

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the Proceedings of Monthly Meeting
of the Eastern Health Board
held at the Boardroom St. Mary's Hospital, Chapelizod, Dublin 20
on Thursday 2nd April, 1992 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Cllr. M. Barrett, T.D.	Mrs. B. Bonar
Cllr. G. Brady	Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.
Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.	Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Mrs. D. Clune	Cllr. B. Coffey
Cllr. J. Connolly	Dr. R. Corcoran
Dr. P. Devitt	Cllr. J. Doyle, T.D.
Cllr. B.J. Durkan, T.D.	Cllr. C. Gallagher
Cllr. R. Greene	Dr. R. Hawkins
Cllr. F. Hynes	Cllr. J. Jacob, T.D.
Dr. D.I. Keane	Cllr. T. Keenan
Mr. G. McGuire	Dr. J. Masterson
Cllr. O. Mitchell	Ms. M. Nealon
Cllr. Dr. W.J. O'Connell	Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Cllr. J. Reilly	Cllr. R. Roche, T.D.
Cllr. R. Shortall	

In the Chair

Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.

Apologies

Dr. J. O'Boyle

Officers in Attendance

Mr. K.J. Hickey. Chief Executive Officer
 Mr. M. Walsh. Programme Manager. Special Hospital Care
 Mr. J. Doyle. A/Programme Manager. Community Care
 Mr. S. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager. General Hospital Care
 Prof. B. O'Donnell. Dublin Medical Officer of Health
 Mr. M. Gallagher. Finance Officer
 Mr. J. Curran, Chief Assistant Technical Services Officer
 Mr. M. O'Connor. Secretary

31/1992

CONDOLENCES

On the proposal of the Chairman votes of sympathy were passed with:-

1. Mr. Gerard McKieman. Supt. Community Welfare Officer. Glenside Road, Wicklow. on the death of his mother.
2. Ms. Alice Leahy. TRUST, on the death of her father.
3. Mr. Gerry Dwyer, Community Welfare Officer, Tallaght on the death of his father.
4. Marie Carpenter, Technical Services Department, on the death of her mother.
5. Ms. Eileen Dempsey, Assistant Matron, Naas General Hospital, on the death of her brother.
6. Mr. Richard Bruton, Finance Department, on the death of his father.

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report which was noted by the Board:-

"The following items are for Information only and are not for debate:-

1. **Association of Health Boards in Ireland -Animal Conference**
Members have been notified of the Association of Health Boards Annual Conference to be held in Killarney, on 1st and 2nd May, 1992.
Members who wish to attend the Conference should give their names to the Secretary.
2. **May & June Board Meetings.**
In 1991 the May meeting of our Board was held in St. Colman's Hospital. Rathdrum and the June meeting was held at St Vincent's Hospital, Athy.
With the members' agreement it is proposed to hold the May meeting this year In St. Vincent's Hospital. Athy and the June meeting in St. Cohnan's Hospital. Rathdrum.
3. **Visit to St. James's Hospital**
I wish to remind members that our visit to Phase 1C of the new St. James's Hospital which was arranged following an Invitation from the Chairman of St. James's Hospital Board, will take place on the tomorrow, 3rd April. 1992 at 4:00 p.m.

4. Meeting of Budget Working Group

A meeting of the Budget Working Group has been arranged for Tuesday 28th April. 1992 at 11:00 a.m. to consider our Board's financial position for the first quarter of the year.

Members will receive the usual notice in due course."

33/1902

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 5TH MARCH.

1992

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 5th March, 1992, having been circulated, were circulated on a proposal by Deputy Durkan, seconded by Dr. Corcoran.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Mrs. Clume seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

[i] Cllr. B. Durkan, T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to indicate the progress to date and future proposals for the provision of new accommodation for the ambulance service at Naas, Co. Kildare, with a view to meeting these targets within a reasonable timescale.

Reply

Proposals for the re-location of ambulance personnel on the ground floor of the former convent building (Lake-View House) in Naas Hospital were put forward in 1988. These proposals involved the adaptation of the building to meet the needs of the ambulance staff and included the provision of a new control area, offices, kitchen, sleeping/rest area, toilet/ shower accommodation as well as parking facilities and would have more than doubled the size of the accommodation currently available. The adaptation works would also have resulted in a vast improvement on the existing prefabricated accommodation.

