

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair Western Health Board

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway

12th July, 1976

To: Each Member of the Board

Re: Disposal of Dispensary Residence at Glenamoy, Co. Mayo.

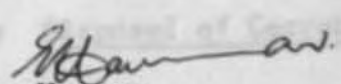
Dear Member,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Residence at Glenamoy, Co. Mayo, as follows:-

1. Property: The property consists of a 5-bedroomed bungalow and adjoining site approx. 2/5 acre. It was built by the former Health Authority, Mayo County Council in 1957 at a cost of £5,919.
2. Persons to whom it is proposed to dispose of the property Dr. Vincent O'Sullivan, Glenamoy.
3. Consideration in respect of disposal £1,800
4. Conditions
 - (a) The Board to have first option to purchase in the event of any re-sale of the property.
 - (b) Each party to the transaction to bear its own costs.
 - (c) The Board to bear half the net cost of a water supply to residence and dispensary taking account of any grant assistance.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this notice.


Yours sincerely,


E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer

In accordance with the requirements of Section 35 of the Health Act, 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Depot at Carrubane, Co. Roscommon, as follows:-

1. Property: The dispensary is a bungalow-type, 4 roomed building on a site of 2 rods, 10 perches. It is registered as Folio 17258 - Co. Roscommon - Entry No. 437. The site was acquired from Mr. William Lynn, Carrubane, and the dispensary was built in 1933 at a cost of £1,638.
2. Person to whom it is proposed to dispose of the property: Roscommon County Council.
3. Consideration in respect of disposal: £2,000. (Two thousand pounds).
4. Conditions: The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the conveyance.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

Yours sincerely,

E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair **Western Health Board**

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway

12th July, 1976.

To: Each Member of the Board:

Re: Disposal of Carrabane Dispensary Depot, Co. Roscommon:

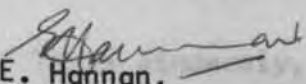
Dear Member,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act, 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Depot at Carrabane, Co. Roscommon, as follows:-

1. Property: The dispensary is a bungalow-type, 4 roomed building on a site of 2 roods, 10 perches. It is registered on Folio 17258 - Co. Roscommon - Entry No. 487. The site was acquired from Mr. William Egan, Carrabane, and the dispensary was built in 1955 at a cost of £1,688.
2. Person to whom it is proposed to dispose of the property: Roscommon County Council.
3. Consideration in respect of disposal: £2,000. (Two thousand pounds).
4. Conditions: The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the conveyance.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

Yours sincerely,


E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair **Western Health Board**

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:

Our Ref: **C/19/59**

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway

5th August, 1976

To: Each Member of the Board:

Re: Disposal of Dispensary Residence at Strokestown, Co. Roscommon:


Dear Member,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act, 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Residence at Strokestown, as follows:-

1. Property: The property consists of a 5-bedroomed, two storey, town house, standing on a site of one rood and four perches at Bawn Street, Strokestown, acquired by the former Health Authority, Roscommon County Council, in 1950 from Mrs. S. Murphy, Strokestown, at the cost of £2,708.
2. Person to whom it is proposed to dispose of the property: Dr. William Lyster, Strokestown.
3. Consideration in respect of disposal: £8,800.
4. Conditions:
 - (a) The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal.
 - (b) The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

Yours sincerely,



E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair **Western Health Board**

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

*Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway*

5th August, 1976

To: Each Member of the Board:

Re: Disposal of Dispensary Residence at Elphin, Co. Roscommon.

Dear Member,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Residence at Elphin, as follows:-

1. Property: The property consists of a two-storey 5-bedroomed residence and adjoining site of about two roods approximately. It was built by the former Health Authority, Roscommon County Council in 1965 at a cost of £5,235.
2. Person to whom it is proposed to dispose of the Property Dr. M.J. Morkan, Elphin
3. Consideration in respect of Disposal Eleven-thousand, seven-hundred and fifty-pounds. (£11,750).
4. Conditions:
 - (a) The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal.
 - (b) Disposal to be subject to restrictions as to re-sale - the Health Board to have first option to re-purchase at agreed price or, in the absence of agreement, at price to be determined by arbitration.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

- 2 -

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

Yours sincerely,



E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

In accordance with the provisions of the 1947 and 1957 Acts of the Board, I hereby give you notice that the Board's temporary meeting will be held on the following dates:

1. Subject: The purchase of the property known as the property of the Board, situated at the corner of the road and the road, in the town of the Board.
2. Person to whom the property is proposed to be sold: The Board.
3. Consideration for the property: The Board.
4. Conditions:
 - (a) The purchase of the property shall be subject to the condition that the Board shall be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal of the property.
 - (b) The Board shall be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal of the property.

