



Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair Western Health Board



Telephone: Galway (091) 66101

Telex: ~~XXXX~~ WHB EI
8832

Headquarters,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway.

Ref:

Ref: HQ. 482

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

30th April, 1979.

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD

RE: Ambulance Services - Annual Competition -
Best Kept Ambulance and Safe Driving Awards
- 8.00 p.m., Monday, 21st May, 1979.

Dear Member,

The final judging of the above, and the Presentation of Prizes and Certificates will take place on Monday, 21st May, 1979, at the Board's Headquarters, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway, following Mass at 7.30 p.m. for deceased and living ambulance service personnel in the Hospital Chapel. The ceremony will include the Blessing of the Fleet by Rev. Fr. D. Collins, C.C., Senior Chaplain, Merlin Park Regional Hospital and Venerable Archdeacon R.M. Harris.

The Prizes and Certificates will be presented by Dr. Malachy Powell, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, and Chairman of the Ambulance Services Committee.

You are cordially invited to attend.

Yours sincerely,

E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

Bord Sláinte an Iarthair Western Health Board



Telephone: Galway (091) 66101

Telex: ~~3XXX~~ WHB EI
8832

Headquarters,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway.

Ref: HQ. 175

(Please quote our ref. in any reply)

1st May, 1979.

TO: Each Member of the Board:

Dear Member,

I desire to inform you that the next meeting of the Board will be held in St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, Co. Galway, at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 7th May, 1979. Agenda is as set out hereunder.

Following the meeting and the celebration of Mass, the new Day Centre at St. Brendan's Home will be officially opened by the Chairman, Councillor Hugh Melvin.

You are hereby requested to attend.

Yours sincerely,


E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

A G E N D A

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Verification of Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 2nd April, 1979 (copy herewith).
3. Eligibility Arrangements from 6th April, 1979 - Voluntary Contributions under Social Welfare Acts. (Copy of Department of Health Circular No. P8/79 of 12 Aibreán 1979 and Health Services (No. 2) Regulations 1979 herewith).
4. Regional Hospitals, Galway - Annual Report for Year ended 31st December, 1978 herewith.
5. To consider Minutes of Meetings of Board's Standing Committees as follows:-
 - (a) General Institutional Care - 16th February, 1979. (copy herewith)
6. Chief Executive Officer's Progress Report.
 - (a) Job Creation Programme - Opening of New Units of Accommodation.
 - (b) Ambulance Services Annual Competition - 21st May, 1979 at 8.00 p.m.
7. Notice of Motion - Mrs. C. Fallon:-

"I will propose at the next meeting of the Western Health Board that the Minister for Health authorise Health Boards to pay the same scale of fees to Private Dentists as applicable to work done for the Department of Social Welfare."

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 2nd April, 1979, in District Hospital, Ballina, County Mayo.

- Present: Councillor H. Melvin, Chairman, who presided.
- Other Members: Miss M. Byrne, Messrs. T.R. Cahill, E. Carey, M. Clarke, P. Concannon, D. Dalton, Mrs. C. Fallon, Messrs. J. Flynn, P. Flynn, M.J. Gilvarry, E. Haverty, M. Kelly, J. Molloy, P.J. Morley, J. Mulrooney, B. Murphy, T. O'Baoill, J.P. O'Callaghan, J.P. O'Donnell, P. Raftery, M. Ryan, J.J. Tobin, J. Waldron and H.M. Weir.
- Apologies: Councillor T. Byrne, Ms. K. Eastwood, Senator M.D. Lyons and Dr. E. O'Byrne.
- In Attendance: Messrs. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, P. McDaid and C. Crowley, Programme Managers, P. O'Meara, Acting Programme Manager, Dr. Angela Loftus, Medical Officer, District Hospital, Ballina, Sr. M. Alphonsus, Matron, District Hospital, Ballina, Messrs. J. Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer, T. Whyte, Administrator, General Hospital, Castlebar, and J. O'Leary, Secretary.
- Opening Prayer: The Opening Prayer was recited in Irish by the Chief Executive Officer.
- Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Board held on 5th March, 1979, copies of which were circulated, with the Agenda, to each Member on 27th March, 1979, were adopted on the proposal of Mr. T. O'Baoill, seconded by Councillor J.P. O'Callaghan, and then signed by the Chairman.
- Vote of Congratulations: On the proposal of Councillor J. Mulrooney, Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. J.P. O'Donnell, the Board congratulated Mr. Colm Galvin, Consultant Surgeon, Galway Regional Hospital, and Dr. Con Lucey, Consultant Physician, General Hospital, Castlebar, on their election to the newly formed Medical Council, which replaces the Medical Registration Council, and Miss D. Casey, Matron, Galway Regional Hospital, on her election to An Bord Altranais, for the five-year period commencing 1st January, 1979. The Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of all sections of the Staff, and on his own behalf, associated himself with the vote of congratulations.

