

AYN

Dear AYN

Thank you for your letters of 18 August and 29 August 2001 requesting a meeting to discuss reasons for your transfer to Westbrook. Thank you also for your letter of 24 August 2001 enclosing copies of your grant application to the Forde Foundation and subsequent letter to the Foundation. I will take this opportunity to respond to all three of your letters.

I understand your desire to clarify the reasons for your transfer to Westbrook. The departmental records that have been provided to you previously indicate that you were transferred to the Westbrook Training Centre on 18 August 1960 following a request from St Joseph's concerning your misconduct at that facility.

On 20 July this year, at a meeting involving staff from the Minister's Office and from the Freedom of Information Branch, it was explained to you that no further explanation could be provided. As previously advised, you have the option of adding to your records if you wish. I understand you are pursuing this option and I encourage you to continue with this task.

As this is the only information available, a meeting with you would not shed any further light on this matter. I realise the lack of resolution in relation to this must be extremely difficult for you and makes trying to resolve and come to terms with the trauma of your childhood problematic.

I also note your hurt and disappointment with the Forde Foundation's response to your grant application. You would be aware that the Forde Foundation is an independent legal trust free from government control. I am therefore unable to comment on any individual applications. It is helpful to the Foundation that you have provided feedback regarding your experience. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Ms Eileen Jones, Acting Executive Officer, Forde Foundation on 323 93489.

I appreciate the time you have taken to write to raise your concerns. If you require further information please contact Ms Julieann Cork, Forde Contact Officer, Child Protection Branch on 3405 6702.

Yours sincerely

Judy Spence MP
Minister for Families