The sale shall be subject to the approval of the Board of the Board.

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair **Western Health Board**

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:

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(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

*Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway*

5th August, 1976

To: Each Member of the Board:

Re: Disposal of Dispensary Residence at Cong, Co. Mayo

Dear Member,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Residence at Cong, as follows:-

1. Property: The property consists of a two-storey 4-bedroomed residence and adjoining site of about 1 acre approximately. The property was originally acquired by the former Board of Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union in 1894 from the Ardilaun Estate.
2. Person to whom it is proposed to dispose of the Property Dr. T.F. Regan, Cong.
3. Consideration in respect of Disposal Twelve-thousand, two-hundred pounds (£12,200).
4. Conditions
 - (a) The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal
 - (b) Disposal to be subject to restrictions as to re-sale - the Health Board to have first option to re-purchase at agreed price or, in the absence of agreement, at price to be determined by arbitration.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

- 2 -

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

Yours sincerely,



E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair Western Health Board

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

Your Ref:

Our RefC/19/8/2

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway

23rd August, 1976.

To: Each Member of the Board:

Re: Disposal of Dispensary Residence at Letterfrack, Co. Galway.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's Dispensary Residence at Letterfrack, as follows:-

1. Property: The property consists of a two-storey five-bedroomed residence standing on site of 4 acres, 1 rood, 32 perches at Letterfrack, purchased from Mrs. Bridget McLoughlin for one-thousand-five hundred-and seventy-five pounds. (£1,575).
2. Persons to whom it is proposed to dispose of the property: Dr. A.M. Flynn, Letterfrack
3. Consideration in respect of disposal Seven-thousand -five-hundred pounds (£7,500)
4. Conditions:
 - (a) The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal
 - (b) Disposal to be subject to restrictions as to re-sale - the Board to have first option to re-purchase at agreed price or, in the absence of agreement, at a price to be determined by arbitration.
 - (c) The Board to have the right to use the Clinic which forms part of the residence to such extent as may be required from time to time.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.

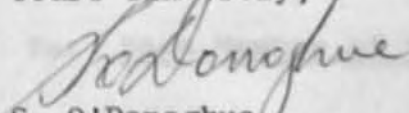
- 2 -

Encl. 1
Encl. 2

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

1976

Yours sincerely,



S. O'Donoghue,
Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Dear Member,

In accordance with the Regulations of Section 49 of the Health Act 1947 and Section 27 of the Local Government Act 1945, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's land as follows:

1. Property The property consists of a plot of land containing 1 acre and 5 perches situated in the District of ... The land was originally acquired by the ... Board of ... of the ... in 1955 from the ... Estate.
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100. Particulars of the land ...

The land should be subject to the decision of the Minister for ...

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair **Western Health Board**

Telephone: Galway (091) 7631

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*Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway*

5th August, 1976

To: Each Member of the Board

Re: Disposal of plot of land at Cong, Co. Mayo

Dear Member,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 89 of the Health Act 1947 and Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1946, I hereby give you notice that it is proposed to dispose of the Board's land at Cong, as follows:-

1. Property: The property consists of a plot of land containing 1 acre and 8 perches adjacent to the Dispensary Residence. The land was originally acquired by the former Board of Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union in 1894 from the Ardilaun Estate.
2. Person to whom it is proposed to dispose of the Property Dr. T.F. Regan, Cong.
3. Consideration Two-thousand- five hundred pounds (£2,500)
4. Condition
 - (a) The purchaser to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal
 - (b) Disposal to be subject to restrictions as to re-sale - the Health Board to have first option to re-purchase at agreed price or, in the absence of agreement, at price to be determined by arbitration.
5. The sale shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health.



- 2 -

This matter will be placed on the Agenda for consideration at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Board which will be held on the expiration of ten (10) days from the date of this Notice.

Yours sincerely,

E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer

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.

31st August, 1976.

To: Each Member of the Board:

Report of General Medical Services (Payments) Board -
Year Ended 31st December, 1975.

