From: John Moore1 <john.moore1@tusla.ie>
Date: Saturday 11 March 2023 at 10:00
To: Mark Vincent Healy <markvincenthealy@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: 230310 - Commission to Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Primary and Post-Primary Schools in Ireland

Dear Mr Healy

Just as a point of clarification on two points of information pertaining to the content of your email below:

The first is in relation to the following:

> The distribution of contact details by the DLP for the Spiritans to Tusla is a breach of confidentiality, where Tusla's Mr John Moore, subsequently foisted requests for further information (https://bit.ly/3l9mDFJ) from survivors under the guise of the 'Minister-Initiated Scoping Inquiry'.
>
> Mr Moore had no right to disturb any survivor of child sexual abuse in this way. The Minister for Education is more than well aware of the enormous negative impact repeated contact, data requests and surveys have on survivors, causing and triggering chronic depression, extreme anxiety, confusion and suffering. "

Please be advised that under Part 3 of Children First Act (2015) the DLP for the Spiritans is compelled by law to notify Tusla and An Garda Síochána where there is an allegation of child abuse, which outlines that if that person becomes aware that a child has been harmed or is being harmed, they must report. Indeed the basis of mandated reporting has been challenged quite recently before the High Court also and I refer you to McGrath v. HSE judgement in this regard, which re-enforces the mandated person's obligations to report.

The second point of information I wish to provide is that when Tusla receives a person's personal information and it is highly sensitive, Tusla is compelled to notify that person that we have received and are processing that information. There is no reference to, nor is there any legal obligation on any person to contact or engage with Tusla.

I want to refer you to Tusla's complaint procedure "Tell Us" which can be accessed via https://www.tusla.ie/get-in-touch/feedback-and-complaints1/ if you have issue with my communications with identified persons. However, given that I had no record of your name as provided by the Spiritans and I had not issued a letter to you directly so you may not be facilitated unless you are advocating with the consent of an identified complainant, who has received my correspondence and wishes to pursue this as a formal complaint process.

That being said, I would prefer as a first course of action that you might contact me directly and I will explain in detail where our obligations and processes are – I am very mindful that the scoping inquiry cited and presented by the Minister is receiving its share of criticism but I have received responses from a considerable number of persons identified and they have welcomed the information and context I have provided it. However, I am also very mindful that there are those that will not want any contact or engagement with Tusla and that is their absolute and unconditional right. I work every day with persons that have experienced the most profound and unimaginable abuse as a child – while I have a sound legal basis for the work, I also have a moral and ethical duty to provide people with the information they might require to access therapeutic support as they may never have spoken a word of their experiences to anyone in decades. Your communication with the assembly of public representatives has grossly misrepresented the context and intent but I absolutely recognise

that you have issue with the Government's response to this issue and your points are well made in this regard.

As I say, I am happy to speak or meet with you if that is something that you are open to. I want to, and will listen to any voice that has a contribution to make that can enhance how we engage with persons making disclosures of abuse as it makes me a better practitioner, it makes our processes more accessible and it makes me and my team more trauma-informed.

Yours sincerely

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