

## **EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

*Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board  
held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangeegorman.  
on Thursday, 13th January, 1977 at 6 pm.*

*Present:*

Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow  
Cllr. M. Brady  
Cllr. D. Browne  
Cllr. M. Carroll  
Cllr. J. Connolly  
Mr. H. Corrigan  
Prof. J. S. Doyle  
Cllr. J. Durning  
Ald. A. FitzGerald  
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn  
Cllr. T. Hand

Mr. K. Harrington  
Cllr. P. Hickey  
Dr. P. C. Jennings  
Cllr. K. Kinsella  
Miss M. Lacey  
Cllr. T. Leonard  
Dr. A. Meade  
Deputy C. Murphy  
Mr. D. O'Flynn  
Mr. M. Ruane  
Dr. J. Walker

*Apologies for Non-Attendance:*

Mr J. Corcoran, Dr. J. Cullen, Deputy H. P. Dockrell, Miss  
K. Kinsella, Dr. J. McCormick, Dr. J. R. Mahon and Cllr. John  
Sweeney.

In the Chair—Cllr. M. Carroll. Chairman.

*Officers in Attendance:*

Mr. E. O Caoimh	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. J. Clarke
Mr. J. J. Nolan	D/Chief Executive Officer	Mr. P. J. Swords
Mr. F. Donohue	Programme Manager	Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. T. Keyes	Programme Manager	Mr. E. Dunphy
Mr. J. F. Reynolds	Finance Officer Planning &	Mr. J. Dunne
Mr. F. Elliott	Eval. Officer Personnel	Mr. Doyle
Mr. R. N. Lamb	Officer Technical Services	Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. Sadlier	Officer Dublin Medical	Miss L O'Kelly
Prof. B. O'Donnell	Officer Chief Psychiatrist	Miss K. Dolan
Prof. Ivor Browne		

1/77

**GOOD WISHES**

The Chairman informed the members of the retirement of Dr. M. Dunlevy, Assistant Chief Medical Officer for many years, he referred to her career with Dublin Corporation and the Eastern Health Board. The members joined him in wishing her a very pleasant retirement and directed that their good wishes be conveyed to her.

2/77

**VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

The Chairman informed the members of the death of Mr. F. Cross brother of Mr. K. Cross, Administrator, St. Columcille's Hospital. The members stood in silent prayer as a mark of respect to the deceased and directed that their sympathy be conveyed to the bereaved family.

3/77

**THANKS**

(a) The Chairman informed the members that 40 trainee public health nurses had suspended their studies and volunteered their services to join the permanent public health nurses to go to the aid of old people likely to be affected by the very cold weather in Dublin. They went about the city in the blizzard mainly on foot. The members lauded this extremely meritorious action on the part of the trainees and directed that their deep appreciation be conveyed to all concerned.

(b) The Chairman suggested to the members that a vote of thanks should be passed to Drs. McGuinness and Moloney and the staff at St. Ita's Hospital for the trouble they went to in organising a concert for the patients and training those patients who took part in the concert.

(c) The Chairman also suggested that the Astra Theatre Group should be commended for the series of entertaining shows which they gave to patients at different hospitals during the Christmas period. The members concurred fully with the Chairman's suggestions and directed that the various parties concerned be informed of the Board's appreciation of their actions.

(d) The Chairman then informed the members that he had received a congratulatory message for the Board from a former member, Mr. P. J. Burke, regarding the Board's efforts to help the aged and the poor during the recent cold spell which was accentuated by the cuts in the Electricity Supply Board service.

**4/77 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 2nd December, 1976, having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Hickey seconded by Mr. Corrigan.

**5/77****PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES**

The reports of the following visiting committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at Vergemount Hospital and at St. Broc's Welfare Home, Clonskeagh, on 9th December, 1976—noted.
- (b) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brendan's Hospital on 15th December, 1976—noted.
- (c) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, on 7th January, 1977—

The following Report from the Committee on their visit to this institution was circulated:—

*"Preliminary Report on Escape from Central Mental Hospital on Sunday, 26th December, 1976.*

As the members are aware from news media reports, three patients escaped from the Central Mental Hospital on St. Stephen's Day, Sunday, 26th December, 1976. One patient has since returned voluntarily to the institution and the remaining two were separately apprehended by Gardai and were returned.