Dear Member,

I enclose, for your information, copy of Report of the General Medical Services (Payments) Board for year ended 31st December, 1975, with the covering letter of 25th June, 1976, from its Chairman.

The following observations in relation to this Board's performance in the context of the overall position, as set out in the statistical tables, will be of interest.

While the overall payment per eligible patient was the lowest of the eight Health Boards (Table 3) the cost per head of total population based on the 1971 Census of Population, was approximately £11 as against a national average of £8. This is due to the high proportion of eligible persons in the population. On 31st December, 1975, the percentage covered by General Medical Services Cards varied between 24.15 in the Eastern Health Board and 61.34 in the Western Health Board area, the national average being 37.17% (Table 4).

The number of eligible persons in the state increased by 7.3% between 31st December, 1974, and 31st December, 1975. The increase in this Health Board area was 6.4% (Table 4).

The increase in the number of consultations varied between 11.6% in the North-East and 2.34% in the South-East. The increase in this area was 10.6% (Table 8).

This area continues to have the lowest visiting rate (Table 9).

It had the lowest increase in the number of prescription forms 1.3% as against a national average of 7.9% (Table 19), and the overall cost of medicines per patient at £11.53 was second lowest of the eight Health Boards (Table 24).



- 2 -

On page 5, paragraph 6, of the Report, it is stated that 76.75% of patients covered by the scheme received services during 1975 from doctors paid by fee. Although not contained in the Statistical tables, the Payments Board has given a breakdown of this percentage for each Health Board area. It varied between 91.38% in the Eastern Health Board area and 66.31% in the North Western. The Western percentage 71.21% ranks third lowest of the eight Boards.

Statistics in relation to doctors' visiting rates, and fees do not take account of services provided for patients on the panels of doctors remunerated solely by way of salary. As on 31st December, 1975, there were 13 such doctors in this area (Table 1), providing services for 13,044 eligible patients representing 6.8% of the total.

Attached hereto is a tabular statement showing each Health Board arranged in order of use and cost of the scheme. Apart from the exceptionally high proportion of eligible persons in the population, it is clear from this statement that, relative to the country as a whole, the performance of this Health Board, in the operation of the scheme, is most creditable.

Yours sincerely,

E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

REPORT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1975

HEALTH BOARD AREAS ARRANGED IN ORDER OF USER AND COST OF SERVICE

	Percentage Population covered			Overall Cost per patient		Consultations % increase	Visiting Rate		Prescription forms % increase	Prescription cost per patient		Stock Orders cost per patient		Overall cost of medicines per patient		Percentage patients who received services	
	Table 4			Table 3		Table 8	Table 9		Table 19	Table 22		Table 23		Table 24		Page 5	
	1975	1974	% Increase	1975	1974		1975	1974		1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974
1	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	North-West	East	East	North-East	East	East	East	East	East	North-East	Mid-West	East	East	East	East
2	North West	North West	North East	South	North East	North West	South	South	North West	South	South	North West	North West	South	Mid-West	South	South
3	Mid-land	Mid-land	East	North East	South	<u>WEST</u>	North East	North East	Mid-West	Mid-West	Mid-West	East	North East	Mid-West	North East	Mid-land	Mid-land
4	North East	South East	South	Mid-West	Mid-West	Mid-West	Mid-land	South East	North East	North East	North East	South	South	North East	South	South East	South East
5	South East	North East	<u>WEST</u>	North West	North West	South	South East	Mid-land	South	Mid-land	<u>WEST</u>	Mid-West	East	North West	North West	North East	North East
6	Mid-West	Mid-West	Mid-West	Mid-land	Mid-land	East	North West	North West	Midland	<u>WEST</u>	Mid-land	Mid-land	Mid-land	Mid-land	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>
7	South	South	Mid-land	South East	South East	Midland	Mid-West	Mid-West	South East	North West	North West	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	Mid-land	Mid-West	North West
8	East	East	South East	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	South East	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	South East	South East	South East	South East	South East	South East	North West	Mid-West

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

Community Care,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway

ITEM NO. 10 (For information)

Memorandum to Chief Executive Officer:

Re: Report of the Working Party on Prescribing and Dispensing in the
General Medical Service