Numerous discussions with the staff concerned through their Union representatives have, to date, failed to result in an agreement on a transfer to the proposed upgraded accommodation. On receipt of a positive response the necessary works will be immediately put in hand. The time scale for the project is approximately 3 - 4 months.

[ii] Dr. P. Devitt

To ask the Chief Executive Officer what has been the annual expenditure of the Board on legal fees over the past 3 years? What is the feasibility of the Board running its own legal department and would significant savings ensue?

Reply

The annual expenditure incurred by our Board on legal fees over the last three years was as follows:-

	£000
1989	440
1990	628
1991	623

The feasibility of our Board running its own legal department has been considered previously and is being kept under review. To date the evidence lies in favour of continuing with the present arrangements under which our Board takes legal advice from the most appropriate source having regard to the nature and complexity of the matter concerned.

The matters which our Board would require to be serviced by our own legal department are wide ranging and complex and include specialist areas such as legal work in the child care area. Having regard to cost of covering these diverse needs and the need to provide for overhead support costs, no significant savings would ensue from setting up our own legal department.

This matter will be kept under review from time to time with a view to ensuring that the most cost effective options are followed by our Board in line with changing circumstances.

[iii] Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.

Will the Chief Executive Officer make available to Board members the recommendations of the Study Group, formed in October, 1991, that examined the operation of the Supplementary Welfare Scheme in the Board's area, with a view to making recommendations for improved mechanisms and procedures.

Reply

During 1991, following a series of meetings between officers of the Department of Social Welfare and the Eastern Health Board to review procedures relating to administration of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme, a joint working group was set up on 21st October last to report on existing procedures and to make proposals for their improvement.

The report of the joint working group is currently at final draft stage and the Community Care Programme Committee will be advised of the outcome as soon as possible.

[iv] Cllr. R. Shortall

Will the Chief Executive Officer please report on the current situation in relation to the Board's site at Mellows Road/ Mellows Avenue, Finglas and say why there has been such a delay in completing the sale of this site to Dublin Corporation and when this sale is now likely to be completed?

Reply

Following our Board's approval in July 1991 to the disposal of the property at Mellows Road/Mellows Avenue, Finglas to Dublin Corporation the documentation issued by the Corporation on 18th December, 1991 was executed and forwarded for endorsement to the Department of Health on 22nd January, 1992.

It is expected that the completed documents will be returned by the Department of Health shortly.

[v] Mr. G. McGuire

Can the Chief Executive Officer specify when the operational company Eve Holdings was established and at what Board meeting was it approved, who are the directors of said Company and are these Directors paid any additional monies outside of their normal salaries. Where and when are the financial accounts of Eve Holdings presented and at what stage will Board members be afforded an opportunity to discuss said accounts? With regard to rents received by this Board for hostel accommodation now being paid directly to Eve Holdings - what services are the Eastern Health Board getting in return and have these properties been handed over to Eve Holdings?

Reply

There are eight elements incorporated in this question and I propose to deal with a number of them in the Chief Executive Officer's Report to this meeting.

Since the mid-1970's, coinciding with the development of rehabilitation and vocational training activities, combined with the growing emphasis on community-based services, a number of management companies have been formed, associated with certain workshops and catchment areas. This policy has proven itself in facilitating flexibility of operation and in creating an appropriate environment for vocational training and placement in employment.

However due to the expansion in community-based services and the number and range of rehabilitation and vocational training activities in recent years, and the growing need to satisfy more stringent requirements of the N.R.B., it was decided, following a consultancy study, to streamline the various enterprises under a single management company called E.V.E. Holdings (Eastern Vocational Enterprises). This facilitated a rationalization of what was previously a fragmented and diverse structure. This company has been in the process of taking over the functions of four already established companies in this field i.e. Tolco Ltd., Mahylock Ltd., Chapelizod Industries Ltd. and Lincara Ltd. which, in turn, had been associated with specific service catchments, i.e. St. Brendan's, St. Ita's, St. Loman's and Newcastle Hospitals, respectively.

