

 **Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair**
Western Health Board 

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:
Our Ref: **C/5/9**
(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Headquarters,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway.

To: Each Member of the Health Board:

Re: Longterm Illnesses and Disabilities

I am circulating this memorandum to the Board for its information.

All persons, irrespective of income, suffering from certain specified longterm illnesses and disabilities are entitled to drugs and medicines free of charge. At present the specified illnesses and disabilities are as follows:-

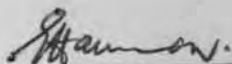
Mental Handicap, Mental Illness (for persons under 16 years only), Phenylketonuria, Cystic Fibrosis, Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus, Haemophilia, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Diabetes Insipidus and Diabetes Mellitus.

Children under 16 years of age, suffering from certain specified longterm illnesses and disabilities, are also entitled, irrespective of parents' income, to hospital in-patient and out-patient specialist services free of charge. At present the specified illnesses and disabilities are as follows:-

Mental Handicap, Mental Illness, Phenylketonuria, Cystic Fibrosis, Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus, Haemophilia and Cerebral Palsy.

The adults and children referred to above are not necessarily entitled to General Practitioner services but a medical card can be granted in cases of hardship, each case being treated on its merits as provided for in the guidelines on eligibility for medical cards.

Signed:



E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

Date : 26th February, 1974.

 **Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair**
Western Health Board

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Headquarters,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway.

26th March, 1974.

To: Each Member of the Board:

1st March, 1974.

Dear Member,

I desire to inform you that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held, in Committee, in the Boardroom, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway, at 11.00 a.m. on Friday, 8th March, 1974, to:

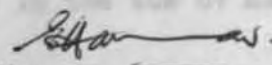
- (a) Consider budget for nine-month accounting period, year ending 31st December, 1974.
- (b) Confirm date of Estimates Meeting.

Luncheon will be served.

The following documents are enclosed which shall be regarded as PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL at this stage:

- (a) My Report on the Estimates;
- (b) Budget - Period ending 31st December, 1974.

Yours faithfully,


E. Hannan.
Chief Executive Officer.

bÓRD SLÁINTE AN IARDAIR

WESTERN HEALTH BOARD

Telephone: Galway 7631

HEADQUARTERS,
MERLIN PARK REGIONAL HOSPITAL,
GALWAY.

26th March, 1974.

To: Each Member of the Board:


Dear Member,

I desire to inform you that the next meeting of the Board will be held at St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, at 4.00 p.m. on Monday, 1st April, 1974, to consider Agenda as set out hereunder.

The Members will assemble there at 3.00 p.m. to visit the Hospital prior to the Meeting.

You are hereby requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,


E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Verification of Minutes as follows:-
 - (1) Monthly Meeting held on Monday, 4th March, 1974, (Copy herewith).
 - (2) Special Budget Meeting held on Friday, 8th March, 1974, (Copy herewith).
3. Authorisation of overdraft accommodation in the sum of £2,250,000 for Quarter Ending 30th June, 1974.

/2.....

bÓRD SLÁINTE AN IARDAIR

WESTERN HEALTH BOARD

Telephone: Galway 7631

HEADQUARTERS,
MERLIN PARK REGIONAL HOSPITAL,
GALWAY.

- 2 -

4. Budget for nine-month Accounting Period ending 31st December, 1974 (Copy already circulated with Chief Executive Officer's Report on 1st March, 1974.)
5. Calvary Hospital, Galway - Closure of Maternity Department as from 30th June, 1974. (Copy of letter from Department of Health Ref. A.11/479 dated 21st March, 1974, herewith).
6. Report of Sub-Committee - Galway and Merlin Park Regional Hospitals Executive Committee on future use of beds in these two hospitals (Copy herewith).
7. Report from Meeting of Standing Committee - Copy of Minutes herewith as follows:-

Psychiatric & Geriatric Care - Meeting of 11th February, 1974.
8. Chief Executive Officer's Progress Report:-
 - (1) "Choice of Doctor" and "Choice of Pharmacist" Schemes;
 - (2) Building Programme.

BORD SLAINTE AN IARTHAIR.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Western Health Board held at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 4th March, 1974, in Boardroom, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway.

Present: Councillor T. King - Chairman - who presided.

Other Members: Messrs E. Carey, Miss D. Casey, Messrs P. Concannon, J. Costello, Mrs. M. Croffy, Messrs J. Cullen, M. J. Dyar, M. J. Egan, P. Flynn, M. Gilmore, L. Hanniffy, E. Haverty, P. D. Joyce, J. D. Kennedy, M. D. Lyons, M. J. McLoughlin, J. M. Mannion, P. J. Morley, T. O'Boaill, J. P. O'Callaghan, J. P. O'Donnell, P. D. Power and M. Ryan.

Apologies: Messrs D. O'Rourke and Dr. J. J. Tobin.

In Attendance: Messrs E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer; D. O'Shea, Chief Executive Officer, North-Western Health Board; T. P. Keyes, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care; P. McDaid, Programme Manager, Community Care; P. O'Meara, Acting Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care; Dr. J. R. Shea, Chief Psychiatrist, St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe; and J. O'Leary, Secretary.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Chief Executive Officer.