A detailed investigation into the escapes and the circumstances which rendered them possible is at present being carried out by the Clinical Director, Forensic Psychiatric Service, assisted by the Chief Nursing Officer, Central Mental Hospital. It is expected that Dr. Daly's report, in addition to giving the full facts insofar as they are ascertainable, will incorporate a set of recommendations designed to reduce the likelihood of a similar occurrence in the future. The present report should, therefore, be regarded as preliminary and merely designed to give members a general idea of the nature of the occurrence and the steps taken to deal with it.

The incident occurred at approx. 7.45 p.m. in the Billiard Room, Unit 2, when an attendant was assaulted by a group of approx. six patients using billiard cues, this

group took possession of the attendant's keys and proceeded to make their escape through the ground floor. Unit 1. Of the three attendants on duty in the vicinity of the billiard room who came to the assistance of the officer under attack

—one officer received laceration of the hand as a result of being struck by a billiard cue. This man is back on duty.

—the second officer was struck on the head and shoulders by a chair and is still absent on sick leave.

—the third officer received minor injuries to his hand and foot and is at present absent on sick leave.

The Senior Attendant on duty, who came on the scene almost immediately, notified the Gateman, the Gardai and the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer. All but three of the group of not less than six patients involved in the conspiracy were apprehended by staff and returned to their ward.

When the Gardai arrived, a search party comprising Gardai assisted by staff searched the hospital grounds without result. The search was then abandoned. However, as a precautionary measure, two extra attendants were assigned to gate duty *until* midnight.

On the following morning, a tractor trailer was found drawn up against the interior of the outside wall. It is presumed that this vehicle was used by the patients concerned as an escape aid. It should be noted that this trailer was in its usual place in an open farm shed during the course of the previous night's search indicating that the patients were in fact in hiding in the hospital grounds during the search and subsequently made their escape over the wall.

The two staff members who received injuries were conveyed to the Meath Hospital by car where they received appropriate treatment and were then discharged.

The following points are noteworthy:—

1. Staffing was at normal strength at the time of the incident.
2. Staff levels, on day and night duty, were increased during the year 1976.
3. There is no evidence of any outside involvement in the escape plan.
4. The Central Mental Hospital is primarily a therapeutic centre and, while every precaution is taken to

prevent escapes, it would be impossible to fully guard against all combinations of circumstances favourable to similar occurrences in the future.

5. The prevention of the formation of cliques amongst patients is a matter of on-going hospital policy. The procedures governing this will be subject to review in the light of the above occurrence.

To put the incident into perspective, it should be pointed out that escapes from high security institutions are commonplace and that the record of the Central Mental Hospital is extremely good in this respect.

Finally, it is a matter of extreme concern that a member of the staff of the Central Mental Hospital thought fit to issue statements of a misleading and irresponsible nature to the media. These statements could have caused unnecessary distress to patients' relatives and could have had the effect of seriously undermining staff morale but for the timely intervention of the Clinical Director.

T. KEYES,

*Programme Manager.'*

All members present contributed to a long discussion which ensued in relation to the circumstances surrounding the escape and the steps which might be taken to prevent a recurrence. Dr. Daly stated that he hoped to be in a position to furnish his report on the escape in the near future. One could not look at this incident in isolation from the service being provided and, while many improvements had been made in the buildings and the service being provided since the Board accepted responsibility for the service in April 1972, no action had as yet been taken towards the implementation of the scheme designed to provide specialised accommodation in the hospital grounds for special category patients. There were also a number of patients in the Central Mental Hospital who would more appropriately be catered for in a specialised prison unit with specialised staff and back-up support from the forensic psychiatric service. Despite the lack of proper facilities, therapeutic programmes had been progressing favourably and good relationships existed with the various Department of Justice agencies. It was unfortunate that this incident had occurred.

Mr. Keyes explained to the meeting that the Board merely acted as agent of the Minister for Health in administering the Central Mental Hospital. This hospital served the country as a whole and, accordingly, it was reasonable to expect that Section 31 of the Health Act, 1970, should not apply in rela-

tion to its financing. There were a number of capital projects related to the Board's direct services which rated a higher priority than the special units at the Central Mental Hospital and in any situation where available funds were limited, projects related to the Board's own services would have to take precedence.

This point of view had been conveyed to the Department of Health and would be put forward again in the light of recent developments. If finance were available, a number of necessary improvements including the provision of small work therapy areas and replacement of locks throughout the Hospital could be carried out. The members present unanimously agreed that it would be most undesirable to have a situation in which additional expenditure at Dundrum could be incurred only at the expense of the Board's own services.