1. This Board has been asked by the Department of Health for its views on the above Report. The Board was informed at its meeting on 3rd November, 1975 of the establishment of the Working Party.
2. The Working Party's terms of reference were
"to consider
 - the pattern of prescribing and dispensing of drugs, medicines and appliances in the General Medical Service.
 - the extent to which there may be over-prescribing or the prescribing of needlessly expensive drugs.
 - the steps which might be necessary to encourage prescribing with due regard to economyand to make recommendations".
3. The Board at its meeting on 3rd November, 1975 asked that attention be drawn to the omission from the terms of reference of hospital prescribing patterns which, it considered, to a large extent, determined the pattern of prescribing and dispensing in the General Medical Service. The Department of Health in acknowledging this view said that the question of hospital prescribing patterns had been excluded for a number of reasons but that if the Working Party found that prescribing practices in the community were largely influenced by hospital practice they would no doubt refer to this in their report. The Working Party's views on hospital prescribing are set out at paragraphs 46 and 47 of the Report and are commented on at paragraph II(iii) of this memorandum.
4. The general background to the establishment of the Working Party was the high and escalating cost of the G.M.S. This cost has two elements - fees to participating doctors and the cost of medicines. While the cost of medicines is nearly twice the cost of fees the latter at nearly £9 million in 1975 is sufficiently large to justify the detailed examination which the establishment of this Working Party was intended to accomplish for medicines. The average visiting rate used in negotiations with the medical organisations about the scale of fees prior to the inception of the "Choice of Doctor" Scheme was 3.5 and this was the rate used in calculating the likely cost of the Scheme. The national average visiting rate for

1975 was 5.48 and while an element of the increase above 3.5 can be attributed to inadequate provision originally for the effect on visiting rates of a scheme catering for a restricted section of the population, as compared with the overall cover in Britain and Northern Ireland, for example, there must also be a substantial element of over-visiting in the average rate. Apart from the fact that this incorrect estimate has meant earnings for many participating General Practitioners far in excess of the updated D.M.O. salary and that the element of over-visiting must be a cause of concern in itself, from the cost viewpoint, the over-visiting element is a major factor in generating a related excess in the cost of medicines. This is an aspect to which this Report makes little or no reference and about which there is no recommendation.

5. The Working Party concludes that there is evidence that a number of doctors over-prescribe to a significant extent. In reaching this conclusion the Working Party refers to the availability of statistics showing the number of doctors prescribing 50% and 100% above the average in their particular Health Board areas and states that prima facie those in the 100% category are exceptionally costly prescribers. The Report proceeds to examine the characteristics of prescriptions issued by those doctors as a basis for the recommendations and mention that only 40 of the 1,400 doctors in the Scheme have prescribing costs 50% above their Health Board average. The Report's attention is, therefore, directed towards the unusual prescribing patterns of a small number of doctors. It is questionable if the Working Party get to the core of the problem by this approach. Average prescribing costs are the combination of high and low prescribers. If the low prescribers are not neglecting their patients it seems reasonable to suggest that over-prescribing is much more common than the Report envisages.
6. A further guide to the extent of over-prescribing lies in a comparison of the cost per patient prescribed for (medicines obtained through Pharmacist) and the cost per patient dispensed to (medicines dispensed by doctor). The national average for patients prescribed for in 1974 was £9.61, compared with an average for patients dispensed to of £8.76. It should be pointed out that the national average for dispensing ranges from £13.13 in one Board to £7.45 in the Western Health Board, that the Western Health Board dispensing doctors dispense to 50% more patients than the next highest Health Board and that the Western Health Board itself represents the average of 60 doctors. It cannot be accepted that patients being dispensed to are at risk because of inadequate medication or that the many doctors in the Western Health Board below the Health Board average are neglecting their patients. This further supports the view that the extent of over-prescribing in the G.M.S. is on a much greater scale than the Report is prepared to acknowledge.
7. It may of course be said that the level of the service in the Scheme is very high and this is no doubt correct. This would be acceptable if the money available to finance the health services and the Community Care services, in particular, were unlimited but this is not the case. Health Boards are under strict limitations in their spending and discretionary spending is particularly hard hit. The rising cost of the G.M.S. is a considerable factor in the justified concern about the cost of health services. Regrettably the recommendations in the Report will have marginal, if any, effect on the problem of costs, particularly since the

Report fails to acknowledge as a first step the dimensions and pervasiveness of the problem.