The original intention was that EVE Holdings Ltd. would, through its General Manager, act as an overall co-ordinating mechanism for the planning and development of rehabilitation, vocational training, and placement services and also for the development of sheltered employment opportunities for the mentally and physically disabled. However initial experience has shown that it is now more advantageous to phase out the four established companies in favour of one single company. EVE Holdings Ltd.

Companies such as Tolco Ltd. and Lincara Ltd. have, over the years, had certain functions in relation to hostels in their catchment areas, such as the collection of rents. These hostels have at all times been, and continue to be, the property of the Eastern Health Board. All hostels are now managed by the local catchment area teams and this includes operating budgets and collection of rents. EVE Holdings Ltd. is not responsible for collection of rents.

[vi] Cllr. B.J. Durkan, T.D.

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to state the total amounts paid in respect of [a] rent supplement, [b] mortgage supplement, [c] other forms of supplementary welfare for counties Kildare, Wicklow and Dublin in respect of the last 2 years for which details are available.

Reply

The Information requested is set out hereunder:-

		Rent Supplements £	Mortgage Supplements £	Other SWA £	Total £
Dublin	1990	5,318,201	1,847,809	19,260,076	26,426,086
	1991	8,575,078	2,858,359	24,175,464	35,608,901
Kildare	1990	378,518	294,403	1,601,536	2,274,457
	1991	506,894	566,528	2,121,066	3,194,488
Wicklow	1990	336,102	329,800	1,020,494	1,686,396
	1991	618,214	397,423	1,403,894	2,419,531
TOTAL	1990	6,032,821	2,472,012	21,882,108	30,386,939
	1991	9,700,186	3,822,310	27,700,424	41,222,920

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted by the Board:-"1.

"1. *Backlog of Maintenance*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 6th March. 1992 from the Department of Health regarding the allocation of a sum of £250,000 during 1992 to help reduce the maintenance backlog in our Board's properties. We had made a detailed submission to the Department of Health in this regard.

Arrangements have been made to undertake the highest priority maintenance works from this special allocation. Details of these works will be advised to the next meeting of the Budget Working Group.

2 ***Special National Lottery Fund for Disadvantaged Youth***

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of letter dated 6th March, 1992 from the Department of Education regarding the allocation of £607,000 from the special National Lottery Fund for Disadvantaged Youth in respect of special projects for disadvantaged youth under the aegis of our Board.

Details of the projects and the distribution of the funds are shown on the schedule attached to the letter. The grants for 1992 are a continuation of those for 1991, with the exception of a new grant for the Sisters of Charity Project for Homeless Girls at Stanhope Street.

A review report on services for homeless persons including these projects will be available for the next meeting of our Board.

3. ***Services for the Elderly - New Developments 1992***

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 27th March, 1992 from the Department of Health regarding the allocation of an additional £0.5 m. to our Board for the provision of long-stay accommodation for the elderly in Dublin. The additional funds are being made available to finance the extended care beds recently opened in Cherry Orchard Hospital and to contract up to 25 beds in Private Nursing Homes.

Members will also be pleased to note from the letter that the Mater and Meath Hospitals have each been given £225,000 new funding in their 1992 allocations to introduce specialist units for the elderly, as already recommended by our Board.

4 ***Review of Ambulance Services***

I have circulated this evening, for the information of members, copies of letter dated 27th March, 1992 from the Department of Health regarding the announcement by the Minister for Health that his Department, together with the Health Boards, is undertaking a major review of the ambulance service. The Review Group is anxious to hear the views of interested parties and invites submissions not later than 30th April, 1992.

A submission from our Board is being drafted and will be brought to the General Hospital Care Programme Committee at its meeting to be held on 16th April, 1992.

5. *Health Fact Sheets 1 and 2/92*

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, for the information of members, copies of Health Fact Sheets 1/92 regarding Health Expenditure, International Trends 1970 - 1990 and 2/92 regarding trends in Health Expenditure in Ireland.

These fact sheets have been produced by the Health Services Development Unit of the Institute of Public Administration.

6. *Address of Minister for Health to Association of Health Boards*

I have circulated this evening, for the Information of members, copies of the address of the Minister for Health to the Association of Health Boards at their meeting on 28th February, 1992.

7. *Private Limited Companies*

Members will be aware that over the years, a number of private limited companies have been formed for specific purposes where it appeared that these would enable Board management to operate with maximum flexibility and effectiveness in progressing particular aspects of Board policy e.g. in the areas of developing services, cost effectiveness or income generation. These have also facilitated joint management arrangements with other organisations.

