

Press Release

28 February 2017

IRISH FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE PUBLICATION OF THE TWO REPORTS ON THE GRACE CASE TODAY

Vital that the date is set for the government inquiry to commence

The Irish Foster Care Association (IFCA) welcomes today's publication of the two HSE commissioned reports on the Grace Case. It is imperative that the Cabinet now sets the date for the Commission of Investigation to commence its work of Inquiry into the 'Grace' case which relates to allegations of abuse at a foster home in the South East. IFCA's CEO, Catherine Bond said that it's vital that the inquiry be speedy and thorough.

'Both reports indicate the failure to protect vulnerable children in foster care and we urge the Government to get the Commission of Inquiry up and running and set a date for commencement'. Speaking on behalf of the country's dedicated foster carers – who carry out invaluable work on behalf of the Irish State providing loving, safe homes for our most vulnerable children – I think it is vital that the inquiry proceeds thoroughly and speedily and leaves no stone unturned in getting to the truth," Catherine Bond said.

"It will also be important that whatever we learn from this Inquiry is acted upon to ensure that the rights of children in care are fully vindicated by the State. In particular, we need to ensure that the resources required are put in place to ensure that all children in foster care get the social work support they require and that all foster carers are properly assessed, supported and supervised throughout their time as carers."

Catherine Bond concluded by saying that it's important to bear in mind that the vast majority of foster care placements are successful with the young people concerned going on to lead full and active lives.

Notes to Editors

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.

Media contacts: Catherine Bond 086 0425279; Irish Foster Care Association 01 4599474.

<http://www.ifca.ie/>

Unit 23, Village Green, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Catherine Bond CEO IFCA 086-04252709