Resolutions of Sympathy:

Telegraph Request for site for Engineering Handovers on lands attached to St. Mary's Hospital (Lovers' Lane) Castlebar, County Mayo

On the proposal of Councillor J. Mulrooney, Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. J.P. O'Donnell, the following resolutions of sympathy were adopted:-

- (a) To Dr. Angela Loftus, Medical Officer, District Hospital, Ballina, on the death of her father, Mr. Sean Walshe.
- (b) To Sister Celestine, District Hospital, Swinford, on the death of her uncle, Mr. William Ryan.

The Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of all sections of the Staff, and on his own behalf, associated himself with the resolutions of sympathy.

Supplementary Loan of £70,000 (Seventy thousand pounds):- Home for the Aged at Carraroe, County Galway:

It was proposed by Mr. T. O'Baoill, seconded by Dr. M.J. Gilvarry, and resolved:-

"That we hereby authorise the raising of a Supplementary Loan in the sum of £70,000 (seventy thousand pounds) for Home for the Aged at Carraroe, County Galway".

Disposal of Land attached to St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar, to Mayo County Council:

It was proposed by Councillor J. Mulrooney, seconded by Councillor D. Dalton, and resolved:

"Statutory Notice having been given to each Member on 16th March, 1979, we hereby authorise the sale to Mayo County Council of a Plot of Land comprising 266 square metres, situated in the townland of Knockacroghery, for the sum of £500, and wayleaves extending over a distance of 952 metres in the townlands of Knockaphunta and Knockacroghery, for the sum of £3,614.12, Mayo County Council to be responsible for all costs incurred in connection with the disposal, which shall be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health."

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Department of Posts and
Telegraphs Request for site
for Engineering Headquarters
on lands attached to St.
Mary's Hospital (Lovers' Lane),
Castlebar, County Mayo:

The Chief Executive Officer stated that his recommendation that a site of approximately 5½ acres, on lands attached to St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar, adjacent to Lovers' Lane, be made available to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, as a site for a new Post Office Engineering Headquarters, was adjourned from monthly meeting of 5th March, 1979 so that the possibility of obtaining an alternative site from Mayo County Manager could be investigated. He had met the Mayo County Manager on 16th March, 1979, who had informed him that neither Mayo County Council nor Castlebar Urban District Council had any suitable site to offer to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. The Mayo County Manager had further discussions with representatives of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and no suitable alternative site had emerged from these discussions. He therefore confirmed his recommendation that the site be given.

Councillor J. Mulrooney, Vice-Chairman, pointed out that Mayo County Council was the Development Corporation for the area and it was their responsibility to make a site available. The request for a site had never come before the County Council and he, himself, was not satisfied that no suitable alternative site was available. He proposed that a report be prepared on all the lands at St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar, incorporating recommendations as to what lands should be retained and what lands were available for disposal to the Housing Authorities, Mayo County Council or Castlebar Urban District Council. This proposal was seconded by Councillor E. Carey, and agreed.

The Chief Executive Officer pointed out that a resolution adopted at monthly meeting of 5th March, 1979, as recorded on page 6 of the Minutes, authorised him to negotiate the disposal of lands, which will be opened up for development, on the construction of a road at the rear of the General Hospital and St.

Mary's Hospital, to Mayo County Council, i.e. all lands surplus to Health Board requirements, and this was being done.

Pay-Related Health
Contributions and Eligibility
Arrangements from
6th April, 1979:

The Chief Executive Officer's report, circulated to each Member on 27th March, 1979, giving particulars of the Pay-Related Health Contributions system and revised eligibility arrangements, due to come into operation on 6th April, 1979, was considered and noted.

