

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of Proceedings of Meeting of Committee of the Whole House. Eastern Health Board, held in the Boardroom. 7 James's Street. Dublin, on Thursday. 2nd December. 1971 at 3 p.m.

Present:

<p>Deputy Patrick Belton Dr. F. de Burgh Whyte Councillor M. Carroll Mr. J. Corcoran, M.B. Dr. J. Cullen Cllr. Michael Cunningham Deputy H. P. Dockrell Cllr. James Dowling Deputy Joe Dowling Mr. D. Gailivan Commissioner J. Garvin Cllr. Patrick Hickey, P.C. Miss Eileen Horgan Dr. P. C. Jennings</p>	<p>Miss Kay Kinsella Cllr. M. Mahon Dr. A. Meade Dr James McCormick Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell Dr. J. St. L. O'Dea Dr. B. O'Donnell Mr. Dermot O'Flynn Dr. B. O'Herlihy Cllr. John Sweeney Cllr. John Temple Deputy G. Timmins Mr Hugh P. Corrigan, M.P.S.I.</p>
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Apology for absence:

Dr. R. Belton

Dr. James McCormick, Chairman, presided.

Officers in Attendance:

<p>Mr. E. O. Caoimh, <i>Chief Executive Officer.</i> Mr. J. J. Nolan, <i>Deputy Chief Executive Officer</i> Professor Ivor Browne, <i>Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care</i> Dr. M. Crowe. <i>Chief Medical Officer</i> Dr. B. M. Dunleavy. <i>Assistant Chief Medical Officer</i> Mr. J. F. Reynolds. <i>Finance Officer</i></p>	<p>Mr. R. N. Lamb, <i>Personnel Officer</i> Mr. F. Elliott, <i>Planning & Evaluation Officer</i> Mr. J. Clarke Mr. F. Donohue Mr. P. J. Swords Mr. C. D. McElree Mr. J. Doyle Mr. T. Fagan Mr. A. O'Brien Mr. F. Williams Mr. P. Sheehan Mr. J. Duggan Miss K. Dolan</p>
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**C.3/71 DRAFT ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES
 1972/73**

The Draft Estimate of Expenses for the financial year ending 31st March, 1973, together with the following Report No. 68/1971 thereon from the Chief Executive Officer, which had been circulated, were submitted for consideration:

"Report of the Chief Executive Officer on the Estimate of Expenses for the year ending 31st March, 1973.

1. Book of Estimates

The lay-out follows the pattern adopted in previous years. The column after "Purpose of Expenditure" shows the estimated figures for the coming financial year. The next column contains the corresponding figures in the Estimate adopted for the current year. The final column sets out the revised expenditure for the current year based on ascertained expenditure for the six months to 30th September, 1971, plus an up-dated estimate for the remainder of the year. The sufficiency or insufficiency of the current Estimate can be ascertained by comparing the figures in the last two columns. To complete the picture an adjustment must be made for credit or debit balances. The amount of the Supplementary Grant—as yet unnotified by the Department of Health—has also a bearing on the final out-turn. A further Report will be submitted when all relevant information is available. It will then be possible to calculate the amount to be borne by the five Rating Authorities in the Board's area, which will be apportioned as follows:—

Dublin Corporation.66-32%
Dublin County Council.14-13%
Kildare County Council.7-32%
Wicklow County Council.6-55%
Dun Laoghaire Corporation.5-68%

2. Expenditure 1972/73

The estimated gross expenditure of £27,476,424 represents an increase of £4,016,194 on the corresponding figure for the current year. To this must be added the insufficiency of the current estimate (i.e., the difference between the last two columns) which amounts to £815,380. making a total increase of £4,831,574.

3. *Income—Government Grants*

The Board receives grants from the Departments of Health and Social Welfare. Section 32 of the Health Act, 1970 provides for a basic grant of 50% of health expenditure (other than expenditure on capital works and loan charges). The Section also provides for a supplementary grant to reduce amounts to be met by the Rating Authorities. Grants under the Social Welfare Act, shown under the heading of Public Assistance, are for the free fuel and footwear schemes.

Contributions from patients are a minor source of income. On 1st October, 1971, charges on patients for in-patient treatment were abolished. The annual income from this source was of the order of £200,000.