Minutes: Minutes of Monthly Meeting of 4th February, 1974, copies of which had been circulated to each Member were adopted on the proposal of Senator J. M. Mannion, seconded by Councillor E. Carey, and then signed by the Chairman.

Authorisation of Loans: It was proposed by Senator M. D. Lyons, seconded by Councillor J. P. O'Callaghan and resolved:

"That we hereby authorise the raising of the following loans to meet the Western Health Board's share of costs of the projects indicated:-"

- (1) Purchase of Equipment - Pathology Department, Galway Regional Hospital - £10,000
- (2) Replacement of Boiler No. 3, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway - £5,000

Abstract of Accounts -
Financial year ended
31st March, 1973:

Summary from Abstract of Accounts for year ended 31st March, 1973, with schedule of comparative statement of average daily costs for the two financial years ended 31st March, 1973, circulated to each Member on 26th February, 1974, were noted.

It was proposed by Senator M. D. Lyons, seconded by Senator J. M. Mannion and resolved:

"That we hereby authorise excess expenditure of £443,681 in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1973, and £30,073 in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1972."

Opening of Audit of
Boards' Accounts:

Chief Executive Officer informed the meeting that Mr. M. Phelan, Principal Local Government Auditor assisted by Mr. J. P. Clifford, had opened the first Audit of the Boards' Accounts on the day of the Meeting at 10.00 a.m.

Calvary Hospital,
Galway - Closure of
Maternity Department
as from 30th June, 1974:

Chief Executive Officer reported that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee established at Meeting of 5th March, 1973, to examine and report on the future of the Maternity Unit, Calvary Hospital, Galway, were adopted at monthly meeting of 2nd July, 1973, and submitted to the Department of Health for approval on the following day. A number of queries from the Department arising on the recommendations had been answered, but no final decision had been given to date. He had received a letter of 14th February, 1974, from Sr. M. Cabrini, Superior, Calvary Hospital, confirming their decision to phase out the Maternity service by 30th June, 1974. He had asked the Department of Health for a decision on the Boards' proposals in time for today's Meeting, but nothing had been received.

Following discussion, it was agreed to press the Minister for Health for decision before date of Board's next Meeting on 1st April, 1974.

Irish Public Bodies
Mutual Insurances Ltd.
Appointment of Nominee
to attend and vote at
General Meetings:

It was proposed by Mr. T. O'Baoill, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Croffy and resolved:

"That we hereby appoint Councillor Edward Haverty as our nominee to attend and vote at General Meetings of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd."

Psychiatric & Geriatric
Services - Report of
Working Party:

Report of Working Party established by the Chief Executive Officer on 19th May, 1972, to examine and report on the measures to be taken for the proper development of the Psychiatric & Geriatric Services in the Western Health Board's area was circulated to each Member on 26th February, 1974.

Chief Executive Officer stated that the Working Party had held fourteen full meetings, in addition to sub-committee meetings and had presented their Report to him formally two weeks ago. Membership of the Working Party was comprised of Officers of the Board with the addition of Rev. E. J. Dougan, O.F.M., Professor of Political Science and Sociology, University College, Galway, to whom special gratitude was due for his assistance. He thanked all the Members of the Working Party and their Secretary, Mr. P. Stack, Senior Executive Officer, for their efforts.

The financial implications of the recommendations of the Report called for capital expenditure of £650,000 per annum aggregating £4½ million pounds over a period of years. Revenue expenditure resulting from the recommendations would amount to £67,000 in the current year, increasing to £1.4 million pounds eventually. The Report supplied the details for the development of the Psychiatric and Geriatric Services of which the broad outline was contained in the Five-Year Plan for Development of Health Services 1973/78, already adopted

by the Board on 29th May, 1973. He recommended adoption of the Report and the making of appropriate Budgetary allocations over the next years. Arising from points raised by Members, Chief Executive Officer stated that dual training of nurses in Ballinasloe would be considered when the federation of Portiuncula and County Hospital, Roscommon was approved by the Minister for Health. Account would also be taken of the need for development of dental services, especially in the long-stay institutions, and of the social role of the pharmacist. The payment of nurse's salary to psychiatric nurses undergoing general training would also be examined.

On the proposal of Councillor E. Carey, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Croffy, the Report was adopted.

It was agreed to hold a special meeting early in June, 1974, to review the first year's operation of the Board's Five Year Plan for Development of Health Services 1973/78.

Chief Executive Officer reported that St. Anne's Home, Clifden and Plunkett Home, Boyle, would be transferred to Community Care Programme from 1st April, 1974.

The report was noted and approved.

Memorandum from Programme Manager, Community Care on the Re-Organisation of Assistance Services adopted by Community Care Standing Committee at meeting of 24th January, 1974, and circulated to each Board Member on 26th February, 1974, was adopted on the proposal of Senator J. M. Mannion, seconded by Senator M. D. Lyons. Chief Executive Officer explained that the aim of the proposals was to provide a better service and they would be implemented as vacancies occurred and following

Review of Five-Year
Development Plan 1973/78

Welfare Homes at
Clifden and Boyle -
Transfer to Community
Care Programme:

Re-Organisation of
Assistance Officers
Districts:

consultation with the staff organisations and the County Councils who were the public assistance authority. Alternative arrangements would need to be made by the local authorities as regards rent collection in areas, where these duties were now undertaken by the Assistance Officers.

