

Justice for Magdalenes

Crocknahattina, Bailieborough
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9th July 2012

Senator Martin McAleese
Independent Chairperson
Inter-Departmental Committee

to establish the facts of state involvement with the Magdalen Laundries

Montague Court
Montague Street
Dublin 2

Dear Senator McAleese,

As discussed with Nuala via email, please find enclosed five discs containing new material concerning state interaction with the Magdalene Laundries.

A breakdown of items contained on the discs is attached hereto.

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Claire McGettrick
On behalf of Justice for Magdalenes

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Disc No. 1 – Census of Production

- PDFs concerning the Census of Production (Jim Smith and Claire McGettrick) with analysis of new files found.

Disc No. 2 – Court Committals

- PDF containing newspaper cuttings of court committals, with analysis and breakdown.

Disc No. 3 – Various articles detailing State Interaction

Escapes

- **Galway City Tribune 2nd November 1984** - the escape of a number of Magdalene women is recalled.
- **Galway City Tribune 30th November 1990** - a local Galway resident is quoted as saying the Gardaí brought escaped women back to the Magdalen. He /she also mentions hearing screaming.

Hospital Transfers

- **Connaught Telegraph 18th December 1926** - two transfers from Mayo hospitals to the Magdalene Laundry in Galway - one transfer of an "insubordinate female" from the County Surgical Hospital and the other from Swinford Hospital.

Gloucester Street Fire

- **Irish Press 8th November 1939** –the Reverend Mother at Gloucester Street says that a fire has caused "some disorganisation" and that she "regrets the inconvenience to customers". The welfare of the women and girls incarcerated is not mentioned.

Various Galway Articles

- **Irish Press 14th July 1934** - advertisement for the Galway Magdalen – assurances given that "greatest care" was taken to "avoid injury to the linen".
- **Connacht Tribune 27th January 1934** – news report about an explosion at the Galway Magdalen. The headline notes "Magdalen Asylum Endangered", however no mention of the welfare of the women and girls who were incarcerated within.
- **Connacht Tribune 23rd 1935** – a Magdalen Laundry van driver is prosecuted for dangerous driving.

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- **Connacht Tribune 7th April 1962** - during a discussion on water pressure, the Mayor observes that the Galway Magdalen uses a lot of water.
- **Irish Times 7th June 1967** – advertisement for the Galway Magdalen congratulating the Connemara Gateway Motor Inn.
- **Irish Times 18th November 1975** – advertisement congratulating Ashford Castle on winning the Hotel of the Year award (this article was originally discovered by Jim Smith).
- **Irish Times 1st September 1949** – advertisement concerning laundry machinery: “The Plant may be inspected at the Magdalen Laundry, Galway”.
- Two advertisements inviting tenders for the Galway Magdalen from 1939 and 1980.
- A small selection of advertisements advertising grazing lettings for the Galway Magdalen. There were many more such advertisements.

Pat Thuillier

Pat Thuillier was a natural mother who was interviewed for the first edition of Mike Milotte's Banished Babies. She was put into Sean McDermott St/Gloucester St. overnight by a social worker who took her to Castlepollard the next day. Pat describes the experience as “terrible” and said that “girls were screaming and fighting”. Sadly Pat has since passed away.

County Homes and Home Assistance Committee

- **Connacht Tribune 21st January 1922** - article on the setting up of the County Homes and Home Assistance Committee, where it is suggested that the committee would take charge of placing women in the Magdalene.
- **Connacht Tribune 8th September 1928** – County Homes and Home Assistance Committee passes a resolution “calling upon the Dail to introduce legislation giving power to commit second offenders to a Magdalen Asylum”. A Mr. Leonard offers the opinion that “the dancing” is the cause of all the “illegitimate children”.
- **Connacht Tribune 15th September 1928** – Additional article covering the above resolution.

County Board of Health

- **Connaught Telegraph 18th October 1924**
At a meeting of the County Board of Health correspondence was submitted concerning a proposal “to have the mothers of illegitimate children sent to the Magdalen Asylum, Galway”. It was noted that the Board “accepted the terms offered”. - Article from 1924 in the Connaught Telegraph - the County Board of Health meeting mentions a proposal to put mothers of “illegitimate” children into the Magdalen. At the same meeting correspondence was read from a woman named Catherine Boyle who complained that

her daughter and grandchild had not yet been released from an unnamed institution.

- **Connaught Telegraph 27th September 1930**

The Tuam Home and Galway Magdalen are discussed: "As regards the unmarried mothers and children, negotiations for their removal to an institute at Tuam, run by an Order of nuns who specialise in the management of Magdalen Homes.."

Miscellaneous Articles

- **Irish Times 17th April 1937** – the Reverend Mother at Peacock Lane sues a gentleman for damages to a laundry van.
- **Irish Times February 12th 1927** – a case is brought against the Convent of Mercy in Boyle, Co. Roscommon regarding "unemployment insurance contributions for girls employed in the convent laundry". Were the Magdalene Laundries exempt from such prosecutions?
- **Irish Times May 14th 1927** – an appeal against the decision above in the Roscommon case is lost.

Disc No. 4 – Sunday's Well

- PDF detailing concerns about Sunday's Well graves
- MP4 file of DVD referred to in Sunday's Well PDF – apologies for watermark on video

Disc No. 5 – Development/Land Sales

Donnybrook

- **Irish Times 18th April 1986** – article detailing sale of land attached to Donnybrook Magdalen Convent for £1.5m.
- **Irish Times 2nd July 1997** – article detailing £8m sale of Sisters of Charity property.

Good Shepherd Cork

- **Irish Times 22nd November 1994** – article detailing UCC's purchase of the Good Shepherd in Cork
- **Irish Times 15th January 1998** – article in which development at Sunday's Well is mentioned.
- **Irish Times 28th May 2002** – notice of planning appeal regarding development at the Good Shepherd – three articles

Good Shepherd Limerick

- **Irish Times 8th October 1994** – article detailing an auction of the contents of the Good Shepherd in Limerick
- **Irish Times 18th October 1994** – article detailing the sale of the Good Shepherd in Limerick
- **Irish Times 8th September 1994** – article detailing an auction of the contents of the Good Shepherd in Limerick

High Park

- PDF chronicling development and land sales at High Park