Dr. Daly referred to the absence of up-to-date legislation, the availability of which would facilitate easier admission and discharge from the Central Mental Hospital. This was a matter which was causing concern. For example, there were many patients in District Mental Hospitals throughout the country who could more appropriately be catered for in a high security situation. However, they could not be transferred there under existing legislation unless they committed an indictable offence.

Mr. Keyes stated that he intended to take up the question of security and other matters of common interest with the Garda Superintendent for the area.

Dr. Daly deplored the issue of false and misleading information to the Press by a member of the staff. This was done in contravention of standard procedure and could well have had the effect of prejudicing the image of the service and causing unnecessary distress to patients' relatives. Dr. Daly's views were unanimously supported. Members expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by staff on duty at the time of the incident and asked that their good wishes be conveyed to staff members injured during the course of the breakout.

The Committee directed that the following recommendations be incorporated in the minutes:

#### *Financial*

1. That the Central Mental Hospital be financed independently from the Department of Health funds under an arrangement outside the scope of Section 31 of the Health Act, 1970.

***Extensions, Buildings, Maintenance Etc.***

2. That planning for the scheme already approved by the Board for the provision of two 30-Bed Units in the hospital grounds be proceeded with without delay.
3. That, while it is accepted that the poor standard of door locks did not contribute in any way to the escape, these locks represent a security hazard and should be replaced without delay.
4. That the alarm system be extended to include recreation areas and that the necessary adaptations be carried out to enable doors to common rooms to be locked in the fully open position.
5. That the check lock system be examined with a view to having it extended, if necessary, and having regard to fire safety regulations.
6. That ground lighting be improved particularly in areas adjoining perimeter wall and that any necessary searchlight equipment be procured.
7. That arrangements be made to have all equipment which could be of use in an escape attempt securely locked away when not in use.
8. That the lean-to shed adjoining the Boilerhouse be demolished and that the oil tank be located elsewhere.
9. That occupiers of property adjoining the hospital wall be requested to remove lean-to sheds where these have been built against the hospital wall.

***Service***

10. That specialised psychiatric units be provided in the prisons and appropriately staffed thus avoiding the necessity to transfer to the Central Mental Hospital, persons who cannot be catered for adequately within a hospital setting.
11. That legislation designed to facilitate easier admission and discharge from the Central Mental hospital be enacted without delay.
12. That the Board's specialist staff be afforded reasonable opportunity of keeping abreast of developments in Forensic Psychiatry including the facility to visit specialised centres and attend conferences.

The meeting concluded at approx. 4.45 p.m. and members were taken on an inspection of the areas concerned in the breakout

The next meeting of the Committee was arranged for Bru Caoimhin on Wednesday, 16th February, 1977, at 3.00 p.m. The Old Coomber Hospital would be included in the itinerary in accordance with normal practice."

The members noted the report concerned and deplored the delay in having finance provided to erect the two thirty-bed units mooted as far back as 1972. The members unanimously adopted the recommendations made by the committee in the report. Mr. Ruane, Cllr. Hand, Ald. FitzGerald, Dr. Jennings, Cllr. Brady, Cllr. Browne, Cllr. Connolly and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow contributed to the debate.

Mr. Keyes replied to the many questions raised and assured the members that he would bring their views to the attention of the Minister as quickly as possible. Professor Browne also replied to points made.

- (d) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Brigid's Home, Crooksling, on 8th December, 1976—noted.
- (e) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, on 25th November, 1976—noted. The Board congratulated the Shop Committee on its generosity in funding improvements in the hospital and other charities.
- (f) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at the Legion of Mary Hostel, on 7th December, 1976—noted.

6/77

#### PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following local health committees, having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

- (a) Dublin County Local Health Committee meeting held on 6/12/76—noted.
- (b) Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee meeting held on 30/11/76—noted.

7/77

#### QUESTION

On a proposal by Ald. A. FitzGerald, seconded by Cllr. Hickey, it was agreed that the Chief Executive Officer should answer the question lodged.

Question from Councillor T. Hand:

- "(a) What are the facts regarding the escape from the Central Mental Hospital. Dundrum

(b) What action has been taken since then to correct the situation.'

*Reply:*

The information is contained in report of the special visiting committee meeting held on the 7th January, 1977, copy of which has been circulated to all members.