In the 1966 White Paper it was stated that the cost of new or extended health services would be met in full out of State funds. Since the passing of the Health Act, 1970, some new and extended services have come into operation. With effect from 1st October, 1971, free in- and out-patient treatment is available for all *children* suffering from certain long-term disabilities and all *persons* with similar disabilities are supplied with free drugs and appliances. The Child Health Service has been improved by the introduction of regular medical examination of infants at intervals from birth up to two years of age and a scheme for immunisation against Rubella commenced some months ago. As from 1st April, 1972, a Free Choice of Doctor will be available for Medical Card holders who will also be entitled to get their medicines free of charge from Retail Chemists. The cost of these improvements is dealt with later in this Report but here it may be noted that the Income figures in page two of the Book of Estimates provide for the 100% recoupment promised in the White Paper.

4. *Analysis of Increases in Expenditure*

Table I hereunder gives a detailed breakdown of the increase of £4,831,974 in gross expenditure.

TABLE I
ANALYSIS OF INCREASES IN EXPENDITURE

<i>Cause of Increase</i>	<i>Appropriate to 1971/72 Revised</i>	<i>Appropriate 1972/73 Estimated</i>	<i>Total Increase</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Salaries and Wages__	331,760	1,304,430	1,636,190	33 8
Hospitals Administered by Joint Boards —	249,080	666,270	915,350	18 9
Fees to Retail Chemists	—	380,000	380,000	7 9
Welfare Allowances__	67,690	288,140	355,830	7 4
Medicines for long- term illnesses —	42,000	179,000	221,000	4-6
Fees to General Prac- titioners _____	—	201,000	201,000	4 2
Hospitals & Homes: Provisions, heating, lighting, etc. — —	51,850	123,275	175,125	3 6
Free Fuel Scheme __	67,000	85,000	152,000	3-1
Repairs and upkeep of buildings — —	24,210	107,360	131,570	2 7
Agency Services: St. Patrick's. St				
John of God _____	4,000	127,500	131,500	2 7
Superannuation —	45,875	85,275	131,150	2-7
Specialist Services —	39,200	68,700	107,900	2 2
Extern Hospitals and Homes _____	116,845(CR.)	210,155	93,310	1 9
Fees for Domiciliary Confinements —	33,550	41,650	75,200	1 6
Medicines _____	32,475	39,475	71,950	1 5
Ambulance Service —	17,950	33,650	51,600	1 1
Administration: General Expenses —	21,870	27,170	49,040	1 0
Grants to Voluntary Bodies — — —	4,600	36,600	41,200	8
National Mass Radio- graphy Association	8,730	13,330	22,060	5
Approved Schools for Deprived Children —	4,070	14,570	18,640	•4
Other Expenses — —	33,615	130,944	164,559	3 5
	962,680	4,163,494	5,126,174	106 1
Less provision for Wicklow patients in St. Ita's.....	147,300	147,300	284,600	6 1 (CR.)
	815,380	4,016,194	4,831,574	100 0

As in previous years the largest single element of the increase is attributable to Salaries and Wages of staffs directly employed by the Board, and accounts for over a third of the total increase. A considerable portion of this increase is to meet the cost of the "13th Round" estimated at £715,000 and payable from 1st January, 1972. As from that date an increase of £2 per week will be given to male staffs and £1 -70 to females with a further adjustment of 4% from the 1st January, 1973. Approximately £600,000 of the increase is due to the need for additional staffs for the continuing expansion of the services. Provision has been made for the recruitment of Psychiatrists and para-medical ancillary staffs to bring the psychiatric teams up to sanctioned complements (Area, Forensic and Child Psychiatric teams). Extra medical staff will be required for the improved Child Health Service. There will also be additions to the administrative and clerical staffs. The balance of the increase is mainly attributable to arbitration awards and other salary adjustments that had retrospective effect, annual increments, and the final phasing of the salary scales of female psychiatric nurses for parity with male scales on the 1st April, 1973.

The increase under Welfare allowances is mainly due to the steady upward trend in the number of persons qualifying for the Disabled Persons Allowance the rates of which were increased in the 1st August, last. In Dublin City and County over 3,000 persons are now receiving these allowances as compared with 1,500 ten years ago.

It is not considered necessary to elaborate on the headings where the increases range from 4% downwards as, generally speaking, they are attributable to the inflationary trends which have been a feature of the national economy in recent years.

5. Cost of New Services

Nearly 140,000 of the population of the Board's area are covered by Medical Cards entitling them to receive free treatment and drugs under existing Dispensary arrangements. As from the 1st April next they will be treated by the Doctor of their choice and will have prescriptions filled at local Chemist shops. A reliable estimate of the cost involved cannot be made until some experience is gained from its operation over a period pending which any estimate is necessarily little better than an informed guess.