Speech Therapy Services:

Report from Programme Manager, Community Care of 1st March, 1974, to the Chief Executive Officer, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, was considered. Chief Executive Officer stated that on the basis of one Speech Therapist per ten thousand population, a total of thirty-two would be needed in the Board's area. The Board had no full-time Speech Therapist until December, 1972, and up to then, depended on part-time sessional assistance. Now there were three with three further students sponsored by the Board pursuing the Training Course in Dublin. The Western Care Association, Castlebar, County Mayo had also agreed to make the services of a Speech Therapist available shortly, who would undertake some work on a sessional basis, and the Board would continue to advertise for more. It was noted that there was only one speech therapy training centre in this State catering for an annual intake of fifteen students.

The report was noted and approved, and the following resolution proposed by Mr. M. J. Egan, seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Croffy was unanimously adopted:

"That we call on the Department of Health to extend and enlarge the facilities for training of Speech Therapists."

Fuel and Energy Supplies:

Report from Chief Executive Officer to each Member of the Board dated 26th February, 1974, and schedule

enclosed therewith, giving particulars of heating installations, type of fuel used and annual consumption in each of the Boards' Institutions, was noted and approved on the proposal of Councillor E. Carey, seconded by Councillor M. Ryan.

Recommendations from
Local Health Committees:

(1) Mayo: Meeting held on 25th January, 1974.

"That we recommend to the Board that the Department of Health be requested to allow the Board to meet the balance of the charges arising for admissions to extern hospitals up to 31st December, 1973, where claims are made on hardship grounds."

Chief Executive Officer stated that he had made a lengthy report on 30th October, 1973, to the Board, on the responsibility of patients for hospital charges. These charges were met in full in circumstances where patients were referred to extern hospitals from one of the Boards' hospitals, clinics or other approved channel. As a result of the Board's policy of supporting their own hospitals, fewer patients were now going to hospitals outside the Board's area.

Chief Executive Officer's explanation was noted, and it was agreed that the position should be clarified to the Local Committee.

(2) Roscommon: Meeting held on 31st January, 1974.

(a) (i) "That this Committee recommends to the Western Health Board that a Social Worker be appointed to County Roscommon."

Chief Executive Officer stated that Social Workers would be appointed to County Roscommon as soon as they could be recruited. There was a marked scarcity of qualified and experienced personnel in this field,

despite advertising in Six Countries and United Kingdom.

- (ii) "That this Committee recommends to the Western Health Board that additional accommodation be provided at the Plunkett Home, Boyle, for chronic geriatric patients of the District Hospital type."

Chief Executive Officer stated that Welfare Homes were intended largely for ambulant geriatrics, persons from the area in which the Home was situated, and for short-term convalescent care for geriatrics discharged from acute hospitals. Chronic geriatric patients requiring continuous nursing care were catered for in the geriatric hospitals. The Board's plan to provide further accommodation in this field was progressing, and he would not recommend a departure from it.

The total complement at Plunkett Home was 60, fifty-six geriatric and four acute beds, as compared to thirty approximately in the old institution.

Roscommon: Meeting held on 18th February, 1974:

- (b) "That the Minister for Health be requested to receive a deputation from the Local Committee to discuss the proposed federation of Roscommon County Hospital and Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, and to seek an early decision on this proposal."

Chief Executive Officer stated that he had included this item on the Agenda for information only, as it did not call for any action on the part of the Board. He himself had met a deputation from the Ballinasloe Hospital Action Committee on 25th February, 1974, when he had explained the Board's position and policy in regard to the federation of Roscommon County Hospital with Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, for which proposal, the sanction of the Minister for Health was

still awaited.

Standing Committees -
Reports from Meetings:

Minutes of Meeting of Standing Committees, copies of which had been circulated to the Members on 26th February, 1974, were considered and noted as follows and recommendations therein approved:-

- (1) Psychiatric & Geriatric Care - Meeting of 14th January, 1974:
- (2) Community Care - Meeting of 24th January, 1974:

Topping Development - Day Hospital at St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea:

Chief Executive Officer drew attention to resolution adopted at meeting of Psychiatric & Geriatric Care Standing Committee of 14th January, 1974, recommending that the Board approve the plans for the Diversion Therapy and Sheltered Housing Development in the grounds of St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, to be financed to the extent of £15,000 from the Topping Trust Fund, and £18,000 from the Department of Health. At the request of Dr. M. J. McLoughlin, the Chief Executive Officer stated the practicability of including a dental clinic at St. Brendan's Home to serve the town and the Home would be examined. On the proposal of Senator M. D. Lyons, seconded by Dr. L. Hanniffy, the recommendation of the Standing Committee was adopted, the Department of Health to be asked to expedite notification of capital grant.

Community Care Standing Committee - Meeting of 28th February, 1974;

- (1) Community Care Organisation:

Chief Executive Officer stated that a report on the organisation of Community Care in the Board's area dated 22nd February, 1974, from Programme Manager,

Community Care, was considered by the Community Care Standing Committee at meeting of 28th February, 1974, and was adopted by them, subject to the following amendments:-

(a) That the transfer of a small part of East County Mayo to the Roscommon Community Care area be not done.

