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Our ref: FR/BD/0107

4 May 2023

Jayne Byrant MS
Chair of Welsh Children, Young People
and Education Committee

Dear Ms Byrant

RE: Northern Ireland Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse to launch international awareness raising initiative for Northern Ireland victims and survivors of historical institutional childhood abuse

My name is Fiona Ryan and I am Northern Ireland Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse. I am getting in touch because my Office is running an awareness initiative in several countries aimed at reaching Northern Ireland victims and survivors of historical institutional childhood abuse who may be resident elsewhere including Wales. I am contacting you as I am aware the Committee may have a particular interest in this area.

I have been concerned for some time that Northern Ireland victims and survivors of historical institutional child abuse may not be aware of available supports, including dedicated services provided by the Victims and Survivors Service, or know that they may be able to apply for financial redress compensation through the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board. I am mindful that victims and survivors who left Northern Ireland may be at additional risk of not being aware of their entitlements.

In March, my office began an awareness raising initiative in Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, Canada and Australia to inform survivors of historical institutional childhood abuse who have left Northern Ireland of their entitlements to support, services and financial redress compensation. The initiative is delivered through advertising, press and publicity and engagement with organisations, particularly those at community level who may be in contact with victims and survivors.

The application process for financial redress compensation and access to support services are available to any victim or survivor who suffered or witnessed abuse while they were a child (under 18 years) and were living in a residential institution (such as, a state or religious care home, training school or borstal) in Northern Ireland between 1922 and 1995 or were sent to Australia from Northern Ireland as part of the Child Migrant Scheme. Applications for financial redress compensation can be made by victims, or if they are deceased, by a surviving spouse, partner or child.

If you would like any further detail in relation to these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me. Victims and survivors, family members and professionals can contact my Office directly for information and general advice.

It is my sincerest wish that victims and survivors and their families who are not aware of their entitlements will find the necessary information and support they need to make informed choices regarding accessing supports, services and financial redress compensation. For those who are already aware of this but have not yet sought to access services or redress, I hope that they may be encouraged to consider further their entitlements.

I would appreciate if this correspondence could be be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Ryan', enclosed within a circular scribble.

Fiona Ryan
COMMISSIONER



Commissioner
for **Survivors**
of Institutional
Childhood Abuse

**If you experienced or
witnessed abuse as a child
under 18 while living in a
residential institution in
Northern Ireland between
1922 and 1995**

For example, a children's home, training school or borstal

**You may be eligible for support services
and financial redress compensation.**

For more information and advice contact the
**Northern Ireland Commissioner for Survivors of
Institutional Childhood Abuse**

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