A sum of £872,000 has been included in the Estimate for new and improved services under the several headings set out below:—

<i>Service</i>	<i>Amount Provided</i>
<i>Choice of Doctor Scheme</i>	
(a) Fees for Chemists	£380,000
(b) Fees for Doctors.	£201,000
<i>Long Term Illnesses</i>	
Treatment and Medicines.	£221,000
<i>Child Health</i>	
Rubella Immunisation and examinations of infants.	£57,000
Free travel for parents visit- ing handicapped children	£13,000
TOTAL	£872,000

As already stated this expenditure will be met in full by the State.

6. In the framing of the Health Estimate it has been customary to include provision only for existing liabilities and for unavoidable or certain commitments and to disregard contingencies whether probable or possible. The practice has been adhered to in the preparation of the Estimate for the coming year and accordingly no provision has been made for some claims for increased remuneration recently lodged. Neither has any account been taken of an increase in Capitation Rates for Health Act patients in the Voluntary Hospitals. In this connection, however, it is relevant to draw the attention of members to the following extract from the Department's letter of 15th March, 1971, to the former Dublin Health Authority:—

"The Minister has decided that because of the rating position he will not at present increase capitation rates payable for services provided by voluntary hospitals participating in the deficits grants scheme. As you are, no doubt, aware the existing capitation rates are considerably below actual costs and grants are made from the Hospitals Trust Fund towards the revenue deficits resulting from this situation. The normal income of the Fund is not sufficient to meet this commitment and the deficiency has to be made good by large subsidies from the Exchequer. In the

current year the Exchequer will provide a total Grant-In-Aid of the Fund of £4.75 millions for this purpose and. in 1971/72, £7.9 millions. The Dublin Health Authority is by far the largest user of the voluntary hospital services and the rates in the Dublin area are accordingly substantially relieved through the Exchequer Grants-In-Aid referred to, in addition to the direct grants from the Vote of this Department".

For the further information of Board members the appendix to this Report contains Tables illustrative of trends of expenditure and expansion of services over the last decade. The recently circulated Report of the Chief Medical Officer will also be of assistance to members in examining expenditure on the Public Health Services".

TABLE 1
Trends in Gross Expenditure—Dublin

	1961/62			1970/71 Estd.		1972/73		
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>% of Total Health</i>	<i>Base 100</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Compared with Base</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>% of Total Health</i>	<i>Compared with Base</i>
	£			£		£		
General Medical Services Authority's Hospitals	300,747	7.2	100	1,365,250	453.0	2,179,000	11.8	725
Extern (Voluntary) Hospitals	1,577,958	37.6	100	4,476,875	283.7	5,896,825	31.7	374
Maternity & Child Health Services	1,253,182	29.9	100	5,302,750	423.1	5,988,700	32.3	478
T.B. and other Infectious Diseases	210,595	5.0	100	519,900	246.0	751,000	4.1	357
Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural Services	260,819	6.2	100	493,050	189.0	584,400	3.1	224
Specialist Services	44,497	1.1	100	202,300	454.6	327,300	1.8	736
Rehabilitation Services	149,697	3.6	100	401,200	268.0	499,100	2.7	333
Boarding-out of Children	80,623	1.9	100	504,500	626.5	861,000	4.6	1,069
Ambulance Services	43,328	1.0	100	165,500	382.0	227,400	1.2	525
Food Hygiene	33,653	0.8	100	163,300	485.2	220,000	1.2	654
Other Purposes	4,928	0.1	100	14,000	284.0	16,000	0.1	325
Total Health Services	236,985	5.6	100	665,450	280.8	1,003,800	5.4	424
Mental Health Services	4,196,912	100	100	14,274,075	340.1	18,555,025	100	442
Public Assistance	1,133,172		100	3,307,500	291.9	4,456,700		393
General Purposes	266,486		100	759,100	284.5	932,000		350
Total Gross Expenditure	113,884		100	169,000	148.4	212,000		186
	5,710,454		100	18,509,675	324.1	<u>24,155,725</u>		423

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TABLE 1 (continued)

Trends in Gross Expenditure—Kildare

	1961/62		1970/71		1972/73	
	<i>Amount (Base 100j</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Com- pared with Base</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Com- pared with Base</i>	
	£	£		£		
General Medical Services	40.267	125.701	312	237.750	590	
Institutional Services	211.032	811.358	384	930.280	469	
Maternity and Child Health Services	15.267	48.460	317	65 900	431	
Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases	9.467	11.826	125	17.500	185	
Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural Services	5.382	23.278	432	29.050	540	
Specialist Services	2.982	4.331	145	5.700	224	
Rehabilitation Services	16.448	55.907	336	69.700	424	
Boarding-out etc.. cf Children	3.512	8.880	253	14.700	418	
Ambulance Services	7.668	33.587	439	45.000	587	
Supervision of Food and Drink	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Purposes	11.457	82.337	719	55.400	832	
Total Health Services	426.662	1.205.665	283	1.571.980	368	
Mental Health Services	79.377	228.301	288	229.174	289	
Public Assistance	22.608	37.534	166	47.150	209	
General Purposes	2.434	2.949 j	121	4.000	164	

