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Written answers  
Tuesday, 29 June 2010

### Department of Health and Children Departmental Correspondence

10:00 am



**Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** (Cavan-Monaghan, Sinn Féin)

*Question 222:* To ask the Minister for Health and Children if she will confirm that the practice of transferring women from State-funded mother and baby homes to Magdalene laundries was State policy, as outlined in the Department of Local Government and Public Health Annual Report 1932 to 1933; the length of time this policy was in place; the number of women who were transferred or referred; the length of time they remained in the laundries; the status of their children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [28018/10]



**Kathleen Lynch** (Cork North Central, Labour)

*Question 316:* To ask the Minister for Health and Children if she will respond to a letter from an organisation (details supplied) seeking clarification on the special provision as outlined in the Department of Local Government and Public Health Annual Report 1932 to 1933 of transferring women who had multiple births outside of marriage from a State-funded mother and baby home to an organisation; the length of time this special provision remained in place; if she can produce records documenting the numbers of women so transferred; and if it can account for the fate of the children born to such women; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [28504/10]



**John Moloney** (Minister of State, Department of Education and Science; Minister of State, Department of Health and Children; Minister of State, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Minister of State, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform; Laois-Offaly, Fianna Fail)

I propose to take Questions Nos. 222 and 316 together.

I met with a delegation from the Justice for Magdalene group recently, together with officials from the HSE and from my Department. The HSE has undertaken to make enquiries regarding the various matters which have been raised by the group with regard to the role of the health boards. I will revert to the group on the completion of those enquiries.