



Deputy Alan Kelly TD,  
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11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Deputy Kelly,

I refer to PQ Ref: 5530/26, for response on 27 January 2026, namely:

**To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the amount her Department has spent on legal fees for each of the years 2020-2025, in tabular form.**

I thank the Deputy for his question.

The information requested, regarding expenditure incurred by my Department on legal costs from 2020 to 2025, is provided below.

The figures provided for the years 2020-2024 refer to the remit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Figures for 2025 relate to the remit of the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, following the 2025 Transfer of Functions.

This excludes any costs incurred directly by agencies operating under the aegis of my Department.

| Year | Cost (€)  |
|------|-----------|
| 2020 | 700,114   |
| 2021 | 1,357,654 |
| 2022 | 866,981   |
| 2023 | 1,683,255 |
| 2024 | 2,970,506 |
| 2025 | 8,698,908 |



Legal costs incurred by the Department in the period related to a range of statutory functions and programmes, including the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation and the Government response to the legacy of Mother and Baby Institutions, Disability related matters such as the Farrelly Commission of Investigation and appeals on points of law arising from determinations of the Disability Appeals Officer, Special Care Cases, the Irish Youth Justice Service, the Magdalen Laundries Ex-Gratia Scheme and matters concerning International Protection, Adoption and Human Resources.

The increase in 2025 related to the following:

- Costs associated with litigation in the areas of historic illegal birth registration and Mother and Baby institutions.
- Costs associated with appeals arising from determinations made by the Disability Appeals Officer (Section 20 of the Disability Act 2005).
- Final legal costs associated with the Farrelly Commission of Investigation were paid, following dissolution of the Commission.
- Costs of discovery work, for legal proceedings related to Special Care cases under the Child Care Act 1991, were incurred in the year.

I trust this information clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Norma Foley', is written over a horizontal line.

Norma Foley TD  
Minister for Children, Disability and Equality