TABLE 1 (continued)

Trends in Gross Expenditure—Wicklow

	1961/62		1970/71		1972/73	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Base 100</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Compared with Base</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Compared with Base</i>
General Medical Services	38,103	∞	125,173	326	266.800	700
Institutional Services ___	179.150	∞	642.431	359	642,590	359
Maternity and Child Health Services — ___	19,751	∞	45.914	232	66.000	331
Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases —	8.864	∞	10.883	123	17.150	193
Dental, Ophthalmic and Aural Services_____	3.656	∞	16.493	451	32,500	889
Specialist Services — —	5,831	∞	20.023	343	23,000	395
Rehabilitation and maintenance of disabled persons_____— —	13.761	∞	62.078	451	78.000	568
Boarding-out etc., of Children _____	5.680	∞	10,770	190	14.000	246
Ambulance Services and transport of patients__	8.949	∞	35.207	394	42.000	469
Supervision of Food and Drink _____	2371	∞	7,643	322	8.600	363
Other Purposes _____	21.953	∞	54.505	248	68.900	314
Total _____	308.069	100	1,031,120	335	1.259.490	409
Mental Health Services__	41,366		273,102	660	207.855	502
Public Assistance _____	21.258		37,174	175	40.000	188
General Purposes_____	726		1.142	157	1.000	138
Total Gross Expenditure _____	1371.419	100	1.342.538	361	1.508.345	406

TABLE 4

Expenditure on Medicines

DUBLIN

	1961/62			1908/69		1969/70		1970/71 <i>Estimated</i>		1971/72 <i>Estimated</i>		1972/73 <i>Estimated</i>	
		% of <i>Total</i>	<i>Base</i> <i>100</i>	£	£			£		£		£	
Gonoral Medical Services	102,401	4 3 3	100	491,394	479 9	568,405	555 • 1	670,000	654-3	782,000	764	859,000	831
General Hospitals and Homes	67,663	28 6	100	139,315	205 9	145,229	2 1 4 6	150,000	221-7	* 160,450	237	•178,500	263
Clinics	16,637	7 1	100	25,944	155 9	27,233	163 7	32,000	192-3	32,000	192	38,000	228
Mental Health	49,763	21 0	100	120,372	242 0	95,323	191-7	120,000	241-3	146,500	294	146,850	295
TOTALS	236,437		100	77,025	328 6	836,190	353-7	972,000	411-1	1,120,950	474	1,222,350	517

* Includes Joint Board Hospitals

KILDARE

	1961/62			1968/69		1969/70		1970/71		1971/72		1972/73	
	£	% of Total	Base 100		£		£	Estimated	£	Estimated	Estimated Increase	
General Medical Services	9,289	67	100	36,279	391	36,964	398	58,167	594	60,000	646	75,000	700
General Hospitals and Homes	3,877	28	100	10,865	280	15,386	397	18,080	466	17,000	438	18,500	477
Clinics	727	5	100	816	112	870	120	1,434	197	1,600	220	1,800	248
Mental Health			100										
TOTALS	13,893	100	100	47,960	345	53,220	383	74,681	637	78,600	566	95,300	614

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WICKLOW

General Medical Services	9,059	76	100	30,399	336	43,652	482	49,392	545	64,200	709	83,200	803
General Hospitals and Homes	2,803	24	100	5,844	208	9,597	342	9,987	356	14,800	528	17,000	606
Clinics	—	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mental Health	—	—	100	3,889	—	6,609	—	7,284	—	7,500	—	7,850	—
TOTALS	11,862			40,132	339	59,858	505	66,663	662	86,500	729	108,050	827
GRAND TOTALS	262,192		100	865,117	330	949,268	362	1,113,344	425	1,286,050	492	1,425,700	544

