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Mr Batt O'Keeffe TD
Minister of Education and Science
The Department of Education of Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

6 November 2009

Re: Irish Provinces, Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary ("the Congregation")

Dear Mr O'Keeffe

We are writing to you in our capacity as the Provincial Leaders of the three Irish Provinces of the Presentation Sisters.

We refer to the letter written on behalf of the Congregation to the Taoiseach on the 16th October 2009. We wish to confirm that the Congregation has reflected deeply on the matters raised in the course of our meetings on the 4th and 24th of June 2009 and in particular the report from the very constructive meeting under the direction of Mr. Dermott McCarthy on the 7th July 2009.

The Congregation wishes to make a further financial contribution towards the work of the Independent Trust which the Government has said it will create in order to assist victims of abuse which they may have experienced in the two Residential Institutions which were managed by the Congregation.

The Congregation has, with the assistance of its professional advisors, reviewed its current capacity to make any further financial contributions and in the light of that review, wishes to make the following contribution.

1. The Congregation is willing to pay the sum of €5 Million to the Trustees of the Independent Trust which the Government has indicated it will establish for the benefit of past residents of Residential Institutions now in need of financial or other support. This contribution is comprised of €4 million in cash and €1 million representing the market value of St. Bernard's Group Homes, Fethard, Co. Tipperary with the field attached which it is intended to be transferred to the HSE or a Government nominee.

2. This offer is subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The Congregation requests the Government to confirm that all the funds which it may pay in accordance with this offer will be applied by the proposed Trust, solely for the benefit of past residents of Residential Institutions.
- (ii) The Congregation's capacity to implement this offer is dependent upon approval from the Charity Commissioners. While it is hoped that the Charity Commissioner's will not object to the proposed offer, this is obviously a matter which is subject to assessment by the Charity Commissioners (particularly dealing with the property element) in the exercise of their Statutory powers.
- (iii) Should the Congregation's offer of St. Bernard's Group Home, Fethard not be acceptable or if the Charity Commissioners consent is not forthcoming then that portion of the offer will lapse. The Congregation would not be minded to make a cash contribution in substitution.

[REDACTED]

It is our fervent hope that this offer will be capable of being implemented speedily with your cooperation in order to support and enhance the lives of past residents of Residential Institutions.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Maxwell *Frances Murphy* *Mary Hoare*

Sr. Elizabeth Maxwell
Provincial Leader
Northern Province

Sr. Frances Murphy
Provincial Leader
South East Province

Sr. Mary Hoare
Provincial Leader
South West Province