None of these private limited companies have required any investment in terms of share capital. No directors' fees or expenses are paid and staff members who act as directors do so by agreement as an extension of their normal duties.

Arising from two recent queries by Board members. I felt that, whilst the existence and purpose of these private limited companies has at all times been known either to Board members generally, or to members of Programme Committees or Budget Working Group, or to the Chairman in the case of a newly formed company, it would be both timely, and appropriate, and indeed of assistance to new Board members, that I should include in the Chief Executive Officers report to this meeting a full list of these private limited companies together with a note of when they were established, their objectives and their directors.

With regard to the accounts of these companies, or any changes in the details now included in the attached schedule, including the winding up or formation of companies. I propose, in future, to report formally through the Budget Working Group to our Board on these matters.

SCHEDULE OF PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANIES

Name of Company	Date Established	Objectives	Directors
Tolco Limited	18/07/1975	Vocational Training Activities.	Mr S Murphy Dr R Whitty Mr T O'Shea Prof. I Browne Mr E Casey Ms M O'Mahoney
Gheel Training Group Limited	14/10/1975	Training and Education of the Handicapped	Dr J O'Neill Mr S Murphy Dr P McQuaide Mr P Matthews Dr J Hayes Ms G McGee
Mahylock Limited	04/09/1981	Vocational Training Activities.	Mr D Finlay Mr M Downes Mr G Ferris Mr B Hannon Ms M Hanratty Mr E Healy Ms F McEntee Dr M McGuinness Dr P MacHale Mr T McNamee Dr V Maloney Dr J Mullaney Ms E Dunne
Lincara Limited	21/07/1983	Vocational Training Activities.	Dr M Rahill Miss A Pierce Mr F Rowntree Mr M Hughes Mr M Flannery Mr E Casey Mr J Moran Mr P J Costello Mrs M Aylward Dr B O'Shea Mr E Dunphy
Eastern Community Works Limited	22/09/1983	Housing repairs for the elderly. Funded by the Dept. of the Environment.	Mr F J Donoghue Mr J Doyle Mr S O'Brien Mr J Deegan Ms A Flanagan
G.H.I.S. Limited	04/07/1987	Computer based Vocational Training Activities.	Mr E Gorry Mr M Gallagher Mr B Hollywood Mr M Buckley Dr V Maloney

<i>Name of Company</i>	<i>Date Established</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Directors</i>
Bradóg Trust Limited	01/07/1968	Sheltered Housing Association	Mr L Sweeney Mr S Murphy Mr S Molloy Mr A Lyons Mr R Bennett Mr E Dunphy Ms P Bennett Mr B Hollywood Mr J Brennan Mr T Harmon Mr M Hughes Mr T Beegan Mr L Sharkey Ms M O'Mahoney
Revolve Limited	29/09/1989	Sourcing and Distributing Wheelchair and other Appliances.	Mr K J Hickey Mr J Doyle Mr M Gallagher
Chapelizod Industries Limited	25/10/1990	Vocational Training Activities.	Mr B Hollywood Ms J Molloy Mr J Corbett Mr J Finegan Mr J Halpin Mr J Brennan Ms P Andrews
EVE Holdings Limited	01/03/1991	Vocational Training Activities and Sheltered Employment for physically and mentally disabled.	Mr K J Hickey Mr M Walsh Mr M Gallagher Ms M Kelly

8. *Assessment for Foreign Adoptions*

At the meeting of the Eastern Health Board of 12th December, 1991 it was reported that whilst the assessment process is a lengthy one, nevertheless our aim would be to have all assessments completed within 18 months. At that stage we had 67 applications on hand. The up-to-date position is as follows:-

- (I) We now have 93 confirmed applications on hand
- (II) 17 applicants have commenced the assessment process -
5 cases have been brought to finality leaving 12 in various stages
- (III) One social worker was assigned to this work from the beginning and a second social worker has recently been assigned. We are in the process of assigning a third social worker.