**8/77 FINANCE—REVIEW OF EXPENDITURE**

The following report No. 2/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"I have been informed by the Department of Health in letter dated 16th December, 1976 that health grant payments in 1976 would amount to £32,518,800. This sum has been received.

The amount of £32,518,800 is based on a revised allocation of net health expenditure of £35,830,000. The rating authorities' contribution to this net health expenditure was £1.6 million. £32,518,800 represents 95% of the balance of £34,230,000 which is borne by the Department of Health. The allocation of £35,830,000 is £207,600 less than the revised estimate of net expenditure for 1976 calculated by the Board's officers viz.

	£
Original Allocation	33,590,000
Allocation for Bed Bureau	32,000
Estimated increases arising in 1976	2,415,600
	<b>36,037,600</b>

Details of revised estimate of expenditure are as follows:

	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Per Cent</i>
	£	%
General Hospital Care	9,288,100	24.1
Special Hospital Care	11,620,400	30.2
Community Care	11,531,600	30.0
Ambulance and General Transport	1,011,500	2.6
Engineering Maintenance	1,262,300	3.3
Central Services	3,766,100	9.8
	<hr/>	
Estimate Gross Expenditure	38,480,000	100.0
Estimate Income	2,422,400	
	<hr/>	
Estimate Net Expenditure	36,037,600	

The net expenditure in 1976 represents an increase of a little over 10% on the outturn for 1975, which is evidence of the determined effort on the part of the Board and its officers to comply with the terms of the Minister's Section 31 Order.

As a result of the stringent measures taken, economies of the order of £2 million were realised. It must be emphasised that these economies were achieved at a time when prices were steadily rising, a factor which I discussed in Report No. 49/1976 submitted to the November meeting of the Board.

I have informed the Department of Health that while every effort will be made strictly to control expenditure in 1977, certain economies estimated at £1.4 million at current prices cannot be repeated. These items include:—

1. Running down of stocks of clothing, bedding, crockery, hardware and furniture.
2. Postponement of necessary engineering maintenance services.
3. Introduction of waiting lists for certain services.
4. Reduction in staff numbers below normal level.

The Department has been asked to make appropriate provision in the 1977 allocation for these items. At the time of writing the allocation for 1977 has not been notified.

#### *Overdraft*

At December meeting the Board approved overdraft borrowing to a limit of £7.5 million.

The main reason why the Board's overdraft remains at a high level is that health grant payments of the order of £5 million remain due in respect of the years 1974 and 1975. Members will recall that a term loan of £1.5 million was raised to cover grants due to 31/3/1974. I understand that a substantial instalment of the arrears will be paid later this month.

The whole matter is being discussed by the Department and Allied Irish Banks, and the Board will be informed of the outcome.

I have been informed by the City and County Manager that he has received Senior Counsel's opinion to the effect that the Dublin Local Authorities are under a legal obligation

tion to recoup the Eastern Health Board the salaries of health inspectors in respect of duties performed under the Housing and Sanitary Services Acts. The receipt of this recoupment will contribute to a reduction in the Board's overdraft accommodation.

I have been given to understand that the Department will make funds available to St. James's and James Connolly Memorial Hospital boards to enable them to pay sums due to the Eastern Health Board."

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Hickey, the members unanimously agreed to note the report.

Mr. O'Flynn, Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Ruane and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow contributed to the short debate on this item and the Finance Officer replied.

9/77

#### LEASE OF GROUND AT MOUNTPLEASANT SQUARE

Report No. 1/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

*"Plot forming part of garden at rear 30 Mountpleasant Square—Granting of Temporary Lease and Permanent Wayleave to Dublin Corporation*

Dublin Corporation proposes to construct a 5' 6" (five feet, six inches) internal diameter spur tunnel approximately ten feet below ground level in the plot of ground to the rear of and the forming part of the Board's premises at 30 Mountpleasant Square, Dublin 6, as part of the Greater Dublin Drainage Scheme. Towards this end, the Board has been requested to grant to the Corporation, a temporary working lease of the site of approximately six months duration and a permanent wayleave over the site. The property was purchased in 1969 from Mrs. Sarah Dillon and is subject to Ground Rent of £6 per annum, payable to the representatives, A.P.B. Dolan. It is a condition of the proposed arrangement that the Board shall indemnify the Corporation against any payment of ground rent in respect of that part of the property involved in the wayleave.

