

STATEMENT IN RELATION TO REPORT BY THE OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN INTO ‘MOLLY’S CASE’

The Irish Foster Care Association welcomes the report by The Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon into a complaint made on behalf of Molly who has Down Syndrome and severe autism. The Irish Foster Care Association has advocated for access to services for all foster children and their foster parents, but particularly in cases where access to supports and services is essential for the well being of the child and for the well being of the foster family. In cases like Molly’s it is essential that additional supports such as respite and medical are accessible and readily available on a continuous basis.

Speaking about today’s report Catherine Bond, CEO, Irish Foster Care Association said “Co-ordination between governmental agencies is essential so that children in care do not fall between two State agencies, when this happens it is the children that lose out. These children are amongst our most vulnerable and additional supports are often required and should be available to ensure these children are adequately cared for. Our members tell us every day that they have to fight the system to get services for children in their care and this is not good enough.

“I welcome the commitments made by the HSE and Tusla to improve services and supports for these children and look forward to seeing these words put into action for the 472 children with disabilities in foster care.”

Ends

For reference:

Sharon McDonnell M: 087 2269324 E: media@ifca.ie

Further information on the Irish Foster Care Association

The Irish Foster Care Association is the representative body for foster care in Ireland. Child-centred and rights-based, IFCA promotes excellence in foster care so that children have the best chances in life. We aim to accomplish this by providing information, support, and learning opportunities for all those involved in foster care through our direct work in Advocacy, Branch Development, Support, and Learning and Development. We are an independent, membership-led organisation. IFCA’s National Support Helpline runs every week day from 11.00am - 3.00pm and can be contacted at 01 458 5123.