Health (Family Planning)
Bill, 1978:

The Chief Executive Officer stated that consideration of the Health (Family Planning) Bill, 1978, copies of which were circulated to each Member, on 20th December, 1978, was deferred at Monthly Meeting of the Board of 2nd January, 1979, to a later meeting in the absence of an Explanatory Memorandum from the Department of Health. As agreed at Monthly Meeting of 5th March, 1979, he had circulated to each Member, on 27th March, 1979, a copy of the Minister's Speech in Dail Eireann dated 28th February, 1979, moving that a second reading be given to the Bill. In addition he had circulated an Extract from the Minutes of the Board's Monthly Meeting of 6th June, 1978, in which the Board's Replies to specific questions raised by the Minister for Health, in connection with a Family Planning Service, were set out.

Dr. Mervyn Clarke questioned the meaning of comprehensive Family Planning Service, did it include Abortion, did the word contraceptive include intra-uterine devise?

Mr. B. Murphy stated that the Health (Family Planning) Bill, 1978 would be considered by the Irish Medical Association at its forthcoming Annual General Meeting, and the issue raised by Dr. Clarke would be more appropriately discussed further there.

The position was noted.

Acute Hospital Statistics
for Year ended
31st December, 1978:

Castlebar General Hospital:

The Chief Executive Officer, referring to his report, circulated with the statistics for Castlebar General Hospital for year ended 31st December, 1978, circulated to each Member on 27th March, 1979, drew attention to the appointments of Matron, Consultant Paediatrician and Hospital Administrator, which had been made during the year. Work by the Project and Design Teams for the provision of the new General Hospital was continuing, with a firm commitment to go to tender on 1st March, 1980. The statistics revealed a further increase in activity, both in relation to in-patients and out-patients, as compared with the previous year. The recruitment of additional Nursing Staff would be given a high priority in any Programme of Job Creation, approved in 1979.

County Hospital, Roscommon:

The Chief Executive Officer's report, which accompanied the statistics for County Hospital, Roscommon, for year ended 31st December, 1978, circulated to each Member on 27th March, 1979, gave particulars of improvements carried out in the Hospital during the year. Following the appointment of a Consultant Surgeon and Consultant Physician to the Hospital, there had been a dramatic increase in the level of activity in the Hospital, compared with previous years. This result was achieved without any increase in percentage occupancy.

In the course of the ensuing discussion, Members referred to a report in a National Sunday paper where statistics for Roscommon County Hospital were quoted, which were very different from those presented in the Chief Executive Officer's report. The source of these published statistics was questioned. The Roscommon Members thanked the Board for the improvements in the Hospital Services in County Roscommon since the Board's establishment. It was considered that having regard to the workload, as revealed in the statistics, consideration should be

given to the appointment of additional Consultants in Surgery and Medicine. The duty hours of non-Consultant Medical Staff were being reduced to 60 hours per week and in 1980 they will be down to 40 hours per week.

It was proposed by Mr. B. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. C. Fallon, and resolved:-

"That we hereby approve of an application to Comhairle na nOspideal for the creation of one additional Post of Consultant Surgeon and one additional Post of Consultant Physician in the County Hospital, Roscommon."

Ambulance and Transport
Services - Year ended
31st December, 1978:

Report of Mr. Joseph Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer on Ambulance and Transport Services for year ended 31st December, 1978, circulated to each Member by the Chief Executive Officer on 27th March, 1979, was considered.

In the course of a discussion, numerous tributes were paid to Mr. Foy on his report, and on the excellent service being provided, which was the envy of other Health Boards. The Board's Ambulance Service had the reputation of being the most efficient, best trained and best equipped in the country.

Several Members asked if anything could be done to alleviate the hardship to patients who were collected at a very early hour, in order to keep appointments to Clinics to Dublin and were then returned to their homes at a late hour. Mr. Foy stated he was conscious of the problem, which also affected patients from the North-Western and Southern Health Board areas. He had tried and failed, to have appointments for the patients at the Dublin Clinics at a later hour.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the Western Health Board had the lowest percentage of its patients, of any Health Board, being sent outside its area to Specialist Clinics.

