural mother, herself, could not provide such a home for her at that time. She made her decision some 5-6 weeks after [redacted] was placed in Temple Hill.

[redacted]

To [redacted]

08/26/14 at 4:50 PM

Dear Sr [redacted]

Thank you very much for your letter. I received it yesterday.

It means a lot to me to finally have that information and I am very grateful that you took the time to gather it all up and send it to me.

With regard to my question about my baptism, I just wanted to clarify something, which I did.

I have been making enquiries in [redacted] and will continue to do so. [redacted] and I are also still in touch and she is happy to help in any way she can. She has been a great support and I trust and follow any advice she offers. She has kept me patient and calm in the past few months!

Thanks again.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

09/01/14 at 11:06 AM

Dear Sr Francis

Since I received your last letter containing my non-id information, I was able to narrow my search down to one of two people with [redacted] names. I had already visited the GRO with my daughter in July and had looked up marraige certs for a number of people with that name, as well as children of these marraiges. I also searched for possible siblings of the 2 or 3 [redacted] I was concentrating on. I had a lot of guess-work to do but when I knew what age Nuala was when I was born, it narrowed it all down for me.

I took a chance and searched facebook for one possible family member of [redacted] and within 2 minutes I found her. There was one photograph of [redacted] and her sister, and another photograph of [redacted] and their brother. There is no doubt that Nuala and I are related as the resemblence is almost frightening.

I haven't contacted anyone, although it would be very easy to do. What would you advise me to do? I remember saying to you during our first phone call in January/February that I didn't want to regret not undertaking a serious search before my time is up. Now that I know [redacted] is still alive I don't want it to be too late for us both if there is a chance of some sort of contact.

I'm working later today, but off tomorrow and Wednesday if you want to ring me.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To

[redacted]

10/01/14 at 3:14 PM

Dear [redacted]

There was no more phone calls from your natural Mother while I was away.

A registered letter was sent out to her on the 23rd September 2014 requesting that she make contact again and giving her the days I will be here .

I will also be able to check if this was signed for.

If there is any contact you will be the first to know.

Regards

Sr. [redacted]

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

10/01/14 at 4:04 PM

Dear Sr [redacted]

Thank you for getting back to me. If [redacted] rings please assure her that I'm not looking for a happy family reunion. Although that would be an unbelievable bonus. Even to meet her once and see how it goes would be fantastic.

[redacted]

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554


2nd October 2014

Our Ref. [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Just to let you know your natural mother did phone – she was very upset and distressed after all these years. No one in her family ever knew – she thinks one sibling may have known, however, it was never spoken about. Her parents are now deceased.

She believes that she looked after you for the few weeks after you were born in [redacted] It was very difficult for her. She then got word from her parents to come home; they arranged her flight. She has only a vague memory of the flight back to Ireland – her parents met her and they drove her out to Temple Hill for you to be placed in the Nursery. After that she says everything was arranged by her parents.

She did not want your letter sent out in the post. However, she allowed me to read it to her over the phone. She was pleased everything is going well for you.

Now, [redacted] I have advised her to think about all this. A lot of memories she has suppressed are coming to the surface – we have agreed to talk again in a few weeks. If there are any developments I will let you know.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Social Worker


Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554


29th October 2014

Our Ref. [redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Your natural mother did phone me again; she has thought long and hard about it all. She is very pleased that life worked out for you and wishes you nothing but happiness. However, she does not wish to revisit the past; it's just too painful for her. I did suggest the possibility of a once-off meeting, but she said that would be very difficult and does not see any benefit in it for you or herself. I regret that this will not go any further at this point.

Your records and all on it will be transferred to Tusla – we do not expect to be here in 2015. Enclosed is an information leaflet. The website for the Adoption Authority of Ireland will give accurate information as to the exact location of the records. Your natural mother is also aware of the transfer of the records and the new service provider should her circumstances change in the future.

My regrets that it did not work out for you as you would have wished.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Social Worker


Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

11/02/14 at 12:58 PM

Dear Sr [redacted]

I know your recent letter says that there will be no further correspondence at this point but I need to ask one more request of you.

