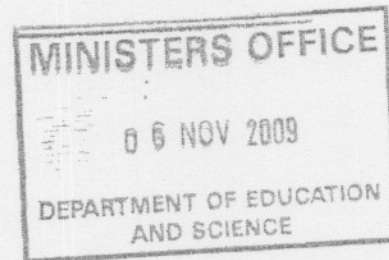




THE DOMINICAN PROVINCIALATE

St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Telephone: 01-4048118 Fax: 01-4515584 Internet: www.dominicans.ie

Strictly confidential
Minister Batt O Keeffe TD
Minister for Education and Science
Department of Education and Science
Marlborough Street
Dublin 1



06 November 2009

Dear Minister,

I refer to the email letter from An Taoiseach dated 24 September 2009 which was circulated to the leaders of all the congregations that were part of the Residential Institutions Redress Scheme. In that letter the Taoiseach asked the congregations to revert to you with an offer of a financial contribution by way of reparation.

We subsequently replied to the Taoiseach by letter dated 13 October 2009 and indicated that the Irish Province of the Dominican Order would be advancing an offer on our own behalf and not as part of any collective offer on behalf of the 18 congregations.

We have also been engaged with the Panel of Experts that have been assessing the Statement of Assets of the congregations and have given them every assistance in concluding their report.

We have spent a considerable amount of time and effort in calculating the offer that we will make to the State arising from the publication of the Ryan Report and the subsequent meetings with the Taoiseach. Preparing this offer has taken time, both in the context of identifying the assets available to contribute to the offer, and in developing a basis on which our offer should be calculated.

Mindful of this, we have taken the following factors into account in calculating our financial contribution;

- The desire of our Order to do what is right, just and moral in terms of our responsibilities to former residents of St. Saviour's Boys Home. This is our overriding objective.

- Recognition of the findings of the Ryan Commission as they apply to our Order and the St. Saviour's Boys Home. The Irish Province of the Dominican Order featured in the Ryan Report in relation to one institution – St Saviour's Boys Home in Dominick Street, Dublin. The specific and only reference to St. Saviour's in the Ryan Commission Report (referred to in the Report as St Xavier's) is in paragraph 1.90 and is repeated here for ease of reference;

"The Dominican Order

1.90 The Dominican Fathers have a long tradition in education in Ireland. They operate a number of schools throughout the country. They had one institution, an orphanage at Dominic Street, Dublin known as St Xavier's Boys Home. It closed in 1993, and the Order received their first complaint in relation to this institution in 1995. Two further complaints emerged later that year and, in 2001, legal proceedings were instituted by six former residents.

- The desire to make a substantial additional contribution to the compensation paid to former residents of the St Saviour's Boys Home by the RIRB, mindful of existing contributions we have made to date.
- In addition a desire to contribute to a Trust Fund for survivors, and
- Our capacity to make the additional contributions in the context of the resources available to us, the current services that we provide and our future obligations to our members, staff and beneficiaries of our services. We have made a full Statement of Affairs to the Panel of Experts on this aspect

In the light of these guiding principles, the financial contribution from the Irish Province of the Dominican Order will be:

€6,500,000 (six million, five hundred thousand, euro)

This figure includes a contribution in relation to and compensation paid out by the RIRB and a contribution to the trust fund which is yet to be established.

In the context of the principles that have guided this offer we believe that it is both a generous and proportionate response by the Irish Province of the Dominican Order to the request by the Taoiseach for an offer of a financial contribution following the publication of the Ryan Report. The offer is being advanced on an ex gratia basis and not on the basis of any legal liability or legal obligation.

I note from the letter received from your Secretary General dated 22 October 2009 that the government is not proposing a process of negotiation in relation to any offers advanced by the congregations. Mindful of this we have advanced a real and

substantive offer which reflects our desire to address the concerns reflected by the Taoiseach, the Oireachtas, our congregation and the wider public in the aftermath of the publication of the Ryan Commission Report.

I would be grateful if you could let me know the arrangement for payment of this offer – as the Order will have to liquidate certain assets to fund the offer in what is not the most conducive climate, we would be grateful for some latitude in discharging the sum.

The Irish Province of the Dominican Order also reiterates the apology that we conveyed previously to former residents of St Saviours Boys Home who were abused while under the care of our Order.

I would be grateful for your acknowledgement of this offer and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence Collins OP

PP

Fr Pat Lucey OP
Provincial