From 1st July, 1979, with the exception of Neuro-Surgery and Cancer, all Specialist services would be available within the Board's area. Normally patients who commenced their treatment with a Dublin Consultant would continue with him until the treatment was completed, but as time goes on fewer and fewer of their patients would be sent outside the area. However, he would see what could be done to have appointments for their patients at Dublin Hospitals at a later hour.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the only constraint to recruiting additional Ambulance Attendants or assigning Nurses, especially to Ambulance duties were limited resources in Staff and funds. The need for additional Ambulance Attendants would be borne in mind according as funds for Job Creation were made available.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Foy stated that two exercises on the major Accident Plan for County Mayo had already been carried out, in conjunction with the Hospital Authorities. An exercise in County Roscommon was scheduled for April 1979 and one in County Galway in September, 1979. These exercises would be an annual feature. The role of the Ambulance Service in a major accident was mainly in dealing with casualties. Major rescue operations were the responsibility of the Fire Service, with which the Ambulance Service had a close liaison.

It was the responsibility of the Department of Labour to introduce regulations relating to the transport and storage of dangerous substances. The preparation of these regulations was at an advanced stage in the Department.

Two surveys carried out in the Achill area have indicated that the workload did not justify an Ambulance based on Achill Island, all the year round. One is located there during weekends in the peak holiday season.

The Report was noted and approved.

Minutes of Meetings of Board's Standing Committees:

Minutes of Meeting of Community Care Standing Committee of 13th December, 1978, copies of which were circulated to each Member on 27th March, 1979, were noted and recommendations therein approved, on the proposal of Councillor J. Mulrooney, Vice-Chairman, seconded by Councillor J.P. O'Callaghan.

In reply to Councillor J.P. O'Callaghan, the Chief Executive Officer stated that there was no truth in any rumours to the effect that Budgetary allocations for Community Care services had been slashed. His report on Revenue and Capital Budget for 1979, adopted by the Board at Special Meeting of 23rd March, 1979, gave the true position.

Chief Executive Officer's Progress Report:

General Medical Services - Quarterly Report:

The Chief Executive Officer reported that returns from the General Medical Services (Payments) Board gave the following particulars in respect of the Board's area, for Quarter ended 31st December, 1978:

1978-79	2,121,087.00
1977-78	727,184.00
	37,016.00
	<hr/>
	2,899,287.00

VISITING RATES

WESTERN HEALTH BOARD

	Spec.	Gen.	TOTAL
ended 31/12/77	4.00	0.79	4.79
ended 30/9/78	4.22	0.85	5.07
ended 31/12/78	4.32	0.86	5.18
ended 31/12/78	4.28	0.85	5.09

WATER BOARD

	Spec.	Gen.	TOTAL
ended 31/12/77	4.36	1.25	5.61
ended 30/9/78	4.48	1.3	5.78
ended 31/12/78	4.47	1.27	5.74
ended 31/12/78	4.46	1.16	5.62

"CHOICE OF DOCTOR" AND "CHOICE OF PHARMACIST" SCHEMES

A) PAYMENTS:

	<u>DOCTORS</u> £.	<u>PHARMACISTS</u> £.	<u>TOTAL</u> £.
Year ended 31/12/77	1,549,122	3,126,666	4,675,788
9 months ended 30/9/78	1,335,735	2,801,027	4,136,762
Quarter ended 31/12/78	459,983	979,180	1,439,163
Year ended 31/12/78	1,795,718	3,780,207	5,575,925

B) BREAKDOWN OF PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1977

	<u>PRESCRIPTIONS</u> £.	<u>(%TOTAL)</u>	<u>STOCK ORDERS</u> £.	<u>(%TOTAL)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> £.	<u>(%TOTAL)</u>
Ingredient Cost	1,750,254	(72.9)	574,155	(79.2)	2,324,409	(74.3)
Dispensing Fee	621,185	(25.8)	143,527	(19.8)	764,712	(24.5)
V.A.T.	30,732	(1.3)	6,813	(1.0)	37,545	(1.2)
TOTAL:	2,402,171	(100.0)	724,495	(100.0)	3,126,666	(100.0)

9 MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1978.

Ingredient Cost	1,582,528	(73.6)	516,915.70	(79.3)	2,099,443.70	(75.0)
Dispensing Fee	538,703	(25.1)	129,228.93	(19.8)	667,931.93	(23.8)
V.A.T.	27,513	(1.3)	6,138.37	(0.9)	33,651.37	(1.2)
TOTAL:	2,148,744	(100.0)	652,283.00	(100.0)	2,801,027.00	(100.0)

QUARTER ENDED 31ST. DECEMBER, 1978.