(b) That pharmacists should be included on the Community Care teams, and that the proposal for representation of General Practitioners on the teams be proceeded with without waiting for the setting up of the District Care teams.

The amended Community Care areas would leave Galway with a population of about 112,000; - Mayo - 111,000; and Roscommon - 88,000.

The delineation of those areas should lead to a better service for the people. The teams were functioning since Summer, 1973, and the first of the District Teams would be in operation in a few months.

On the proposal of Councillor P. J. Morley, seconded by Mr. J. P. O'Donnell, the Report on the establishment of Community Care Teams, the re-organisation of the Areas and the establishment of District Care Teams, subject to the above amendments, was adopted.

(2) Home Help Services:

The Community Care Standing Committee at meeting of 28th February, 1974, also recommended the adoption of a report of 21st February, 1974 copies of which were circulated to each Member of the Board on 26th February, 1974, on the Home Help Service, which involved the employment of twelve additional full-time Home Helps and three Home Help Organisers, one for each Community Care area.

On the proposal of Councillor Mrs. M. Croffy, seconded by Councillor E. Haverty, the report was adopted.

(a) General Medical Services (GMS) in 1973.

(3) Boarded-Out Children:

27,207
29,575
13,192
90,075
303,871

Recommendation from the Community Care Standing Committee at meeting of 28th February, 1974, that the rates of allowances payable in respect of boarded-out children be increased to a flat rate of £5.00 per week from 1st April, 1974, was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor M. Ryan, seconded by Senator M. D. Lyons.

Report of the Consultative Council on General Medical Practice:

The Report of the Consultative Council on General Medical Practice entitled "The General Practitioner in Ireland" copies of which were circulated to each Board Member on 18th February, 1974, was noted and it was agreed to implement its terms in so far as they related to the Boards' services. Substantial progress in this direction had already been made. It was also noted with appreciation that the Consultative Council on General Medical Practice included Professor Brian MacNicholl, Consultant Paediatrician, Galway Regional Hospital, Dr. T. Staunton, Consultant Physician, County Hospital, Castlebar.

Progress Report from Chief Executive Officer:

Chief Executive Officer reported as follows:

(1) "Choice of Doctor" & "Choice of Pharmacist" Schemes:

Latest returns from the General Medical Services (Payments) Board gave the following particulars in respect of the Board's area:-

/11....

(a) General Medical Services Cards on 31st December, 1973.

	<u>Card-Holders</u>	<u>Persons Covered</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>%Covered</u>	<u>% Covered 30/9/'73</u>
<u>WALWAY:</u>	37,307	75,827	149,223	50.81	52.8
<u>MAYO:</u>	29,575	63,439	109,525	57.92	57.3
<u>ROSSCOMMON:</u>	13,193	25,829	53,519	48.26	49.5
<u>TOTAL:</u>	80,075	165,095	312,267	52.87	52.8
<u>Whole Country:</u>	503,871	1,010,090	2,978,248	33.92	33.3

(b) Payments:

	<u>Doctors</u>	<u>Pharmacists (Including cost of drugs and dispensing)</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
<u>Year Ended 30/9/'73</u>	547,684	950,232	1,497,916
October, 1973.	59,194	108,982	168,176
November, 1973.	53,438	110,939	164,377

(c) Visiting Rates.

	<u>Western Health Board</u>			<u>Whole Country.</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Surgery</u>	<u>Domiciliary</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Surgery</u>	<u>Domiciliary</u>
<u>Year ended 30/9/'73.</u>	4.9	4.0	0.9	5.5	4.3	1.2
October, 1973	5.6	4.7	0.9	6.3	4.9	1.4
November, 1973	4.9	4.0	0.9	5.6	4.3	1.3

The position with regard to vacant posts for participating doctors under the scheme in the Board's area was as follows:

(a) COUNTY MAYO:

(i) Mayo North-West:

Dr. Vincent O'Sullivan has indicated that he

will take up duty on 10th March, 1974, in the second of the two vacancies in the North-West Mayo area.

(ii) Westport:

This post was re-advertised on 3rd instant.

(b) COUNTY ROSCOMMON:

(i) Elphin:

The candidate appointed, Dr. Michael Morkan, took up duty on 1st March, 1974.

(2) Building Programme:

(a) Welfare Homes:

(i) Westport:

Internal finishing is progressing towards completion.

(ii) Claremorris:

External work and roofing almost complete.

(iii) Belmullet:

Footings have been placed and rising walls of new building has commenced.

(iv) Newcastle:

Tenders have been invited for the erection of the home, latest date for receipt being 15th March, 1974.

(v) Carraroe:

Cost plan was submitted to the Department of Health on 13th December, 1973. At a meeting between Department of Health officials and the Architect on 7th February, 1974, the Architect suggested that local stone should be incorporated in the building. The suggestion is being considered by the Department, and it is hoped to

have a decision shortly.

(b) Psychiatric Hospitals:

(i) St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar:

Water Tower: Department of Health approval to the acceptance of tender for the erection of water tower was received on 13th February, 1974.

