

Written answers

Tuesday, 19 January 2010

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Magdalene Laundries



Ruairi Quinn (Dublin South East, Labour)

Question 549: To ask the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform if he will instruct his officials to ensure access to all relevant records within his Department relating to the Magdalene laundries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48573/09]



Ruairi Quinn (Dublin South East, Labour)

Question 550: To ask the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform if there are records in his Department which indicate the number of women who were sent to Magdalene laundries since the foundation of the State; if so, if he will allow access to them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48574/09]



Dermot Ahern (Minister, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform; Louth, Fianna Fail)

I propose to take Questions Nos. 549 and 550 together.

I can advise the Deputy that my Department does not hold records that would indicate the number of women who were sent to Magdalen Laundries since the foundation of the State.

There are incomplete records held by my Department and in the archives relating to payments made in respect of persons remanded to St. Mary Magdalen Asylum, Sean McDermott Street, Dublin and I will be happy to allow access to them in the normal way. However inquiries made to date indicate that many older files were destroyed by flooding and that it is the practice to destroy support documentation relating to payments after 7 years.