Ingredient Cost	558,559.00	(74.4)	181,204.17	(79.3)	739,763.17	(75.5)
Dispensing Fee	182,461.00	(24.3)	45,301.04	(19.8)	227,762.04	(23.3)
V.A.T.	9,503.00	(1.3)	2,151.79	(0.9)	11,654.79	(1.2)
TOTAL:	750,523	(100.0)	228,657.00	(100.0)	979,180.00	(100.0)

YEAR ENDED 31ST. DECEMBER, 1978.

Ingredient Cost	2,141,087.00	(73.8)	698,119.87	(79.3)	2,839,206.87	(75.1)
Dispensing Fee	721,164.00	(24.9)	174,529.97	(19.8)	895,693.97	(23.7)
V.A.T.	37,016.00	(1.3)	8,290.16	(0.9)	45,306.16	(1.2)
TOTAL:	2,899,267.00	(100.0)	880,940.00	(100.0)	3,780,207.00	(100.0)

(C) VISITING RATES:-

	<u>WESTERN HEALTH BOARD</u>			<u>WHOLE COUNTRY</u>		
	<u>Surg.</u>	<u>Dom.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Surg.</u>	<u>Dom.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Year ended 31/12/77	4.00	0.79	4.79	4.26	1.08	5.34
9 months ended 30/9/78	4.22	0.85	5.07	4.48	1.15	5.63
Quarter ended 31/12/78	4.32	0.86	5.18	4.48	1.18	5.66
Year ended 31/12/78	4.24	0.85	5.09	4.48	1.16	5.64

(D) PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION COVERED BY GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES CARDS:

	<u>GALWAY</u>	<u>MAYO</u>	<u>ROSCOMMON</u>	<u>HEALTH BOARD</u>	<u>STATE</u>
31/12/77	60.28	64.77	57.26	61.34	38.63
31/3/78	59.39	65.26	58.45	61.29	38.67
30/6/78	59.58	65.00	59.22	61.42	38.78
30/9/79	59.03	65.16	59.57	61.27	38.22
31/12/78	58.42	65.42	59.93	61.13	37.86

Notice of Motion:

General Medical Services Cards Guidelines:

The following Motion, notice of which was duly given, was proposed by Councillor Michael Ryan and seconded by Councillor Peter Raftery:-

"I will propose at the next meeting of the Western Health Board that the guidelines for obtaining Medical Cards be changed, as they are inadequate at the present day."


In introducing the Motion, Councillor Ryan stated that a considerable number of Medical Cards had been cancelled over the past year. This applied particularly to small farmers. He had evidence of Social Welfare Recipients being deprived of Medical Cards, and understood that Social Welfare Assistance to small farmers was being assessed as part of their income. He also noted that the percentage of the population, covered by Medical Cards had declined in County Galway during the past year, whereas the percentage in County Mayo and County Roscommon has risen.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that the guidelines were revised once a year from 1st January, having regard to the movement of the Consumer Price Index in the year ending the previous mid-November. The guidelines had no legal effect and were applied in a flexible manner. Persons entitled to Medical Cards were those who were unable, without undue hardship, to pay for General Practitioner, Medical and Surgical


Services for themselves and their dependants. It was the Chief Executive Officer's legal responsibility to decide who was entitled to a Medical Card and every case had to be decided on its merits. Entitlement to Medical Cards was reviewed annually, and Medical Card Holders were required to make declaration of means, from time to time. He was not prepared to make any general ruling that children under the age of 16 years, no longer in Primary School, would be automatically entitled to Medical Cards. Again, each case would be considered on its merits.

Before the Meeting concluded, the Chief Executive Officer reminded the Members that the next Meeting was due to take place at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 7th May, 1979, at St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, following which the new Day Centre at St. Brendan's Home, would be officially opened by the Chairman, Councillor Hugh Melvin.

The meeting then concluded.