(ii) St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlerea - Industrial Therapy Unit:

Latest date for receipt of tenders was 22nd February, 1974. Six tenders were received and submitted to the Architect for examination and recommendation.

Longterm Illnesses and Disabilities:

Arising from the Chief Executive Officer's Report of 26th February, 1974, to the Board, it was proposed by Dr. P. D. Power, seconded by Senator M. D. Lyons and resolved:

"That we recommend that persons suffering from multiple sclerosis be made eligible for free drugs, medicines or medical and surgical appliances in accordance with the terms of section 59 (3) of the Health Act, 1970."

Venue for Board Meetings - April to September, 1974:

As suggested by the Chief Executive Officer, the following venues were agreed for monthly meetings from April to September, 1974:-

- April - Castlerea
- May - Belmullet
- June - Swinford
- July - Roscommon
- Thursday 15th August, - Clifden
- September - Castlebar.

Notice of Motion - School Medical Services:

The following motion notice of which had been duly given by Councillor Mrs. M. Croffy was considered:-

"That this Board authorise the Chief Executive Officer to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that children attending National Schools are examined, as provided for in the Report on the Child Health Service."

Following discussion, the motion proposed by Mrs. M. Croffy and seconded by Mr. T. Boyle was passed unanimously.

In the course of the discussion on the motion, it was submitted that shortcomings in the school medical services could be attributed largely to shortage of medical staff. It was also suggested that most defects were discovered at birth or by General Practitioners, but that there was a lack of facilities to deal with these defects. It was pointed out that children under 16 years of age attending secondary schools were not catered for unless they were the dependants of holders of General Medical Services Cards. Chief Executive Officer stated he would submit a report within the next few months, setting out the present position, and that Programme Manager, Community Care, would have discussions with the County Medical Officers to see what could be done to improve the service.

On the proposal of Councillor M. Ryan, seconded by Councillor J. P. O'Callaghan, it was resolved:

"That we call on the Minister for Health to provide school medical examinations for children under the age of sixteen years of age attending post-primary schools."

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: E. Hannan
E. Hannan.
Chief Executive Officer

Confirmed and adopted at meeting of Western Health Board held on 1st April, 1974.

Signed: Chairman
CHAIRMAN

Telephone (01)42. 1

Seol aon fhreagra chun :-
(Address any reply to :-)

AN RÚNAÍ
(The Secretary)

féin uimhir seo :-
(quoting :)

A 11/479

21 Márta 1974.



AN ROINN SLÁINTE
(Department of Health)

TEACH AN CHUSTAIM
(Custom House)

WESTERN HEALTH BOARD

BAILE ATHA CLIATH 1

(Dublin 1.)

RECEIVED

22 MAR 1974

C.E.O.'s OFFICE

Chief Executive Officer
Western Health Board
Merlin Park
Galway

A Chara

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to previous correspondence regarding Calvary Hospital and to inform you that the Minister, having given very careful consideration to all aspects of this difficult matter, regrets that he is unable to agree to the recommendations made by your Board. In arriving at his decision the Minister was influenced by the considerations set out under.

In modern maternity practice it is recognised that the interests of both mother and baby can best be served in larger units staffed by Consultant Obstetricians and a Paediatrician with special expertise in the neo-natal aspect, and having in addition all the ancillary services needed to back-up such specialists, e.g. anaesthetic, laboratory and radiological services and intensive care facilities. This country's maternal mortality rate is, by comparison with British and European standards, too high and while the peri-natal mortality rate has been falling there is room for further improvement. This situation will not be helped by the provision of small maternity units which are not equipped and staffed to the highest standards. In this connection it is of note that the peri-natal mortality rate in the three large Dublin maternity hospitals, which deal with a considerable amount of abnormal midwifery, is lower than the national average.

It is not always possible to provide comprehensive maternity units of the type mentioned but in Galway such facilities are already available at the Regional Hospital. In the circumstances it would be more reasonable to expand, if necessary, the maternity unit at the Regional Hospital than to provide nearby a second smaller unit with considerably less in the way of facilities.

In its guidelines on hospital staffing at consultant level Comhairle na n-Ospideal recommended that where the volume of maternity work justified the provision of consultant staffed units such units should have a minimum of two Consultants in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a Consultant Paediatrician and that such minimum units should relate to an annual number of births of from 1500 to 2000. The guidelines also stated that adequate laboratory, anaesthetic and radiological services are required and that desirably such units should be associated with a medical/surgical unit. It is noteworthy that these requirements which were considered by all the health administrative bodies in the course of the recent consultations found general acceptance. The requirements mentioned are of course met at the

Telephone (01)42061

Seol aon fhreagfa chun :—
(Address any reply to :—)

AN RÚNAÍ
(The Secretary)

féin uimhir seo :—
(quoting :)



AN ROINN SLÁINTE
(Department of Health)

TEACH AN CHUSTAIM
(Custom House)

WESTERN HEALTH BOARD BAILE ATHA CLIATH 1
(Dublin 1.)

-2-

RECEIVED
22 MAR 1974
C. E. O's. OFFICE.

Regional Hospital.

In the Minister's view the considerations set out above preclude agreement to the present proposal which in addition would ~~also~~ entail a radical change in the normal relationship between a health board and a private hospital and would make for administrative and other difficulties.

