



HISTORICAL INQUIRIES OF IRELAND & TYPES OF PUBLIC INQUIRIES.

Here's an overview of major public inquiries and tribunals, mainly in the Republic of Ireland — formal fact-finding investigations into matters of public importance:

Key Tribunals of Inquiry

These are formal statutory public inquiries established by the Oireachtas under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921 to investigate urgent public issues:

Beef Tribunal (Tribunal of Inquiry into the Beef Processing Industry) – investigated alleged malpractice in the Irish beef industry (early 1990s).

Finlay Tribunal – inquiry into Hepatitis C infection of pregnant women from Rho(D) immune globulin.

McCracken Tribunal – examined alleged payments by Dunnes Stores.

Moriarty Tribunal – probed payments to politicians Charles Haughey and Michael Lowry.

Mahon Tribunal (formerly Flood Tribunal) – investigated corrupt planning payments and rezoning issues.

Lindsay Tribunal – examined HIV and Hepatitis C infection of haemophiliacs.

Morris Tribunal – looked at allegations of policing corruption in the Garda Síochána (Donegal Division).

Smithwick Tribunal – investigated alleged collusion in the fatal shooting of two RUC officers in 1989.

Barr Tribunal – inquired into the fatal shooting of John Carthy at Abbeylara, Co. Longford.

Other Significant Inquiries and Reports

These were not always full statutory tribunals but were major public investigations or commissions:

Dublin and Monaghan Bombings 1974 (Commission of Investigation) – investigated the 1974 bombings.

Ferns Report – on clerical sexual abuse in the Diocese of Ferns.

Ryan Report (Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse) – looked at abuse in religiously run institutions.

Murphy Report – into sexual abuse in the Dublin archdiocese.

Travers Report – addressed the overcharging of fees at some nursing homes.

Historical Inquiries

Before the main tribunals of the 1990s and 2000s, Ireland also had other inquiries and tribunals on diverse matters (e.g., administrative or accident investigations), though many are less frequently cited in modern political history.

Types of Public Inquiries

- *Tribunals of Inquiry* – statutory, with High Court powers, public hearings and reports to the Oireachtas.
- *Commissions of Investigation* – usually private evidence sessions under the Commissions of Investigation Act 2004, often preceding or replacing tribunals for specific issues.
- *Oireachtas Inquiries* – non-statutory parliamentary inquiries (less powerful than tribunals).