SIGNED: 
E. Hannan,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Confirmed and adopted at Meeting of Western Health Board, held at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 7th May, 1979, at St. Brendan's Home, Loughrea, County Galway.

SIGNED: 
CHAIRMAN.



TEL (01) 742961 EXTN
TELEX 4894
REF.

Circular No. P8/79

12 Aibreán, 1979.

To:- Chief Executive Officer each health board.
Secretary Manager, each participating voluntary hospital.

A Chara

I am directed by the Minister for Health to enclose a copy of the Health Services (No 2) Regulations, 1979. These Regulations provide that persons who had entitlement to the full range of limited eligibility services on 5 April, 1979 by virtue of their being voluntary Social Welfare contributors on that date or on the 31st March, 1974 will retain this entitlement for a period of five years. The question whether there will be a further extension of this entitlement will be considered before the expiry of that period.

A person who claims entitlement to free consultant services because of voluntary contributor status will be required to show

- (a) that he was a voluntary contributor on 31 March, 1974 or on 5 April, 1979 and
- (b) that in the contribution year before 5 April 1979 (year ended 31 December, 1978 for males; year ended 2 July, 1978 for females) he had twenty-four contributions (voluntary or employment) or that he had seventy-two such contributions in the three contribution years before 5 April, 1979.

A statement confirming these requirements can be obtained from the Department of Social Welfare (Central Records) Store St., Dublin 1.

Mise le meas

S. Trant

Planning Unit.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

S.I. No. 134 of 1979.



HEALTH SERVICES (NO.2) REGULATIONS, 1979.

Dublin

Published by the Stationery Office.

Prl 7943

Price 10p.

S.I. No. 134 of 1979.

Health Services (No 2) Regulations, 1979.

The Minister for Health, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 5 of the Health Act, 1947 (No 28 of 1947) and by section 72 of the Health Act, 1970 (No. 1 of 1970) hereby makes the following Regulations:-

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Health Services (No 2) Regulations, 1979.
2. In these Regulations -
"voluntary contributions" and "voluntary contributor" have the meanings assigned to them in the Social Welfare Act, 1952 (No. 11 of 1952);
"contribution year" means a contribution year prescribed under section 2 (1) of the Social Welfare Act, 1952;
"employment contribution" includes an employment contribution as referred to in section 5 of the Social Welfare Act, 1952 and a contribution paid outside the State which is treated as an employment contribution for the purpose of the Social Welfare Act, 1952, relating to disability benefit and maternity benefit.
3. Article 3 of the Health Services Regulations, 1979 (S.I. No 109 of 1979) shall not apply to any person who,
 - (a) was a voluntary contributor on the 5th day of April, 1979 or on the 31st day of March, 1974 and who in the contribution year before the 5th day of April, 1979, had twenty-four contributions, being voluntary contributions or employment contributions paid, payable or credited or in respect of whom not less than seventy-two such contributions had been paid, payable or credited in the three contribution years

before the 5th day of April, 1979, or

(b) is a dependant of a person referred to in paragraph (a).

4. These Regulations shall cease to have effect on and from the 6th day of April, 1984.

L.S.

Given under the Official Seal of
the Minister for Health this 11th
day of April, 1979.

Charles J. Haughey

Minister for Health.

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation.

These Regulations provide for the retention of their entitlement to services under Sections 52 (1), 56 (2), 62 and 63 of the Health Act, 1970 by persons who had such entitlement on the 5 April, 1979 by virtue of their being voluntarily insured under the Social Welfare Acts on 31 March, 1974 or 5 April, 1979.

These Regulations will cease to have effect on 6 April 1984 but the Minister may, by regulations, provide for the extension of their provisions.

Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair Western Health Board

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Headquarters,
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,
Galway.

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30th April, 1979.

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD:

RE: Galway Regional Hospitals - Annual Report
for Year ended 31st December, 1978.

Dear Member,

Herewith copy of above Report, which demonstrates again the extensive workload performed at these two Regional Teaching Hospitals, both at in-patient and out-patient levels. The number of admissions show a further increase, on a reduced number of beds, indicating more efficient deployment of resources. In regard to the gaps in the services in areas such as Neurosurgery, etc., application will be made for approval to the appropriate Consultant Staffs for these disciplines, after the new Comhairle na n-Ospideal assumes office.