Mise le meas

Del. L. O'Farrell

CMM

BORD SLAINTE AN IARTHAIR

of Sub-Committee appointed by the Hospitals Executive Committee, Merlin Park Regional Hospital on 16th April, 1973, to make recommendations on future use of beds in the two hospitals.

The members of the Committee are as follows:

Professor Claran McCarthy, Chairman;
 Professor Sean O'Beirn;
 Sister Mary Byrne;
 Mr. T. Hayes, Programme Manager;
 Mr. C. Crowley, Secretary.

Terms of reference: To examine the existing use of beds in Galway Regional/Merlin Park Regional Hospital and to make recommendations on future use and to recommend, in particular, where the units of Nephrology and Urology should be located, and to consider beds in other hospitals.

Report of Sub-Committee appointed by the Hospitals Executive Committee, Newcastle/Merlin Park on 16th April, 1973, to make recommendations on the future use of beds in the two hospitals.

<u>Galway Regional</u>		<u>Merlin Park</u>	
General (General)	189	<u>Surgical</u>	
General (General)	212	General & Medical	46
Medical and E.N.T.	36	Orthopaedic	178
Medical	56	<u>Medical</u>	
	42	Respiratory	60
Family and Gynaecology	65	Nephrology	22
Paediatric Unit	18	Renal Dialysis	3
		Cardiovascular	40
		Tuberculosis	86
		<u>Medical</u>	
		Medical	172
		Special Block (2)	22
		<u>Total</u>	676

BORD SLAINTE AN IARTHAIR.

WESTERN HEALTH BOARD.

Report of Sub-Committee appointed by the Hospitals Executive Committee, Galway/Merlin Park Regional Hospital on 16th April, 1973, to make recommendations on the future use of beds in the two hospitals.

The members of the Committee are as follows:

Professor Ciaran McCarthy, Chairman;
Professor Sean O Beirn;
Sister Mary Eyrne;
Mr. T. Keyes, Programme Manager;
Mr. C. Crowley, Secretary.

Terms of reference: To examine the existing use of beds in Galway Regional/Merlin Park Regional Hospital and to make recommendations on future use and to recommend, in particular, where the units of Nephrology and Urology should be located, and to consider beds in other hospitals listed in Programme Manager's report dated 14th February, 1973.

The existing bed position in the two hospitals is as follows:-

	<u>Galway Regional</u>		<u>Merlin Park</u>	
Medical (General)	189	<u>Surgical</u>		
		General & Thoracic	36	
Surgical (General)	212	Orthopaedic	<u>178</u>	214
Ophthalmic and E.N.T.	36	<u>Medical</u>		
Paediatric	56	Respiratory	60	
Senior	42	Nephrology	22	
Maternity and Gynaecology	80	Renal Dialysis	3	
Intermediate Baby Unit	16	Convalescent	40	191
		Tuberculosis	<u>66</u>	
		Geriatric		172
		Vacant Block (2)		<u>99</u>
		Total		676
	<u>631</u>			

TOTAL 1,307

189 Medical and the 212 Surgical beds exclude 15 beds that have already been taken down at Galway Regional.

Recommendations:

(1) Medical

There is serious overcrowding at Galway Regional Hospital. The bed complement there should be reduced to 142 beds and Unit 3 at Merlin Park Regional Hospital should be developed as an acute medical unit, provided a Consultant Physician is available.

The Nephrology and Haemodialysis units should be located at Unit 8, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, where, in addition to Nephrology and Haemodialysis admissions, medical cases would also be admitted.

It is desirable that each Consultant should have a specific ward for his patients and consideration should be given to integrating male and female patients within that ward block. Assuming that the foregoing recommendations are implemented some beds would be available for the Dermatological and the Neurological services in the Regional Hospital, Newcastle, when those Consultants are appointed. Within the existing bed complement, a small number of beds should be made available to Medical Consultants based in Merlin Park Regional Hospital to enable them to have specialised procedures carried out and Medical Consultants in Galway Regional Hospital should be asked to agree to this proposal. A similar arrangement should apply where Consultants in the Regional

Newcastle, require accommodation in Merlin Park.

Surgical Beds:

(a) Overcrowding:

Serious overcrowding exists in the surgical wards at Galway Regional Hospital. The bed complement in these wards should be reduced to 139.

The Urology unit should be located at Hospital Ground, Merlin Park Regional Hospital. It will be necessary to provide a further Theatre and an Endoscopy room for the Urologist.

(b) Unit 2 at Merlin Park Regional Hospital should be used in the short term as a Physiotherapy Department but as this will, in the long term, be required for surgery, the planning of a new Physiotherapy Department based in Merlin Park Regional Hospital should be undertaken, and might be part of a school of Physiotherapy based on the combined hospitals.

(c) Ten (10) beds, as well as Theatre time, should be made available at Merlin Park Regional Hospital for E.N.T. work.

The question of some general surgery being carried out by the Thoracic Surgeon should be examined.

(d) The provision of Radiological facilities at Merlin Park Regional Hospital to enable that hospital to function efficiently as an acute unit is urgent. These facilities should be provided as a matter of urgency.