8. This is not to suggest that doctors in the G.M.S. are engaging in wilful or wasteful prescribing on a large scale. There is a problem of definition involved. The Working Party gave consideration to a definition of over-prescribing but its analysis led only to recognition of rather extreme kinds of over-prescribing. The real problem is that this country adopted a Scheme, the cost of which is very difficult to control, and, at a time when the health services are under extreme pressure for funds, the question is not how to introduce the appearance of control into the G.M.S. area but whether the country can afford the kind of Scheme being operated at present. The Working Party in its penultimate paragraph (No. 60.6) makes a passing reference to this when it says that changes of the kind proposed are imperative "if the continued provision of the existing service, which is generally accepted to be a considerable advance in the provision of medical care for eligible persons, is not to be threatened in the future". This possibility should, however, be much more in the forefront of the approach to the problem, rather than an afterthought.
9. What has been said is not intended as a rejection of the Report's recommendations. It is considered that the problem needed the attention of a Working Party with wider terms of reference and that the Report itself does not go far enough even in relation to its terms of reference. It is considered that the recommendations will have only marginal significance but they are nonetheless important and deserve support.
10. The Working Party's recommendations are summarised on pages 5 - 7 of the Report. The Report has two approaches, one aimed at reducing the actual cost of medicines as supplied by manufacturers and importers, the second aimed at reducing the quantities of drugs consumed. The first approach is particularly important in view of the evidence cited that prices in this country on the occasion of an investigation some years ago were 13% above U.K. prices. It is difficult to reconcile this fact, if it is still a fact, with the further fact that in December, 1975 the average cost of a prescription item in Northern Ireland was £1.49, compared with £1.48 in the G.M.S. but in any case the regular review of prices recommended must be useful.
11. The following are comments on some other aspects of the Report:-
 - (i) The possibility of making more use of the Public Health Nurse in the provision of certain items will be examined.
 - (ii) The view that doctors who are accepted as teachers of General Practice should themselves be effective and cost-conscious prescribers will be referred for attention to the Board's Steering Committee for the General Practitioner Training Scheme.
 - (iii) The availability in hospital wards of details of current prices of pharmaceutical products and the establishment in each hospital of a committee of the hospital specialists and pharmacists should be referred to the Hospital Executive Committees.
 - (iv) Some meetings and seminars on the lines suggested in paragraph 55



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have already taken place and this will continue.

(v) The suggestion (paragraph 56) that medicines be identified on containers is worthy of more emphasis.

(vi) It is considered that the education of the general public in regard to the unnecessary use of and demand for drugs should be the subject of efforts by the Board's Health Education Unit, as well as the national efforts recommended by the Report.

(vii) The stock order side of the Scheme should be the subject of more detailed examination at local level, as recommended, but the services of a Pharmacist would be required on a greater scale than is available at present. The devising of a form of record-keeping for dispensing doctors is most important but it should be possible to specify reasonable requirements without the establishment of a Committee.

12. The Working Party also considered the question of imposition of a prescription charge. The Western Health Board at its meeting on 18th June, 1976 decided to recommend the setting up of a Working Party at national level to investigate this question and also the introduction of a national health insurance scheme for the whole population. The Working Party decided against the idea of a prescription charge and the arguments against are given in paragraphs 36.5 and 36.6. Considerable weight appears to have been attached to the view that the income from such a charge would not be significant, but this would hardly be the major reason for introducing a charge.

13. I recommend that the Board welcome the Report and support the recommendations therein, but with the reservations referred to above.

Signed:

P. McDaid.

27th August, 1976.

PSYCHIATRIC & GERIATRIC CARE STANDING COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held in Arus Deirbhle, Belmullet, Co. Mayo, on Friday 14th May, 1976, at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Mr. M.J. Egan, LL.B. - Chairman

Mr. P. O'Cathain

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

Dr. M.J. McLoughlin, B.D.S.

Mr. E. Haverty, M.C.C.

Mr. E. Carey, N.T. M.C.C.

Mr. J.P. O'Callaghan, M.C.C. - Vice-Chairman
of Western Health Board

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. S. O'Donoghue, Programme Manager

Miss M. Cloonan, Secretary

MINUTES:

On the proposal of Mr. E. Carey, seconded by Mr. J.P. O'Callaghan, the minutes of the Psychiatric & Geriatric Care Standing Committee Meeting of the 12th March, 1976, were adopted by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM

MINUTES:

St. Francis Home, Newcastle

The Programme Manager informed the members that this Home had opened to received residents on the 26th April, 1976, with the help of volunteers from the community and staff of the Board. The Matron Sr. M. Paul, proposed to build up the number of residents slowly depending on the extent of the voluntary effort available.