The establishment recently of a Project Team to prepare a Brief for the Board's Design Team in respect of further improvements at these hospitals is another important step forward on the road towards this Board becoming totally self-sufficient, as regards acute hospital services, within its own boundaries. Substantial inroads have been made into the large waiting lists on the Orthopaedic and ENT sides, and in accordance with the Board's policy of granting a special priority to the needs of the young, further improvements have been made in the Paediatric service, through the recruitment of an additional Consultant Paediatrician. While work on two substantial building projects is expected to commence within the next few months, i.e. at the Maternity Department of the Galway Regional Hospital, and on the construction of the new Orthopaedic Theatres at Merlin Park Regional Hospital, many other improvements of a minor capital nature were undertaken by the Board's own maintenance staffs and executed to a very high standard.



The detailed reports from the various departmental and administrative heads give particulars and supporting statistics of the wide range of activities undertaken. For the substantial input of resources by the Board, within these two hospitals, I am pleased to record an extremely high activity rate.

I express my thanks to all Members of the Staffs of the Hospitals for their cooperation and assistance, and especially to those who have contributed as Members of the various Committees, Working Parties, etc.. This is especially so in the case of the contributions of the Medical Administrator, Dr. N. O'Beirn, the Matron of Galway Regional Hospital, Miss D. Casey, and the Programme Manager, Mr. C. Crowley.

Yours sincerely,


E. Hannan,
Chief Executive Officer.

Minutes of Meeting of General Institutional Care Standing Committee held at 4.00 p.m. on Friday 16th February, 1979 at the County Hospital, Roscommon.

PRESENT Mr. P. J. Morley, T. D., M.C.C., Chairman, who presided.

OTHER MEMBERS Miss M. Byrne, Dr. D. M. Clarke, Mr. D. Dalton, M.C.C., Mrs. C. Fallon, T. C., Professor J. Flynn, Mr. J. P. O'Donnell, Mr. J. Mulrooney, M.C.C.

APOLOGIES Dr. T. R. Cahill, B. D. S., Mr. B. Murphy, F. R. C. S.

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. C. M. Crowley, Programme Manager, General Hospital, Care.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES Minutes of meeting held 10th November, 1978, copies of which were circulated with the Agenda to each Member on 8th February, 1979, were adopted, on the proposal of Miss M. Byrne, seconded by Mrs. C. Fallon, and then signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES The Members noted that the Castlebar General Hospital Executive Committee had discussed the Standing Committee's request, at its meeting of 27th November, 1978, to have at least a Junior Doctor of Registrar or House Officer status available to give information to immediate relatives of patients, during visiting hours. It was also noted that this matter was discussed by the Regional/Merlin Park Regional Hospital Executive Committee at meeting of 18th December, 1978. In both cases the Hospital's Executive Committees agreed that a Junior Doctor would be available to discuss patient's difficulties with immediate relatives up to approximately 6.00 p.m. After that time enquiries in regard to patients could be discussed with the Sister or Staff Nurse in charge of the ward. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the discussion, and agreed to keep the matter under review.

It was also noted that the amended visiting hours, which were approved in relation to Regional Hospital, Galway.

- 2 -

Merlin Park Regional Hospital and General Hospital,
Castlebar, had come into effect on 1st January, 1979.

MINUTES
OF HOSPITAL
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

The minutes of the following Hospital Executive Committee Meetings, copies of which had been circulated with the Agenda, were then considered:-

(a). Regional/Merlin Park Regional Hospitals.

20th November, 1978, 18th December, 1978 and 15th
January, 1979.

(b). Castlebar General Hospital.

25th September, 1978, 23rd October, 1978 and
27th November, 1978.

The contents of the minutes were duly noted and
recommendations approved.

STATISTICS
COUNTY
HOSPITAL,
ROSCOMMON -
YEAR ENDED
31st December,
1978.