The Corporation has offered to pay compensation of two hundred and fifty pounds (£250) in full and final settlement and has also agreed to accept the following special conditions proposed on behalf of the Board:

- (1) That the Corporation will accept responsibility for the payment of fees to a structural consultant to be

employed by the Board for the purpose of carrying out a detailed survey of the property before commencement of the work and again when the project is completed. The report of the first survey which will include all surface cracks, alignment of walls, etc., will be agreed with the Corporation.

- (2) That the Corporation will accept liability for any consequential structural damage for a period of six years after completion of the excavation. It is recommended that the Corporation's request be acceded to.

This report is submitted in conformity with Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946. Section 83 provides that, at the first meeting of the Board held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of circulation of this report, the Board may resolve that the disposal of this property as proposed shall not be carried out, or should be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution.

If the Board resolves that the disposal shall not be carried out, it shall not be carried out.

On the other hand if the Board does not pass a resolution as to the manner in which the disposal is to be effected, the property may, with the consent of the Minister for Health, be disposed of in the manner set out above."

On a proposal by Mr. Ruane seconded by Cllr. Kinsella it was unanimously resolved as follows:—

"That the proposals set out in Report No. 1/1977 are approved."

10/77

#### CHOICE OF DOCTOR SCHEME—GUIDELINES FOR MEDICAL CARDS

The following Report No. 3/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"The current guidelines, operative from 1st January, 1976 were based on the Consumer Price Index figures at mid November, 1975. The Consumer Price Index figures for November, 1976 have now become available and, having regard to these, I propose to revise the guidelines with effect from 1st January, 1977 as shown hereunder

<i>Category</i>	<i>(operative from 1st January, 1976)</i>	<i>Current guidelines Revised guidelines from 1st January, 1977</i>
	£	£
Single person living with relatives	17 00	20 50
Single person living alone	19 50	23 50
Husband and wife	28 25	34 00
and 1 child	30 85	37 10
Husband, wife and 2 children	33 45	40 20
Husband, wife and 3 children	36 05	43 30
Husband, wife and 4 children	38 65	46 40
Husband, wife and 5 children	41 25	49 50
Husband, wife and 6 children	43 85	52 60
For each additional child under 16 years	2 60	3 10
For each child over 16 years with no income and maintained at home by applicant	3 75	4 50
<i>To the income guidelines shown above are added:</i>		
(a) Weekly housing outgoings, (rent, rates, ground rent mortgage charges) in excess of	2 60	3 10

(b) Exceptional expenses necessarily incurred in travelling to and from work where these create undue hardship.

*Persons in receipt of:—*

- (i) Social Welfare non-contributory pension at the maximum rates;
- (ii) Old Age (care) Allowance; Deserted Wife's Allowance; Infectious Diseases (Maintenance) Allowance; Disabled Persons (Maintenance) Allowance;

will be regarded as being eligible for a medical card without further assessment of means.

**Cases of hardship will continue to be dealt with individually on merit."**

**On a proposal by Dr. Meade, seconded by Mr. Corrigan it was unanimously resolved as follows:—**

**"That Report No. 3/1977 be noted and approved."**

11/77

**REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON EMERGENCY SERVICES  
—PROPOSED EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONTACT SERVICE**

A report on the above subject was submitted by the group's Chairman, Mr. Corrigan. At Dr. Meade's suggestion it was agreed to amend the report to provide for a continued investigation of a central medical contact service: the report then read as follows:—

'The Health Board at its meeting on 6th May, 1976 requested the Working Party on Area Emergency Services to examine and report on a motion proposed by Dr. J. O'Connell, T.D

"That the Eastern Health Board examine the feasibility of establishing an emergency medical contact service, which would operate from one of the hospitals, be manned by doctors and which could be availed of by the public telephone for advice in emergencies where the services of the family doctor might not be immediately available."

Dr. Meade and Dr. O'Connell agreed to join the Working Party for this purpose and the membership was thus as follows:

Mr. H. Corrigan, (chairman)	Dr. P. C. Jennings Cllr. J.
Prof. J. Stephen Doyle	Durning Cllr. J. Connolly
Cllr. M. Carroll	Mr. J. Corcoran, M.Ch.
Mr. M. Ruane	Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn Dr. A.
Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow	Meade
Dr. J. Walker	
Dr. J. O'Connell	

The Working Party met on four occasions. It was taken that the proposal related to the Dublin area.