St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe

The members were informed that the Labour Court had issued recommendations, favourable to the Board in relation to the strike situation which took place in the Hospital for the first 17 days of January, 1976. The Board would therefore be in a position in the near future to process nursing staff appointments to the new Psychiatric Unit attached to the Regional Hospital, Galway.

Boilers - St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar

The Programme Manager informed the members that the Technical Services Officer had sent a proposal to the Department to connect up the new boilers to the existing system in such a way that they would be on a permanent foundation around which the new Boilerhouse could be built as soon as funds became available. Sanction to this proposal was expected shortly so that the necessary work could be undertaken before the next heating season.

PROGRESS REPORT:

St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlereagh

The members were informed that work had commenced on installing 2 new boilers at this hospital. These boilers had already been placed in the Boilerhouse by the Maintenance Staff of that hospital, under the supervision of the Technical Services Officer. The work of connecting these boilers to the heating system was underway. This work was most essential since the existing boilers, which were on hire, did not have sufficient capacity to cater for the needs of the hospital. A saving of £3,000 p.a. approx. on rental charges will be made as soon as the new boilers are operational.

St. Mary's Hospital, Castlbar:

The Water Tower in St. Mary's Hospital, is virtually completed and work on the pumping plant is in progress.

St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe

Due to the non-availability of capital monies, progress on the capital programme at this hospital had ceased. However, work was continuing on the up-grading of the old building and a planned Maintenance programme, which is geared mainly to up-grading the hospital generally was underway. This included an extensive painting programme and the installation of new kitchen equipment in the main kitchen, in anticipation of centralisation of kitchen facilities at the hospital.

In reply to a query from Mr. T. O'Baoill, the Programme Manager informed the meeting that it was proposed to replace the workshops recently burned down, with a new structure, which would embody an engineering and timber stores, out of the proceeds of the Fire Insurance claim which amounted to £23,000 approximately. Plans were almost completed for this project by the Technical Services Officer. The new structure would be built by the existing Maintenance Staff. Mr. O'Baoill expressed concern at the reduction in the Maintenance Staff due to non filling of vacancies as they arose over the past few months. He was informed that this would be kept in mind in the light of our needs when work on the new workshops would commence. In reply to a further query on this matter the members were informed that for 1976 the estimated wages for Maintenance Staff at this hospital is £160,000 plus £140,000 for materials.

1976 Budget Allocation

The Programme Manager referred to the economies that were necessary in order to remain within the allocation for 1976. The measures taken were

effective and on the basis of the monthly returns of expenditure on pay and non-pay it appeared that we would live within the limits specified at our Budget meeting, when it was estimated that a sum of £462,000 in addition to the Board's allocation would be necessary to maintain the existing services of the Board. All the staffs in the Programme were now feeling the effects of the economies sought, but patient care was not suffering. The good will and full co-operation of the staff at all levels continued in relation to the economies sought.

The members expressed appreciation of the response by the staff. However, reservations were expressed over the non recruitment of Trainee Psychiatric Nurses in 1976 as job opportunities for school leavers would be lost. The Programme Manager informed the members that his primary concern was to secure the jobs and take home pay of the existing permanent staff. He had anticipated a saving of over £10,000 by the non-recruitment of Trainees. Due to the fact that it was necessary to live within a very tight financial allocation for 1976, the only way he could see trainees employed, would be at the expense of some of the existing staff through redundancies etc..

Following further discussion on this matter, the members were informed that the economies affected this year were a once off effort only. Stocks etc. were depleted in order to stay within our financial limits. This situation could not continue indefinitely since it would have a very serious effect on the hospital service as a whole. The members of the Committee were in general agreement that this situation should not be allowed to continue indefinitely.

Plunkett Home, Boyle

The Day Care activities were reduced slightly here, where a saving in transport costs was necessary. However, the possibility of voluntary transport for the Day Residents was being considered by the District Care Team.

