

10/2/2019

Submission to the Oireachtas: Burial Arrangements

As you are aware, we were asked to make a submission to the Oireachtas, as to the urgency of passing the upcoming Legislation Bill to allow for further excavation, exhumation, DNA testing, and reburial of the Tuam Home babies who still lie in the chambers of the defunct sewage tank, in the grounds of old Tuam mother & baby Home.

My first submission sent in January 2020 will still be on your record, which was sent in on your request before the Dail was dissolved back then.

I have written privately to all heads of Government and Opposition in the last few days as regards to why the Bill to allow for exhumation must be passed with urgency.

We should not have to beg for this to happen, what happened in Tuam is a tragedy, and is now known worldwide, the fact that babies and young children were indecently buried, one on top of the other without a coffin into the chambers of a sewage tank, to be hidden and forgotten for all time. But the babies could not rest.

Please see photograph of the Archaeologists standing over the chambers in the sewage facility

Link: [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](#) 5th Interim

Report:

Page 45 of 234, Page 56 of 234, Page 39 of 234, Page 40 of 234. Published 17/4/2019

It was a Report specific to the discovery in March 2017 of significant remains in the chambers of a defunct sewage tank in the Tuam Home site, and the announcement that those remains were carbon dated to the era of the Tuam Home 1925-1961 and which was run by the Bon Secours Sisters, in conjunction with Galway Co. Council.

The Archaeologists at the time took numerous photographs of their discovery in the chambers, but the little skeletal remains are blacked out, and rightly so. Important to note is the Summary page from the Archaeologists, where they clearly indicate that the babies' remains were buried in a sewage system, and that it is not appropriate to leave them like this.

Please note it is also indicated that the babies' remains are in excellent condition for DNA testing, many of them still in situ, others unfortunately have been scattered by the influx of water into the tank's chambers.

I am still contacted to this day by multi- media sources worldwide, questioning if there has been any Government response to the Tuam tragedy of the 796 Tuam Home babies, some of whom are in the sewage tank chambers, others scattered in makeshift burials outside the Grotto area, and under the large playground.

I am asking the Oireachtas to listen to the voices of the Survivors who have family buried in the sewage facility and to the unheard voices of the babies who were discarded in such a horrific manner. Please allow for the passing of this Bill that is needed to proceed for the exhumation of the Tuam babies. The Galway Co. Council who own the property have assured their cooperation in this, so there will be no obstacles. The Bon Secours Sisters who ran the Tuam Home from (1925-1961) have apologised and taken responsibility for this atrocity.

This Bill needs to be passed with utter urgency, too much time has been wasted already.

From:

Catherine Corless
Researcher/campaigner for Tuam Babies
Carrowntanliss, Browngrove,
Tuam, Co. Galway

Ph 0851593057
catherinecorless@hotmail.com

I am quite willing and will be available to attend an Oireachtas meeting.