The statistics in respect of the County Hospital,
Roscommon for the year ended 31st December, 1978 were
circulated to the Members. The following increased
activities, as compared with year ended 31st December,
1977, were noted:-

ADMISSIONS:

Medical: - Increased from 881 to 1,562 (681 or 77.3% increase)

Surgical: - Increased from 1,888 to 2,296 (408 or 21.6%
increase)

Maternity: - Decrease from 263 to 260 (decrease 3)

Paediatric: - Decrease from 530 to 528 (decrease 2)

Overall Increase from 3,562 to 4,646 (1,084 or 26.5% increase)

BED DAYS:

Increased from 25,995 to 39,245 (3,250 days or 9% increase)

DAILY AVERAGE STAY

Reduced from 10.1 days to 8.4 days or reduction of 20%

OUT-PATIENTS:

Surgical: - Increased from 2,652 to 2,831
Increase 179 or 6.6%

Medical & Ante-Natal: Increased from 711 to 1,620
Increase 849 or 140%

<u>Ophthalmic</u>	- Increased from 1,042 to 1,943 Increase 901 or 86%
<u>E.N.T.:</u>	- Increased from 387 to 402 Increase 85 or 15.3%
<u>Paediatric</u>	- Increased from 387 to 402 Increase 15 or 4%
<u>Gynaecology</u>	- Increased from 172 to 205 Increase 33 or 19%
<u>Dermatology</u>	- Increased from 243 to 341 Increase 98 or 40%
<u>Child Guidance</u>	- Decreased from 146 to 129 - Decrease 17 or 11.5%
<u>Casualty</u>	- Increased from 4,567 to 8,033 Increase 3,466 or 75.6%

X-RAY DEPARTMENT

<u>Patients Seen</u>	- Increased from 7,480 to 9,690 Increase 2,139 or 28.6%
<u>Investigations</u>	- Increased from 10,098 to 13,439 Increase 3,341 or 33%

OPERATIONS:

<u>Major</u>	- Increased from 314 to 363 Increase 49 or 15.9%
<u>Minor</u>	- Decreased from 1,325 to 1,227 Decrease 114 or 9%

PHYSIOTHERAPY

<u>Total Patients Treated</u>	- Increased from 1,427 to 1,633 Increase 206 or 14.4%
<u>Treatments</u>	- Increased from 5,092 to 5,922 Increase 830 or 16%

PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

<u>Total Tests</u>	- Increased from 17,765 to 34,584 Increase 830 or 16%
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<u>BIRTHS</u>	Decreased from 240 to 151 Decrease 89
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The Members complimented the Medical and Nursing Staff on their excellent work during the year under review. The Chairman stated that the increased activities in 1978 was an indication that there was an urgent demand for the services in Roscommon and justified the Board's decision to appoint new Consultants and Junior Staff to the Hospital, as well as increased complement of Nurses.

Mrs. Fallon and other Members expressed the hope that the Obstetrician/Gynaecologist and Paediatrician would be appointed in 1979

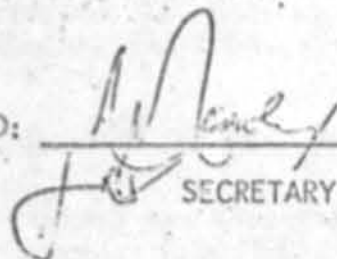
The Chairman stated that the numbers on the waiting-list for out-patient services at Castlebar were increasing. The Programme Manager pointed out that between three and four extra clinics were provided per month between Castlebar and Ballina during the year 1978. He also stated that he had noted that the waiting-list was still very high, and would take the matter up with the Orthopaedic Consultants.

DATE AND
VENUE OF
NEXT
MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for the Boardroom, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galvay, on Monday 30th April, 1979 at 4.00 p.m.

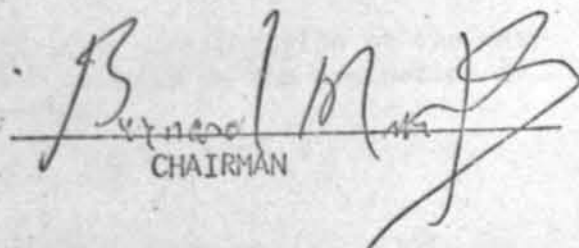
This concluded the business of the Meeting.

SIGNED:


SECRETARY

Confirmed and adopted at the Meeting of the General Institutional Care Standing Committee held at Boardroom, Merlin Park Regional Hospital on Monday, 30th April, 1979.

SIGNED:


CHAIRMAN

DATE:

30th April, 1979