Sacred Heart Home, Roscommon

Funds were allocated in the current year to up-grade that portion of the Old Building which is occupied at present. The up-grading in question is calculated to last until our Welfare Home Programme for Co. Roscommon is completed when the residents of the Old Building would be accommodated in the Welfare Homes. The Old County Home Building could then be demolished.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LAND TO ACCOMMODATE
ITINERANTS AT CREGGAUN, BALLINASLOE:

A request had been received from Community Care for additional land to accommodate itinerants at Creggaun, Ballinasloe. Three houses have already been provided there for Itinerants and at present 6 further families are camping on the roadside beside these houses. The request is for an additional plot of land which could be cleared and filled with hard core, on which the tents could be accommodated thereby taking them off the roadside.

The pros and cons of this request were discussed fully as a result of which it was decided to seek the views of the local Itinerant Settlement Committee in Ballinasloe and the local residents of Creggaun.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Othair on Gaeltacht

Thosnuigh an Ball P. Ó'Cathain dispoireacht ar na slighe eagsula ata ar fail cun go labroch daoine Gaedilge leis na h-othair ón Gaeltacht nuair a mbíonn sias in Oispidéal. B'e toradh na díospoireacta na pe slighe a foilseafha gur gaelgeoir an othar, cuirfa "tag" air agus bféidir gur measa san na gan rudai mar "leabhair Gaedilge linn", nó "is Gaelgeoir mise", a crocadh in ait eigin timpeall na leabhann. Ta go leór gaedalgoirí ar foinne ar n-oispideil cun cainnte a coimead le h-othair on Gaeltacht. Ba cheart na foinne a spreagadh cun gaedilge a labhairt i gconnai le daoine as an nGaeltacht.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Friday the 9th July, 1976, at 1.30 p.m. in the D'Alton Home, Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

SIGNED: Mary Cloonan
M. Cloonan,
Secretary.

Confirmed and adopted at meeting held on the 9th July, 1976.

SIGNED: M.J. Egan
M.J. Egan,
Chairman.

Minutes of Meeting of the General Institutional Care Standing Committee held on Friday, 21st May, 1976, in Castlebar General Hospital at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Professor J. D. Kennedy, Chairman, who presided.

OTHER MEMBERS:

Mr. P. C. Bresnihan; Miss D. Casey;
Mr. P. Concannon, M.C.C., Mr. J. Costello;
Mr. D. D'Alton, M.C.C., Dr. M. Gilmore;
Mr. J. P. O'Callaghan, M.C.C.

APOLOGIES:

Dr. P. D. Power.

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Killeen, Programme Manager.
Mr. T. Mullen, Hospital Administrator.
Miss M. Keely, Secretary.

MINUTES:

On the proposal of Mr. J. Costello, seconded by Mr. D. D'Alton, M.C.C., the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th March, 1976, were approved and then signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES:

The Programme Manager informed the Committee that meetings had been held on 22nd April and 6th May, 1976, between representatives of the Western Health Board, and the Authorities of Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe, to discuss the proposed federation of that hospital with the County Hospital, Roscommon, and that it was proposed to hold another meeting on 10th June, 1976. He also stated that it was planned to complete negotiations by 30th September, 1976.

BUDGET 1976:

The Programme Manager informed the members that a review had been carried out to 31st March, 1976, in relation to the budget situation for General Hospital Care Programme. He indicated that certain areas kept within the budget

figures had been exceeded. He also stated that all sections of the Staff were co-operating as much as possible in order to keep expenditure within the budget limits.

USE OF DRUGS IN
HOSPITALS:

Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting, the Programme Manager informed the members that it had been agreed by the Regional/Merlin Park Regional Hospitals Executive Committee to refer this matter to a small Committee representative of the Medical Staff and the Pharmacist who would look at the whole question of the use of drugs, in the hospitals. The Committee will report at an early date.

PROGRESS REPORTS
ON HOSPITAL
DEVELOPMENT WORKS:

The Programme Manager read the progress report in relation to building schemes in the General Hospital Care Programme.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS
OF HOSPITALS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES:

The Minutes of the following Meetings of the Hospital Executive Committees, copies of which had been circulated to each Member of the Committee with the Agenda were then considered:-

(A) GALWAY AND MERLIN PARK REGIONAL HOSPITALS:
16th February, 1976 and 15th March, 1976.

(B) CASTLEBAR GENERAL HOSPITAL:
23rd February, 1976.

(A) GALWAY AND MERLIN PARK REGIONAL HOSPITALS:
(1) Meeting of 16th February, 1976:

Arising from this meeting, the Programme Manager stated that the whole question of Orthopaedic Services is under consideration, and that discussions would be