

Statement of the Bishop of Cork and Ross regarding Baltimore Industrial School
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The Bishop's first concern, as he has repeatedly stated over the years, is for the people who have suffered abuse, regardless of who perpetrated it.

The Redress scheme was established by the Government in agreement with various religious orders which had control of industrial schools and those orders contributed to funds. The Catholic Diocese of Cork and Ross has never been and is not one of the management bodies involved in negotiations with the government about redress. The Diocese has never had control over the Baltimore Fishery School and the Bishop does not represent nor speak for the former school or its trustees

The Baltimore Fishery School was an independent charity, established in the 1880's by the then Lord Carbery and others. It was and is governed by a Board of Governors. Lord Carbery is always a Governor. Members of prominent Cork business families have served as governors from time to time. The Bishop of Ross was always a governor also.

The school closed in 1952. In 1958, the Diocese of Ross was joined with the Diocese of Cork and the Bishop of Cork and Ross became a Governor in lieu of the Bishop of Ross. After the closure, the assets of the Fishery school were sold and the proceeds put into a fund in accordance with the directions of the Charity Commissioners. The Charity Commissioners now control disbursement of the fund. The Bishop, as one Governor, would be happy to give that money to the Redress Board but that decision is not within the Governor's remit. Such a decision can only be made by the Charitable Commissioners.

The Baltimore fishery school was never controlled by the diocese. When the Child Abuse Commission was investigating the Fishery School, the Diocese of Cork and Ross cooperated to the best of its ability and was thanked for that in the report by Judge Mary Laffoy. There is no ongoing discussion about the former school involving the diocese and the government.

The assets and funds of the diocese are held on Charitable trusts. Baltimore Fishery school was not and is not one of those trusts.