Dear **[insert name of your MP]** MP,

Re: Philomena’s Law

My name is **[insert your name]** and I live at **[insert address]**. I am writing to you as your constituent regarding an urgent issue affecting many Irish people currently living in Britain and to encourage you to support Philomena’s Law proposed by Liam Conlon MP by signing his open letter.

Survivors of Mother and Baby Homes in Ireland

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme opened in the Republic of Ireland in March 2024 to provide redress payment to former residents of Mother and Baby Homes in recognition of the time spent in these institutions, the harsh conditions, emotional abuse, other forms of mistreatment, stigma and trauma. As things stand, those living in Britain who are granted financial payment may lose their entitlement to means-tested benefits as it will be considered as savings and take recipients over the capital threshold.

Philomena’s Law

There is a straightforward mechanism to ensure that survivors of institutional abuse are not financially penalised for receiving this redress:

* Philomena’s Law seeks to introduce an indefinite capital disregard, like those introduced for the Windrush Compensation Scheme, the 7th July 2005 London bombings and those affected by the contaminated blood scandal
* There is also a precedent in Northern Ireland where there is already a capital disregard in place for this payment scheme
* **We need support from parliamentarians to back this bill:** the impact on means-tested benefits is a major issue determining applicants’ decisions and is causing major stress and re-traumatisation for survivors of these institutions, many of whom are elderly
* **We are therefore calling on the government to introduce Philomena’s Law by statutory instrument**

Please join Liam Conlon’s letter supporting the introduction of Philomena’s Law so that survivors of the institutions currently living in Britain can get the compensation they are due without losing their right to means-tested benefits, now or in the future. You can sign the letter by following this link: <https://bit.ly/PhilomenasLawOpenLetter> or by emailing Liam directly.

If you have any questions about Philomena’s Law don’t hesitate to contact Liam’s team at liam.conlon.mp@parliament.uk

Yours sincerely,

**[insert your name]**