TABLE 5

Analysis of Home Assistance Payments-Dublin

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Week Ending 26/12/70</i>		<i>Week Ending 27/3/71</i>		<i>Week Ending 26/6/71</i>		<i>Week Ending 26/9/71</i>	
	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Amt. £</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Amt. £</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Amt. £</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Amt. £</i>
(1) Old Age Pensions Widows' Pensions	2,542	2,770	2,498	2,760	2,394	2,880	2,368	2,860
(2) Other State Social Welfare Allcs. ,	668	800	551	660	534	680	533	720
(3) Allowances under Health Acts	536	640	532	630	485	640	474	630
(4) Awaiting payments under 1, 2, 3 above	244	1,090	253	1,080	266	1,260	263	1,170
(5) Ill or unemployed persons not in re- ceipt of State Allowances	249	850	230	810	237	880	222	850
(6) Special Social Cases, Deserted Wives, Wives of Prisoners, Rent Problems	285	1,560	260	1,430	260	1,470	287	1,720
(7) Miscellaneous, Board & Lodgings, Fares, E.S.B./Gas Bills, Supplements to Low Earnings	201	470	223	680	172	630	195	670
TOTALS	4,725	8,180	4,547	7,950	4,348	8,440	4,342	8,620

At the outset the Chairman suggested that there should be a general discussion on the Chief Executive Officer's Report, to be followed by a detailed examination of the contents of the Book of Estimates. This was agreed. It was also agreed that the Committee's examination of the Estimate of Expenses should be concluded that afternoon and that a recommendation be made for consideration by the Board at the meeting fixed for 7 p.m.

There followed a general discussion in the course of which the Chairman explained that as details of the Supplementary Grants from the Exchequer were not to hand, the effect of the Board's Estimate on the Rates could not be assessed at this stage; that the Board would have to meet again when the details were available in order to determine what moneys would be required from the five Rating Authorities in the Board's area.

It was noted that a large proportion of the increased expenditure in respect of salaries and wages was attributed to additional staff for the Psychiatric Service. Professor Browne, outlining his plans for the Service, said that the present interim stage, during which it was aimed to run down the institutional side and build up the community side, was likely to be the most expensive phase in remodelling the Psychiatric Service.

Arising from the detailed consideration of the Estimate, Mr. Nolan said that the St. James's Hospital Board had decided to proceed with the cessation of admissions to Hospital 3 and that it was desirable that the Health Board and Hospital Board should get together to resolve the problems which would thereby arise in relation to Special Care and Community Care programmes. It was agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting recommending a procedure whereby the Board's representatives on both the St. James's and James Connolly Memorial Hospital Boards would report back to the Eastern Health Board at regular intervals on matters of significance arising at the Hospital Boards Meetings.

On a proposal by Councillor Hickey, seconded by Councillor Mahon, it was unanimously agreed to increase the provision of £979,150 for Public Assistance by £20,850, to be devoted to Home Assistance.

On a proposal by Dr. Meade, seconded by Councillor Hickey, it was unanimously agreed to increase the provision of £45,000 for Home Helps by £5,000.

On a proposal by Councillor Temple, seconded by Councillor Hickey, it was unanimously agreed to increase the provision of £44,000 for Boarding Out of Children (Maintenance, Clothing and Education) by £1,000.

It was proposed by Dr. O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Temple:—

'That the Board will not make a final decision on the Estimate to-day".

On being put to the meeting, the motion was declared lost **on the following voting:—**

FOR (4)

Councillor James Dowling, Deputy Dr. J. O'Connell, Councillor John Sweeney, Councillor John Temple.

AGAINST (20)

Dr. F. de **Burgh** Whyte, Councillor M. Carroll, Mr. J. Corcoran, Dr. J. Cullen, Councillor Michael Cunningham, Deputy H. P. Dockrell, Deputy Joe Dowling, Mr. D. Gallivan, Commissioner J. Garvin, Councillor Patrick Hickey, Miss Eileen **Horgan**, Dr. P. C. Jennings, Miss Kay Kinsella, Councillor A. Mahon, Dr. A. Meade, Dr. James McCormick, Dr. J. St. L. O'Dea, Mr. Dermot O'Flynn, Dr. B. O'Herlihy, Mr. H. Corrigan.

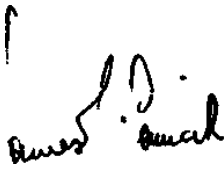
It was agreed that, at the public meeting to be held at 7 p.m. Councillor Hickey would propose, and Councillor Dockrell would second a motion from the Committee of the Whole House recommending that the Board adopt the Estimate of Expenses as amended by the Committee.

The meeting concluded at 6.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

EOGHAN O CAOIMH,

Chief Executive Officer.


Chairman.

V

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATE
(as amended)

1972/73

Gross Expenditure £27,503,274

Less Income:

Health Services Grant £12,885,870

Other Government

Grants £243,400.

Contributions from

Patients £496,100

Other Income £963,730 £14,589,100

Net Requirement £12,914,174*

* To be adjusted for balances and Supplementary Grant