The 76 applicants still waiting to commence the assessment process roughly equates to the number of applications on hand on the 12th December last and I want to confirm that it is still our aim and intention to clear these assessments within the coming 18 months. I am satisfied that it will be possible to improve the rate of progress from now on and I would like to point out that it has been necessary over the past number of months to arrange for a series of counselling meetings at which 207 out of a total of 210 applicants have already been seen. As a result of this process 93 applicants have confirmed their intention to proceed.

I would also like to mention that in gearing ourselves to deal with this particular need we have had to have regard to other needs in the child care area including Irish adoptions and foster care work. However despite these difficulties we are committed to the target of 18 months for the completion of assessments for Foreign Adoptions. The concerns of the Irish Foreign Adoption Group are appreciated and we will be happy to keep them informed regarding further progress."

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Dr. Hawkins, seconded by Mrs. Bonar, it was agreed, to adopt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Work and priorities of the Development Officers seconded to the Mental Health Association of Ireland.
- [b] Report on the Clondalkin Community Psychiatric Service.

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Dr. Corcoran, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed to adapt the report.

The following matters were dealt with in the report: -

- [a] Presentation by Ms. Alice Shortt, Nutritional Adviser to the Elderly "Healthy Eating for Elderly People".
- [b] Comhairle na n'Ospideal approval to the joint appointments of Consultant Physicians in Geriatric Medicine in South Dublin and in North Dublin.
- [c] Visit to Phase 1C of the new St. James's Hospital arranged for 3rd April.
- [e] Report on services in the District Hospital, Baltinglass.

- [f] Official opening of the new Day Room and handing over of new Minibus.

In response to an enquiry from Deputy Durkan the Chief Executive Officer stated that the review of the brief in relation to Naas General Hospital was being actively followed with officers in the Department of Health. It was clear, however, that the review of the brief for Naas Hospital would not be possible until after the current review of the Tallaght Hospital Plan which he expected will be concluded shortly.

3. Community Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Mrs. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Hynes, it was agreed to adopt the report.

The following matter were dealt with in the report:-

- [a] Programme Manager's Report regarding applications from General Practitioners in the G.M.S. Scheme [i] to take on a partner and [11] to fill a vacancy.
- [b] Report on services In Area no. 8.
- [c] Recommendation that priority be given to the building of a new Health Centre for Swords.

37/1992

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. McGuire referred to a notice of motion which he had submitted regarding the Code of Conduct issued by the Chief Executive Officer to each member of our Board's staff and expressed his regret that the Chairman had ruled it out of order.

The Chairman explained to members that under Section 17 [4] of the Health Act, 1970 all members relating to staff are a function of the Chief Executive Officer and that, accordingly, he had advised Mr. McGuire that the motion would not, in accordance with Standing Order no. 32, be agenda for the meeting.

He was quite satisfied that his ruling was correct and that the matter should not be debated. Staff who were aggrieved in relation th their terms and conditions of employment had well-established avenues open to them. They also had their own organisations to represent their views to the Chief Executive Officer and it would be inappropriate Board members to interfere in staff matters.

1. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Coffey:-

That the Eastern Health Board will not implement a policy of issuing rent allowances/subsidies on a monthly arrears system, but will continue the existing system of weekly payments.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawkins and following a discussion to which Cllr. Coffey, Deputy Durkan, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr. Mitchell and Cllr. Hynes contributed and to which Mr. Doyle, A/Programme Manager, Community Care service replied was agreed.

2. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Byrne:-

That this Board views with alarm the recent decision by the Minister for Health that he is privatising almost 2500 beds in public hospitals and it is further agreed to examine the implications of this decision on waiting lists and the availability of public beds in the Eastern Health Board area.

The motion was seconded by Deputy Durkan and following a discussion to which Deputy Byrne, Deputy Durkan, Dr. O'Herlihy and Cllr. Coffey contributed, Mr. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care referred to alterations in entitlements introduced in June, 1991 under which everybody is entitled to a public bed and free consultant services. He said that, following the recent designation of beds by the Minister for Health, the number of public beds in our area had increased. He would furnish further details at the April meeting of the General Hospital Care Committee when the position could be fully reviewed.

In the interval it was agreed to note the terms of the motion.