A small number of beds should be made available in the Regional, Newcastle, to surgeons in Merlin Park to enable them to have specialised procedures carried out. A similar arrangement should apply where Consultants in the Regional, Newcastle, require accommodation in Merlin Park.

Paediatrics:

(a) Childrens' accommodation:

We have noted that at present, children are accommodated in adult wards. This is undesirable. Twenty-five Paediatric Surgical beds sited in the Paediatric Unit in the Regional, Newcastle, should be provided. Some beds might be made available within this unit for E.N.T. Childrens' Surgery. The Childrens Complex should be developed so as to provide, in conjunction with the existing Paediatric Department and the proposed Paediatric Surgical Unit, a specialised childrens' outpatients Department.

(b) Premature Baby Unit:

The existing accommodation in the Premature Baby Unit was designed for nine infants. It is now quite clear that this is inadequate, and based on usage alone, the accommodation should be expanded to provide twenty places.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology:

The Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has pointed out that his Department is dangerously overcrowded, and he has asked that a further 30 beds be provided on the existing single floor building. It is noted

that fifteen extra beds have been provided, but after allowance has been made for some reduction in overcrowding, this will represent a nett increase of only five beds. It is our view, that if the population of Galway city and surrounds continue to expand at its present rate and if the birth rate does not decrease, the application for thirty extra beds is justified, and a detailed examination of this should be undertaken immediately.

Outpatients:

(a) New Departments:

Appropriate and adequate outpatient facilities should be provided at both hospitals. To provide this adequately, it will be necessary to build a New Department in each hospital.

(b) Accident Centre:

There should be an accident centre at the Regional, Newcastle, at which all appropriate specialities should be available on an emergency basis.

(c) Overnight Stay:

There should be provision in the Casualty area for overnight stay for patients.

(d) Fracture Beds:

A number of fracture beds should continue to be available at the Regional, Newcastle, under the care of the Orthopaedic Surgeons, until such time as beds for overnight stay referred to at "c" above are

provided when the position should be re-examined.

Admissions:

The admission procedure in both Hospitals should be examined. It is essential to make the best use of resources and it appears that this might be best achieved by having admissions controlled by one unit. The details would have to be worked out by a special working party.

7) The effect of our recommendations on beds is set out in the tables hereunder

<u>Alway Regional</u>	<u>Existing Beds available</u>	<u>New Beds recommended</u>	<u>Total</u>
Medical (General & Specialised)	142	-	142
Surgical (General & Specialised)	139	-	139
Ophthalmic and E.N.T.	26	-	26
Pediatric	56	25	81
Fever and Dermatology	42	-	42
Maternity and Gynaecology	72	30	102
Neonatal Baby Unit	9	11	20
Psychiatric	<u>50</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50</u>
	536	66	602

<u>Merlin Park Regional</u>	<u>Existing Beds available</u>	<u>Additions or Reductions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Surgical			
Thoracic and General	36	-	
Orthopaedic	178	-	
General & Specialised including E.N.T. (Unit 2)	40		
Neurology	22		276

ied forward

	<u>Existing Beds available</u>	<u>Additions or Reductions</u>	<u>Total</u>
	276		276
<u>Medical</u>			
Respiratory and General Medical (Units I, 9 and Hosp. Ground)	60		
Nephrology and General Medical (Unit 8)	40		
General Medical (Unit 3)	40		
Pulmonary T.B.	66		206
Geriatric	172	-	150
	<u>654</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>632</u>
TOTAL:	<u>1,234</u>		

40 Surgical and 40 Medical shown under Merlin Park are now vacant. There are 172 long stay Geriatric Beds in Merlin Park Regional at present. It is planned to reduce this to 150. Further consideration can then be given to the use of the 22 bed places when the Beds are taken down.

If these recommendations are implemented it will result in an improvement in overcrowding but the standards will be less than those laid down by the Royal College of Nursing, England, which are as follows:

Single Room Accommodation:	100 square feet per bed.
Single Room - Infectious Disease Hospital:	102 " " " "
Multiple Ward:	85 to 90 square feet per bed.
Distance from one bed centre to another	8½ feet to 9 feet.

ere should be a clear passage of three feet between beds and between bed and
ll.

ither will the accommodation achieve the standards of toilet and bathroom
ilities as laid down by the College of Nursing. These are:-

1 toilet bowl per six patients.

1 bath per ten patients.

le feel that in the long term efforts should be made to achieve the standards
laid down by the College of Nursing.

Castlebar County Hospital and the proposed Roscommon County Hospital/Portiuncula
complex are acute general hospitals. (Castlebar 204 beds - Roscommon 137 beds
and Portiuncula 204 beds).

The following Hospitals do not fulfil the requirements of Community Hospitals.
They are smaller hospitals and come under the definition of District Nursing
homes as set out in the report of the Consultative Council on the General
Hospital Services. They are not staffed by Hospital Board Consultants:

Clifden District Hospital.

Ballina District Hospital.

Swinford District Hospital.

Belmullet District Hospital.

Boyle District Hospital.

Salvory, Galway and the Grove, Tuam are private hospitals. As they are not under
the Board we are not in a position to make recommendations. However, they do
provide valuable facilities which ease the pressure on beds in the Regional
Hospital Complex.

