



# We've Had Enough of Church Control:

## NMH Must Be Secular and Publicly Owned

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said this week that he thinks opposition to the National Maternity Hospital deal boils down to an **"appalling track record"** and **"deep-seated mistrust"** when it comes to **"church and reproductive health"** in Ireland.

On this, Donnelly is absolutely right.  
People do not trust:

- + A deal that hands our new National Maternity Hospital to a Vatican-approved healthcare company.
- + That a 300-year lease amounts to "public ownership", as Taoiseach Mícheál Martin claims.
- + A provision in the lease that could see rent rise to €850,000 a year.
- + A deal where "clinically appropriate" care is ill-defined and mired in legal uncertainty.

There is a simple solution:

The St Vincent's Healthcare group should gift this land to the state. This would be some small compensation for the involvement of the Sisters of Charity in **institutional abuse**, including the running of **industrial schools** and **Magdalene Laundries**.

Failing this, the state should take the lands off them. And if this causes a delay, the government should look at alternative sites for the NMH, such as Blanchardstown or Tallaght.

Our National Maternity Hospital should be completely secular and publicly owned. It really is that simple.

**Public Meeting After Rally:**

**Oscar Wilde Memorial, Merrion Square, 3:30pm**

**National Maternity Hospital and Roe v. Wade:  
The Fight For Reproductive Rights Goes On**

**Speakers:**  
**Bríd Smith TD**  
**Ailbhe Smyth**  
**Sadhbh Mac Lochlainn**

**Title:** We've Had Enough of Church Control: NMH  
Must Be Secular and Publicly Owned  
**Organisation:** People Before Profit  
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