



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Maternity Protection, Employment Equality and Preservation of Certain Records Act, 2024: summary of statements received.

Background

Part 3 of the [Maternity Protection, Employment Equality and Preservation of Certain Records Act, 2024](#) was commenced in November 2024 by the Minister for Children. Section 12 of the legislation amends the National Archives Act, 1986 to grant the Director of the National Archives statutory powers under the Act. [Section 9](#) grants the Director of the National Archives powers to compel relevant bodies and information sources holding relevant records as defined in [section 7](#) of the Act to provide a statement of records setting out what records they hold. The legislation makes it a criminal offence to destroy, falsify, conceal, or mutilate records and to move records outside the jurisdiction. It is also an offence to fail to maintain the relevant record.

Letters issued

In December 2024 and January 2025, the Director of the National Archives wrote to both the Catholic and Church of Ireland Bishops, as well as several religious congregations and orders who operated institutions as defined in the legislation. In accordance with Part 3, section 9(2), these individuals, and organisations had three months from this date to comply with the request.

Statements Received

[Appendix 1](#) details the statements of relevant records received as of September 2026.

Access to Records

Please note that the 2024 Act relates to *preservation* of records **only**. It **does not** oblige or compel any organisation to deposit their records in the National Archives and hence the National Archives does not have any involvement in access arrangements to the records described in the statements.

These records are not held in the National Archives.

Appendix 1: Summary of Statements of Relevant Records Received up to September 2026.

NAME OF ORGANISATION	DATE REQUEST SENT	INITIAL RESPONSE RECEIVED	EXTENSION GRANTED	INITIAL STATEMENT RECEIVED	¹ RELEVANT RECORDS HELD
Congregations:					
Congregation of Christian Brothers	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Congregation of the Brothers of Charity	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Daughters of the Cross	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Daughters of the Heart of Mary	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Daughters of Wisdom	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
De La Salle Brothers	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Legion of Mary	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poor Clares	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Presentation Brothers	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Religious Sisters of Charity	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Rosminians (Institute of Charity)	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Salesians of Don Bosco	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	X
Sisters of Bon Secours	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles	20/12/2024	✓	X	X	X

¹ Relevant records held by the organisation according to the statement of relevant records submitted to the National Archives

Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Sisters of Saint Clare	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Sisters of Saint John of God	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Sisters of Saint Louis (Irish Region)	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Church of Ireland Dioceses:					
Church of Ireland Diocese of Armagh	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Church of Ireland Diocese of Cashel, Ferns, and Ossory	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Church of Ireland Diocese of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Church of Ireland Diocese of Derry and Raphoe	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Church of Ireland Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Church of Ireland Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Church of Ireland Diocese of Meath and Kildare	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Church of Ireland Diocese of Tuam, Limerick, and Killaloe	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Representative Church Body Library	15/01/2025	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Dioceses:					
Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh	09/01/2025	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Archdiocese of Cashel and Emlly	09/01/2025	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin	09/01/2025	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Archdiocese of Tuam	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Anconry	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Catholic Diocese of Clogher	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Catholic Diocese of Clonfert	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Cloyne	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Derry	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Elphin	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Ferns	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Galway, Kilmacduagh and Kilfenora	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Kerry	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Catholic Diocese of Killala	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Catholic Diocese of Killaloe	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓

Catholic Diocese of Kilmore	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Limerick	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catholic Diocese of Ossory	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	X
Catholic Diocese of Raphoe	20/12/2024	✓	✓	✓	X
Catholic Diocese of Waterford and Lismore	20/12/2024	✓	X	✓	✓