3. *Cllr. Mitchell said she was pleased that the motion which she had tabled regarding the provision of a dental service for the mentally handicapped in other locations, apart from James Connolly Memorial Hospital had been dealt with to her satisfaction at the Community Core Programme Committee meeting held on 1st April, 1992.*

4. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Byrne:-

That this Board rejects the contention that child sexual abuse stems primarily from unemployment and pornography and fully supports the Board's efforts in preventing child sexual abuse.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Corcoran. Following a discussion to which Deputy Byrne, Cllr. Coffey, Mrs. Bonar, Dr. O'Herlihy, Cllr. Mitchell, Cllr. Greene, Deputy Durkan, Deputy Doyle, Cllr. Shortall, Dr. Keane and Mrs. Clune contributed the motion, having been amended as follows, was put and agreed:-

That this Board disassociates itself from the contention that child sexual abuse stems primarily from unemployment and fully supports the Board's efforts in preventing child sexual abuse.

Members also agreed that the initiatives already undertaken by our Board in this area should be continued.

5.&

6. *Cllr. Connolly agreed that his motions regarding the Walkinstown Association for the Handicapped and the furnishing of a room in Greenhills Community College to honour the memory of Dr. John Walsh could be dealt with by way of reports to him.*

7. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Durkan and seconded by Cllr Coffey and agreed:-

That the Eastern Health Board would, through its institutions, attempt to identify within its administrative area the causes of sight loss with a view to recommending any action which might be taken.

Deputy Durkan referred to the fund raising programmes of the National Council for the Blind which state that 1000 people in this country become blind each year and suggested that some further research should be undertaken to identify the causes of blindness.

Prof. O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health informed the members that it was estimated that the number of blind persons in the country is between 5000 and 6000 [equivalent to 0.5% of the population] which is the generally accepted figure for the incidence of blindness. In underdeveloped countries the figure could be as high as 5%. He said that most blind people are elderly and are blind because of macular degeneration [degeneration of the retinal glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, detachment of the retina, cataract and corneal opacities.

It was agreed to write to the Department of Health suggesting that consideration be given to the making of additional funding to the Health Research Board to facilitate further research in this matter.

8. The following motion had been tabled by Deputy Doyle:-

That the Eastern Health Board investigates the possibility of having social workers in local community areas carry out assessments for foreign adoptions so as to expedite the waiting list of couples waiting for assessment.

In the light of the comments made by the Chief Executive Officer in this Report, which he welcomed, Deputy Doyle asked permission of the members to withdraw his motion. This was agreed.

9. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. R. Shortall and seconded by Cllr. Coffey:-

In relation to the Health Centre, Bride Street, Dublin 8, which is in a deplorable condition, this Board calls for a full refurbishment to be carried out in the current year. Furthermore, this Board requests the Chief Executive Officer to bring to the April meeting, proposals for these works to include [a] a list of the works to be carried out [b] a timescale for the completion of these works, and [c] details of the long term plans for this Centre.

The Chief Executive Officer informed the members that options in relation to the permanent relocation of the services provided at the Health Centre in Bride Street in more suitable accommodation are under consideration. At the meantime, arrangements had been made to have some painting and minor alterations carried out to improve the appearance of the premises.

The motion was noted.

38/1992

CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence as referred to in the Chief Executive Officer's Report were noted.

39/1992

OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Connolly referred to media reports wanting Beaumont Hospital and the suspension of a Consultant in Neurosurgery on 1st April, 1992 and asked if he could be brought up-to-date on the matter.

Following a discussion to which the Chairman, Dr. Hawkins, Deputy Barrett, Deputy Durkan, Deputy Jacob, Deputy Roche and Mrs. Clune contributed, the Chief Executive Officer advised members that Beaumont Hospital comes under the Jurisdiction of a Board of Management appointed by the Minister for Health. He gave details of the procedures followed, in accordance with the terms of the Consultants Common Contract, in relation to the suspension of a Consultant and the appointment by the Minister for Health of a Committee of Inquiry. On the question of the service to patients in the Neurosurgical Unit which was of concern to our Board, and to other Health Boards, he informed members of indications by the Hospital Board regarding the recent appointment of two additional neurosurgeons and that all necessary steps had been taken to ensure that a full service would be maintained.

Deputy Roche asked that our Board's grave anxiety that the matter be resolved as soon as possible should be recorded.

Correct: K.J. Hickey,
Chief Executive Officer.



CHAIRMAN