For a more detailed examination of the Acute and General Hospitals, except Regional and Merlin Park, is considered necessary, it should be carried out by a separate Committee.

Signed:

C. McCarthy.

S. O Beirn.

M. Byrne.

T. Keyes.

C. Crowley.

PSYCHIATRIC & GERIATRIC CARE - STANDING COMMITTEE.

Minutes of Meeting of the Committee, held in Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway, Monday 11th February, 1974.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Joyce, Chairman who presided.

Mr. T. King, M.C.C.,

Senator M. D. Lyons

Mrs. M. Croffy, M.C.C.,

Dr. M. J. Dyar.,

Mr. M. J. Egan, L.L.B.,

Dr. L. Hanniffy.

Mr. T. O'Baoill, R.M.N.,

Mr. J. Lenehan, M.C.C.,

Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. D. O'Shea, Programme Manager.

Mr. P. O'Meara, Acting Programme Manager.

Miss B. Gibbons, Secretary.

MINUTES:

On the proposal of Councillor Croffy, seconded by Mr. Egan the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, January 14th, were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

The Programme Manager referred to recent public comments regarding the admission of patients to the Plunkett Home, Boyle, Co. Roscommon and to the special meeting of the Roscommon Local Committee held in the Plunkett Home on 31st January, 1974.

Misconceptions had arisen regarding the Plunkett Home under the following headings: -

1. The type of patient who could be accommodated.

The impression had been created that "ambulant" was synonymous with able-bodied and that the patients in the home were active and not in need of help or care.

WELFARE
HOMES -
ADMISSIONS:

2. Admissions from the local community.
It had been felt that admissions to the Home were via the Sacred Heart Home or St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlerea, only.
3. Transfer to Sacred Heart Home and County Hospital. The impression had been created that the rate of transfer from Boyle had been greatly increased.
4. The district served by the Welfare Home. Contrary to local belief the great majority of patients were from Boyle or its immediate environs and in fact all the patients were from North County Roscommon.
5. The Programme Manager circulated a report analysing the position in Boyle which clarified the above points.
In the course of the special meeting of the Local Committee in Boyle several speakers had made the case for acute hospital facilities and a casualty unit to be provided attached to the Plunkett Home. The Programme Manager stated that these facilities were within the sphere of the general hospital services and that the policy of the Health Board which had been endorsed by the Local Committee in Roscommon was that general hospital services for the County Roscommon and East Galway area would be given by a federation of Roscommon County Hospital and Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe.

Discussion took place on the level of salaries for administrative and professional staff in

the Western Health Board as compared to that obtaining in other areas, particularly the Eastern Health Board. Disquiet was expressed at the difficulty in filling key posts because of this discrepancy and also on the drain from our area of skilled, experienced staff which are being attracted to the Dublin area.

It was proposed by Dr. Hanniffy and seconded by Senator Lyons and resolved that "This Committee recommend to the Board that in order to attract a high level of staff to the area and to ensure that staff already employed in key posts were not lost to the Board, salaries obtaining for professional and administrative posts under the Western Health Board be brought up to the level of those in the Eastern Health Board area and where necessary additional allowances be paid above the level.

The Chief Executive Officer then commented on some items of particular concern to the Committee: -

1. Regarding the appointment of a Director of Mental Handicap the Board would continue to press vigorously for approval of the Department of Health for this appointment.
2. Concerning the posts of Physician/Geriatician, one appointee was abroad on a year's study leave, and the remaining posts will be hard to fill due to the difficulty of recruiting suitably trained personnel.
3. Regarding helicopter facilities the Chief Executive Officer had some months previously requested that two helicopters be based at Renmore Military Barracks

which would serve the Health Board area.

PROGRAMME MANAGER'S
PROGRESS REPORT.

Welfare Homes.

Westport: Internal finishes being completed

Claremorris: Building being roofed at present

Belmullet. Foundations complete for new extension.

Newcastle. Contract drawings complete and advertisement for invitation to tender would be in the papers this week.

Carraroq: Cost plan submitted to Department of Health on 13th December 1973, and discussions had taken place between the Architect and Department Officials..

Psychiatric Hospitals.

St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar: Verbal approval had been given by the Department for acceptance of a tender.

St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe: Departmental approval had been given for a number of minor capital works, letter of 24th January, 1974, These included:

- (a) Staff dining facilities;
- (b) Central linen store;
- (c) Patients canteen and shop;
- (d) staff toilets;

and

Main dining-hall.

St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlerea.

Tenders had been invited for the proposed Industrial Therapy Unit. Closing date was 22nd February, 1974.

Geriatric Hospitals.

Swinford: Tender for installation of fire alarm system in the sum of £6,390 had been

approved, 6th February, 1974.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:

Senator Lyons proposed that the next meeting should not be held for two months as there was not sufficient business to justify a monthly meeting.

The Chairman said that it had already been agreed by the Committee to have monthly meetings and that if the motion was to be rescinded it should go on the agenda for discussion at next meeting. This was agreed and the meeting was arranged for Monday, 11th March 1974, in Merlin Park.

The meeting then concluded.

B. Gibbons

B. Gibbons, Secretary.

Confirmed and adopted at the meeting held in Merlin Park on Monday, 11th March, 1974.

[Signature]
for Chairman.

11th March 1974