Would you please write to or ring [redacted] again? I respect her decision but I was hoping she would offer some information about my father and the circumstances around her time in [redacted]. [redacted] is the only person who could give me this information and while I am saddened with her decision not to have contact with me, I still have hope that she will change her mind at some future point. This time of year is always a busy time, and a time for families, and I know that [redacted] is celebrating [redacted] soon so this is probably the wrong time for her to contemplate me at all. Maybe in the spring of 2015 she might have a chance to re-think (I am hoping).

I believe you have my father's name and I avoided asking for it while I was waiting for [redacted] reply as I hoped that once contact was established my questions would have been answered. But now I am requesting it from you. I'm sure [redacted] would prefer to receive one more letter from you rather than from a stranger in Tulsa.

I will ring you during the week anyway.

And, thank you.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

To
[redacted]

11/05/14 at 2:59 PM

Dear [redacted]

I wasn't sure whether to mention this when we spoke earlier but I don't think I've anything to lose by not saying anything.

I have made contact with the grandson of the man named as my godfather on my baptismal cert in [redacted] He is a nice fellow who was very close to his grandad and he has been trying to discover how he and [redacted] knew each other. So far his family haven't been able to shed any light on this. But both he and myself will continue to try. So you see, these are the questions I'd love to have answers to so that the pieces will come together. Unfortunately the woman named as my godmother is in the last stage of [redacted]

Did these people help [redacted] and support her? Are they relations?

I've been busy with my search in [redacted] as you can gather and the people I've been in touch with have been very helpful and friendly. So now it's strange to be so close and yet so far from the answers to my questions.

I don't know if you will mention this to [redacted] or not. They are probably memories she has put away forever but as I said, I've nothing to lose at this stage.

Regards

[redacted]

# St. Patrick's Guild

REGISTERED ADOPTION SOCIETY

203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Telephone (01) 219 6551. Fax: (01) 219 6554


17 November 2014

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Your natural mother phoned me again and I put your questions to her.

She said looking back she realised she did not know him as well as she thought she did. She went over to work in [redacted] and did numerous casual jobs. She was there for over a year. She met your father there, he was Irish and working [redacted] with a group of Irish lads. They had an on/off relationship. He did know she was pregnant and visited her in hospital. However, he disappeared after that and she never heard from him again.

He was quite tall and well built – a big lad who drank a lot. His name was [redacted] and he came from [redacted] He was very much into the pub scene.

She has no memory of your baptism nor has she any idea who your god parents were. She believes you were fostered for a short time and it may have happened during that period. At that stage she says she was all over the place and very distressed. She regrets that she has no further information for you. She thanks you for respecting her decision and hopes you can be a peace with it. It was a huge relief to her to learn you had a happy adoption.

Now [redacted] I can not take this any further. Please check the Adoption Authority of Ireland website at the end of January 2015 for accurate information on the records where abouts.

I regret that I could not do any more for you.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Social Worker


Directors: M. Carroll, T. Gillis, R. McGowan, T.D. McQuaid, V. Richardson, G. Rowley, N. Twomey

St. Patrick's Guild (Incorporated)
Registered Office: 203 Merrion Road, Dublin 4. Registered No. 7498. Charity No. 7562.

Dear [redacted],

[redacted]

[redacted]

32

After the birth and coming out of the Hosp. I stayed with friends of the Priest for a week or two. As much as I can remember you were fostered. I only had you the day before I left to come back to Ireland. I do not know who fostered you or about a Christening.

[redacted]

P.T.O.

[redacted]

adoption. I do not Remember the journey back to Dublin, but Remember meeting my Parents at the airport, me arriving with a bundle in my arms. We went straight to Temple Hill and there you were left. I did go to see you on two occasions. The first time I was amazed to see so many babys in cots, I had to be shown the one you were in. The second time I went, I was not allowed in, the nun at the door asked me "what was I doing there, I had no business being there. The couple who were adopting you were coming for you to-day." So I left and that was that. I had a dislike for Nuns after that for a long time. Some time after I signed papers to do with the adoption.

I cant Remember time spans.



[redacted]



hope this is a help. I wish you well, excuse writing etc: not good at typing.

God Bless N.

[redacted]