

Appendix 1

Timeline of Events of Significance to the Work of the Commission

1940	John Charles McQuaid was appointed Archbishop of Dublin.
1950	The Mother and Child Scheme was introduced by the Minister for Health to provide mothers with free maternity treatment and their children with free medical care up to the age of 16.
1951	The Mother and Child Scheme was dropped by the government following opposition from the Catholic Church and the medical profession. Dr Noel Browne resigned as Minister for Health.
1962 – 1965	Second Vatican Council was held in Rome.
1968	<i>Humane Vitae</i> Encyclical was promulgated by Pope Paul VI reaffirming the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion, contraception and other issues pertaining to human life.
1972	Archbishop McQuaid retired as Archbishop of Dublin. He was succeeded by Dr Dermot Ryan.
1973	Ireland joined the EEC. <i>The Civil Service (Employment of Married Women) Act 1973</i> ended the requirement that women retire from the Civil Service on marriage.
	<i>McGee – v – Attorney General</i> The Supreme Court decided that a law prohibiting the importation, sale or advertising of contraceptives violated constitutional protections for marital privacy.
1977	Department of Health issued a Memorandum on Non-accidental injury to children.

- 1978 Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope John Paul II, following the death of Pope John Paul I.
- 1979 The *Health (Family Planning) Act 1979* provided that contraceptives may be dispensed by a pharmacist on presentation of a valid prescription for 'bone fide family planning or adequate medical reasons'.
- Pope John Paul II visited Ireland
- 1980 Guidelines on the Identification and Management of Non-Accidental Injury to Children were published by the Department of Health.
- 1983 The 'Pro-Life' amendment to the Constitution was passed. This provided that the right to life of the unborn with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother be enshrined in the Constitution.
- Revised 'Guidelines on Non-Accidental Injury to Children' were published by the Department of Health.
- 1984 Dr Kevin McNamara, the bishop of Kerry, was appointed Archbishop of Dublin, following the appointment of Archbishop Ryan to the Roman Curia in 1983.
- Fifteen-year old Ann Lovett died after giving birth in a grotto outside the town of Granard, Co Longford. Her infant son also died.
- The 'Kerry Babies' Tribunal was established to investigate how Joanne Hayes and her family confessed to the killing of a new born baby found stabbed to death on a beach at Cahirciveen, Co Kerry. The Tribunal concluded that Joanne Hayes was not the

mother of the baby and had no responsibility for the killing. It found that she was the mother of another new born baby whose body was found on the Hayes family farm.

1985

The *Health (Family Planning) (Amendment) Act 1985* liberalised the law on contraception by allowing condoms to be sold to people over 18 without a prescription.

Eileen Flynn was dismissed from her job as a secondary school teacher in a state-funded convent school when she gave birth to a baby as an unmarried mother, the father of the baby being a separated married man.

1986

The first divorce referendum was defeated.

1987

Guidelines on Procedures for the Identification, Investigation and Management of Child Abuse were published by the Department of Health

Archbishop McNamara died.

1988

Dr Desmond Connell was appointed Archbishop of Dublin.

1992

Bishop Eamonn Casey resigned as Bishop of Galway after revelations that he fathered a child 18 years previously.

In the X case, a pregnant, 14-year-old rape victim who was prevented from leaving Ireland to obtain an abortion in England appealed to the Supreme Court. The Court held that the Pro-Life Amendment gave a *right* to abortion in certain limited circumstances including when the mother's life is in danger.

A three-part referendum on abortion rights was held:

The proposal to amend Article 40 of the Constitution so that it would be unlawful to terminate the life of an unborn unless such termination was necessary to save the life, as distinct from the health, of the mother was rejected.

The proposal that the right to life of the unborn enshrined in Article 40 of the Constitution shall not limit the freedom to travel abroad for services was passed.

The proposal that the right to life of the unborn enshrined in Article 40 of the Constitution shall not limit the freedom to obtain or make available, in the State, subject to such conditions as may be laid down by law, information relating to services lawfully available in another state was passed.

1993

Homosexuality was decriminalised. The *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993* repealed legislation prohibiting all homosexual acts between males and introduced 17 as the age of consent for homosexual activities.

1994

The Fianna Fail/Labour Coalition Government collapsed as a result of controversy over the failure to extradite Fr Brendan Smyth to Northern Ireland on charges of child sexual abuse.

1995

The second divorce referendum was passed.

The *Regulation of Information (Services Outside the State for Termination of Pregnancies) Act 1995* was passed.

1996

The *Framework Document* was published.

1998	The <i>Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998</i> was passed, providing immunity from civil liability to persons who report child abuse “reasonably and in good faith” to the Health Board or the Gardaí.
1999	‘ <i>Children First</i> ’ National Guidelines for the protection and welfare of children were introduced by the Department of Health and Children.
2000	The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse in residential institutions was established.
2001	Archbishop Connell was created Cardinal. Archdiocesan seminary at Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, Dublin was closed.
2002	The fifth abortion referendum was defeated. It proposed to remove the threat of suicide as a grounds for legal abortion in Ireland and to introduce tough new penalties for those performing or assisting abortions. The BBC broadcast the Panorama programme ‘Suing the Pope’ about the activities of Fr Sean Fortune in the diocese of Ferns. Bishop Brendan Comiskey resigned as Bishop of Ferns. RTE Prime Time special ‘Cardinal Secrets’ investigated cases of child sexual abuse by clerics in Ireland. The Government announced an inquiry into the handling of child sexual abuse in the diocese of Ferns.
2004	Cardinal Connell retired as Archbishop of Dublin. Archbishop Martin was appointed as Archbishop.

2005	<p>Pope John Paul II died. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope Benedict XVI.</p> <p><i>Our Children, Our Church</i> was published</p> <p>Report of the Ferns Inquiry was published.</p>
2006	<p>This Commission was established.</p> <p>The Supreme Court ruled that the section 1.1 of the <i>Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1935</i> was unconstitutional as it created an absolute offence which did not allow a male accused of unlawful carnal knowledge of an underage girl any defence, once the fact of sexual intercourse an act not in itself unlawful, was proved.</p> <p>The <i>Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006</i> was passed, providing for a defence of honest mistake as to age.</p>
2007	<p>A referendum on child protection was proposed. No date has yet been agreed for the referendum.</p> <p>The Government published the Bill to provide for Civil Partnerships for same-sex couples.</p>
2009	<p>Commission of Investigation into Child Abuse (Ryan Commission) published its report into the abuse of children in residential institutions and industrial schools.</p>