After careful consideration the Working Party concluded that the establishment of an emergency medical contact service under which one hospital would, through members of its medical staff, accept the responsibilities involved in the furnishing of advice by telephone to members of the public in emergencies would not be feasible. They consider that, in a situation in which difficulty is experienced in securing the services of the family doctor or other general practitioner and there is considered to be an emergency the patient should be brought to hospital. If conveyance by ambulance is necessary the emergency ambulance service provided by the Dublin Fire Brigade can be obtained by

dialling 999 free of charge. As the earlier report of the Working Party on Area Emergency Services (September, 1975) showed, this service is prompt and efficient. Accordingly, it is recommended that further continued investigation of a form of centralised medical contact service other than based on a hospital be undertaken as well as the measures designed to improve communications at local level referred to hereunder.

The Working Party took note of the fact that many members of the public who do not hold a medical card have not selected a family doctor to whom they would have recourse in an emergency. It is recommended that the widest publicity be given to the advisability of having a family doctor and of knowing the arrangements which he has made for dealing with calls arising within his practice when not available in person.

The Working Party is of the opinion that all General Practitioners should maintain a standing arrangement with one or more colleagues, or with a medical deputising service, to provide cover for them when not available in person and that those who have not already made an arrangement of this nature should be encouraged to do so. This would be an appropriate function of the Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health when these posts are filled. The members are of the opinion that the Local Health Committees also could assist in this matter: the Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee, on which some members of the Working Party serve, has made known its willingness to consult with the General Practitioners in its area and it is recommended that that Committee be invited to do so on a pilot basis.

Record attendance of members at the 4 meetings of the Working Party held on the following dates:

	3/6/1976;	1/7/1976;	4/11/1976;	2/12/1976	
					<i>No. of meetings attended</i>
Mr. H. Corrigan					4
Mr. J. Corcoran					3
Mr. M. Ruane					4
Cllr. J. Connolly					1
Cllr. J. Durning					4
Cllr. Mrs. J. Barlow					2
Cllr. Mrs. A. Glenn					3
Cllr. M. Carroll					3
Dr. P. C. Jennings					2
Dr. A. Meade					4
Dr. J. O'Connell					Nil
Prof. J. S. Doyle					Nil
Dr. J. Walker					3

On a proposal by Mr. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. Connolly the Board unanimously adopted this report. Cllr. Mrs. Barlow contributed to the debate and Mr. Elliott replied.

Dr. Meade proposed, with the permission of the Chair, to have standing orders suspended to consider a matter of grave public importance. Mr. Harrington seconded the proposal and the members unanimously agreed to the suspension. Dr. Meade then outlined cases of hardship which occurred in his area due to the recent power cuts, accentuated by the particularly bad weather. Dr. Jennings, Cllr, Connolly, Cllr. Brady and Cllr. Mrs. Barlow gave details of similar instances, after which the following resolution proposed by Dr. Meade and seconded by Dr. Jennings was unanimously adopted:—

"That this Board deplores the suffering and risk to the lives of old people living alone and also to young children, caused by the recent power cuts."

12/77

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following motion proposed by Mr. D. O'Flynn was seconded by Mr. Harrington:—

"That the Eastern Health Board recommend the Minister for Health to give favourable consideration to the early provision of at least one whole body scanner for use in the Board's area."

Mr. O'Flynn informed the members of the advantages of having this machine available and that every effort should be made to have one purchased for use in the Board's area. Mr. Ruane fully supported the motion and suggested that if the money was not forthcoming from the Department that consideration should be given to raising the necessary monies by voluntary contribution. Prof. Doyle said that he had seen the machine in operation in the United States and thought it was one of the greatest inventions ever in medical history. He understood the capital cost would be in the region of £300,000 and the revenue cost about £30,000 per annum—small sums in relation to the benefits to patients. Cllr. Mrs. Glenn endorsed the views of the previous speakers following which the motion was unanimously adopted.

13/77

**CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Letter dated 30th December, 1976 from the Western Health Board was read advising that the following resolution was passed by its board meeting in December, 1976 and that

a copy of the resolution had been forwarded to the Taoiseach, An Tanaiste, Minister for Post and Telegraphs and Minister for Justice.

"That we call on the Government again to abolish all forms of advertising for alcoholic drink on radio and television during peak viewing times and immediately before, during or after sports programmes."

The members unanimously agreed to support the resolution.

The meeting terminated at 7.45 p.m.

**CORRECT.**

**E. O. CAOIMH,**

*Chief Executive Officer.*

*Signed: CHAIRMAN*