

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council



Our Ref: December 2022/07

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
047 30586

Airgeadas
Finance
047 30589

Na Bóithre
Roads
047 30597

Clár na dToghthóirí
Register of Electors
047 30551

Comhshaol
Environment
042 9661240

Na hEalaíona
Arts
047 38162

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta
Housing Loans/Grants
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae
County Library
047 74700

Mótarcháin
Motor Tax
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae
County Museum
047 82928

Pleanáil
Planning
047 30532

Pobal
Community
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh
Fire/Building Control
047 30521

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
047 71818

Seirbhís Uisce
Water Services
047 30504/30571

15 December 2022

Private Secretary to
Mr. Stephen Donnelly,
Minister for Health
Department of Health
Block 1, Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin, D02 XW14

A Chara,

At the December meeting of Monaghan County Council the members passed the following resolution and I was directed to forward same to you for attention.

That this Council calls on the Minister for Health, Department of Health and the HSE to put in place proper, sensitive procedures to avoid any future retention of a baby's organs, at post-mortem, without the express permission of the parent, to request that:

- *Clear, written communication on consent forms be discussed with families at the time of death/prior to post-mortem taking place*
- *Best practice models be examined from other countries to ensure the Irish system is fit-for-purpose & with proper oversight*
- *Communication of post-mortem results be respectful and delivered by meeting with assigned medical professional – clear definition of this process should immediately become standard procedure for all hospitals*
- *Post-mortem documentation should include a clear, concise and fully completed document for families*
- *In cases where organs need to be retained; reasons must be clearly explained and a swift timeframe for their return must be communicated to parents.*

Monaghan County Council demand that an investigation take place into the cases outlined by Primetime (RTE) on 3rd November 2022 and any other similar case that were not highlighted and that:

- *Families who have had organs from their baby retained, be informed of what was taken and why, and what happened to the organs. These families should be afforded an in-person meeting to be given details.*
- *An independent inquiry takes place to determine why Consultant A was continuously used as a private pathologist after being found to be negligent in his former public-sector pathology role. This inquiry should also find reason as to why earlier recommendations, made by independent reviews, were not implemented.*
- *Clarification is needed on whether Consultant A is still conducting perinatal post-mortems.*

Fálltíonn an tÚdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras I nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifigí an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.

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Monaghan County Council also asks that in cases where Parental Consent is not requested (Coroner's post-mortem) that parents are still fully informed on organ retention and length of retention period.

I would be grateful if you would bring the contents of this letter to the Minister's attention and let me have a reply for the Council members in due course.

Mise, le meas,



Mary McGarvey
Meetings Administrator

c.c HSE
c.c. All Local Authorities