

APPENDIX E

Questions put to participants in the Aitheantas Participation, Validation and Memorialisation Survey

- Respondents were asked whether they were within the remit of the Commission's inquiry. Although many respondents were technically within the remit, only 5% were actually able to participate. This clearly shows the practical and emotional difficulties of participating in the inquiry faced even by those who were within its remit, while those who were not within the remit of the Commission have had no opportunity to give testimony or evidence.
- Respondents were asked their opinion on the final report of the Commission. All of the respondents were unhappy with the report and its findings.
- Respondents were asked if they believed that An Taoiseach's apology to survivors, made on 13 January 2021, sufficiently acknowledges the experiences of birth mothers, adoptees or stakeholders in these homes or acknowledges those that could not participate in the Commission's inquiry. Two links providing the full text of the apology and a video of An Taoiseach delivering the apology were linked with the question. All of the respondents did not believe that the apology was sufficient.
- Respondents were asked if they believed that there needs to be a full, open investigation into all agencies/homes/institutions connected to adoption and unmarried mothers in Ireland. All of the respondents agreed that an investigation is needed.
- Respondents were asked their opinions on the Taoiseach's proposal to set up a permanent museum or repository of records relating to mother and baby homes. They were asked if they thought such a museum/repository should be located somewhere neutral, or in locations associated with former mother and baby homes. They were also asked their opinions on the model of remembrance that such a museum/repository should use - whether it should be an interpretative based model with permanent exhibitions and priority access to records for adoptees, survivors and their families, or a records-based model with access for researchers, the general public, adoptees and survivors. Opinions were mixed on these questions, but a slight majority preferred a neutral location and an interpretative-based model.
- Respondents were asked what supports could be offered to adoptees and survivors who have used genealogy services and DNA tests to assist in their information tracing. The options presented were:

- A one-off grant for survivors, independent of any centre or museum, and a recommended panel of genealogists to choose from to assist with tracing.
- Genealogists being made available to adoptees in a museum or heritage institution context.

Most respondents preferred the option of the one-off grant.

- Respondents were asked if they had already taken a DNA test using commercial platforms such as AncestryDNA, 23andMe or MyHeritage. The majority confirmed that they had.
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