

# Bórd Sláinte an Iarthair Western Health Board

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Headquarters,  
Merlin Park Regional Hospital,  
Galway.

29th. August, 1980.

Ref: H.Q. 183; C.C. 748/2.  
Please quote our ref. in any reply)

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

RE: NATIONAL FUEL SCHEME 1980/81

Dear Member,

By Circular letter dated 7th. August, 1980 Ref. S.A. 2/80 from the Department of Social Welfare, I have been informed that the Minister has now decided to operate a national Fuel Scheme to be administered by the various Health Boards in all areas during the coming Winter.

A discussion on details of the Scheme took place in the Department of Social Welfare with officers of the Health Boards on 26th. August, 1980.

Under the Scheme eligible persons will be supplied with fuel vouchers valued at £2.00 per week for a thirty week period beginning on the 6th. October, 1980. The total value of a voucher for each individual recipient for the full period will be sixty (£60) pounds.

As you know the Board has operated a Fuel Scheme since 1975. Under our Scheme it was provided that eligible persons could receive up to:

- 1 ton coal or
- 2 ton briquettes or
- 3 ton turf

during the Winter period. Last year due to escalating fuel costs, the Board payed from £70 to £78 per ton for coal delivered in certain areas of the region. The current price of coal in Galway city is £76 per ton and when delivery charges are added it is dearer in outlying places.

In Mayo and Roscommon the price averages about £90 a ton. The fixing of a maximum value of the fuel vouchers at £60 for the coming Winter will, therefore, mean a considerable reduction in the actual quantity of fuel that can be supplied under the Scheme to eligible persons. This change in the actual amount of fuel available should not be accepted as it would reduce the benefits for the recipients.

The eligibility categories as now defined are broadly in line with those categories of persons who were given assistance under the Board's Scheme



in previous years i.e. persons who are unable to provide for their heating needs from their own resources and who:-

- (a) Live alone or
- (b) Live with a person who received one of the payments listed below or
- (c) Live with a dependant spouse or child or
- (d) Live with an incapacitated person or
- (e) Are invalided or aged and live with one other person who provides full-time care.

Only one person in any household will qualify.

While admission to the Scheme will be subject to a means test in each case those eligible under the Scheme will generally be receiving one of the following payments and have no other income:-

- Supplementary Welfare Allowance.
- Disabled Persons (Maintenance) Allowance.
- Old Age (Contributory) Pension.
- Old Age (Non-contributory) Pension.
- Infectious Diseases (Maintenance) Allowance.
- Blind Pension.
- Deserted Wives Allowance.
- Deserted Wives Benefit.
- Invalidity Pension.
- Retirement Pension
- Prisoners Wives Allowance.
- Single Womans Allowance.
- Unmarried Mothers Allowance.
- Widows (Contributory) Pension.
- Widows (Non-contributory) Pension.
- Special Allowance from the Department of Defence.

Vouchers will be exchangeable by the recipients for any fuel including:-

Coal	Town Gas	Electricity
Turf	Bottled Gas	Oil or other
Briquettes	Paraffin Oil	Domestic Fuel.

This was also a feature of the Board's Scheme in the past.



Particulars of the Scheme as operated last Winter, are set out hereunder:-

<u>COMMUNITY CARE AREA</u>	<u>VOUCHERS ISSUED</u>	<u>COST</u> £
GALWAY	3,200	178,000
MAYO	2,200	103,000
ROSCOMMON	1,100	62,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>343,000</b>

Yours sincerely,

*E. Hannan*

**E. HANNAN,**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**

Notes in Hospital Ambulance Scheme for living and deceased members of the scheme.

8.30 p.m. Blessing of Ambulance crew by Fr. John James Giblin, C.C., and Rev. G. K. Hughes, Pastor.

Ambulance Personnel and Staff will occupy their places in the Lecture Hall.

Dr. M. Powell will be introduced by Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, Western Health Board.

Dr. Powell will deliver an address and present the memento.

Address by Mr. P. Flynn, I.R., M.C.C., Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Road Safety.

Vote of thanks to Dr. Powell will be proposed by Mr. P. J. Harley, Chairman, Western Health Board and seconded by Mr. J. Fay, Chief Ambulance Officer, Western Health Board.

7.30 p.m. Buffet in Lecture Hall.

Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, conveys apologies for those unable to attend.

Introduction of Speakers by Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, Western Health Board.

Address by Dr. Powell.

Address by Mr. P. Flynn.

Vote of Thanks.

Proposed by: Mr. P. J. Harley, Chairman, Western Health Board.

Seconded by: Mr. J. Fay, Chief Ambulance Officer, Western Health Board.

CEREMONIAL ORDER - NO. 4/1980

OCCASION:

Presentation of Awards to Ambulance Personnel under the Incentive Awards Scheme, at the Ambulance Headquarters, Sacred Heart Home, Castlebar, on Monday, 1st September, 1980.

GENERAL OUTLINE:

- (a) Mass will be celebrated in the Hospital Church by Rev. Fr. John James Cribbin, C.C.
- (b) Blessing of the Ambulance Fleet.
- (c) Presentation of Awards and Certificates will be made by Dr. M. Powell, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, in the Lecture Hall, Sacred Heart Home.

PROCEDURE:

- (a) 6.00 p.m. Mass in Hospital Church for living and deceased members of the service.
- (b) 6.40 p.m. Blessing of Ambulance Fleet by Fr. John James Cribbin, C.C., and Rev. G. R. Vaughan, Rector.
- (c) 6.55 p.m. Ambulance Personnel and Guests will occupy their places in the Lecture Hall.
- (d) 7.10 p.m. Dr. M. Powell will be introduced by Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, Western Health Board.
- (e) 7.15 p.m. Dr. Powell will deliver an address and present the awards.
- (f) 7.30 p.m. Address by Mr. P. Flynn, T.D., M.C.C., Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Board Member.
- (g) 7.40 p.m. Vote of thanks to Dr. Powell will be proposed by Mr. P. J. Morley, Chairman, Western Health Board and Seconded by Mr. J. Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer, Western Health Board.
- (h) 7.50 p.m. Buffet in Lecture Hall.

ADDRESSES:

- (a) Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, conveys apologies for those unable to attend.
- (b) Introduction of Speakers by Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer, Western Health Board.
- (c) Address by Dr. Powell.
- (d) Address by Mr. P. Flynn.
- (e) Vote of Thanks:  
Proposed by: Mr. P.J. Morley, Chairman, Western Health Board;  
Seconded by: Mr. J. Foy, Chief Ambulance Officer, Western Health Board.