

Chapter 13:

Financial (A): State Funding and Financial Assistance

Summary of findings:

This Chapter addresses one aspect of the financial interactions between the State and the Magdalen Laundries, namely direct funding or financial assistance.

The Committee found that the State provided direct funding, including in certain cases capitation payments, to the Magdalen Laundries. This funding was not provided on a standard or across-the-board basis by the State: rather, the funding provided to different Magdalen Laundries was for different purposes and varied across time and between locations.

Such funding included:

- Capitation under the Public Assistance Acts for certain individual women referred to Magdalen Laundries by public authorities;*
- General funding under the Health Acts to certain Magdalen Laundries in consideration of performance of a function or provision of a service which the State would otherwise be required to perform or provide;*
- Capitation payments in relation to certain women in Magdalen Laundries on remand or on probation; and*
- Other miscellaneous grants, including grants awarded to some Magdalen Laundries in the transitional phase around the times of their closure and subsequent provision of sheltered accommodation or nursing homes.*

Introduction

1. The question of financial support by the State for the Magdalen Laundries, whether direct or indirect, was a key issue examined by the Committee.
2. A number of sources were examined to identify any relevant information on possible funding or financial assistance provided by the State to the Magdalen Laundries. These included all surviving financial records of the Religious Congregations and financial and other records in Government Departments and State agencies.
3. This Chapter addresses the issue of direct funding and financial assistance by the State to the Magdalen Laundries. Chapters 14 and 15 address other financial matters, including State contracts for laundry services, revenue (taxation) issues, social insurance as well as commercial rates and rates exemptions. In each area any relevant legislative basis is included.
4. Searches were carried out both on the surviving records of the Religious Congregations and official records to identify all possible instances of funding by the State to the Magdalen Laundries. The findings of those searches are set out below.
5. In respect of individual instances of funding identified in the records of the Religious Congregations (and particularly early funding), it was not always possible to determine on what basis funding was provided and for that reason, the findings of those searches are presented separately in this Chapter.

A. Findings of searches of official records relating to funding of the Magdalen Laundries

6. The Committee examined a variety of State records to attempt to identify any possible payments made by the State to the Magdalen Laundries. These included any surviving financial records of the Departments of Environment, Community and Local Government; Justice and Equality; Health; Defence; and all agencies under the aegis of these Departments including Local Authorities and the Health Service Executive (including the archives it inherited from the Health Boards).

7. In summary and as set out in greater detail in this Chapter, the Committee found evidence of direct funding of or financial assistance to some of the Magdalen Laundries at differing times, for a number of purposes and under a number of Acts, as follows:
 - payments under the Public Assistance Acts, whereby the State provided subventions for certain individual women placed in the Magdalen Laundries;

 - more generalised payments under the Health Acts on the basis that it was considered that certain of the Magdalen Laundries were performing a function or providing a service which otherwise would have to be performed or provided by the public authorities;

 - payments for certain remand and probation cases;

 - other miscellaneous payments, including from health authorities and for support of disabled or homeless persons; and

 - grants during transitional phases as the Magdalen Laundries ceased to operate and the facilities were converted for other purposes.

8. To enable a clearer understanding of the nature and purpose of payments identified by the Committee, the following findings in relation to State

payments to the Magdalen Laundries are categorised according to the legislative basis on which the payments were made.

i. Payments to Magdalen Laundries under section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939 and section 10 of the Health Act 1953 (extern institutions)

9. The Public Assistance Act 1939 contained a section in relation to “Assistance in institutions not maintained by a public assistance authority”, which provided that:

“Subject to the consent of the Minister, a public assistance authority may, if they so think proper, make provision for the assistance in a home, hospital, or other institution not provided or maintained by such authority of persons, or particular classes of persons, eligible for public assistance, and where a public assistance authority makes such provision, such authority may defray the expenses of the conveyance of the persons for whose assistance such provision is made to and from such institution and the expenses of their maintenance, treatment, instruction, or training therein”.¹

10. This section permitted payment by Local Authorities (then responsible for the health function) of maintenance costs either for individuals or for classes of persons who met the criteria for public assistance. The Committee identified records which confirm that payments were, in certain cases and from time to time, made to Magdalen Laundries under this provision.

11. A file of the Department of Health confirms the manner in which this process of approval of Magdalen Laundries as institutions for provision of public assistance occurred. This particular file relates to Tipperary (South Riding)

¹ Section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939

County Council, although there is no reason to suspect that the process differed for other Counties.

12. First, the County Manager made an Order:

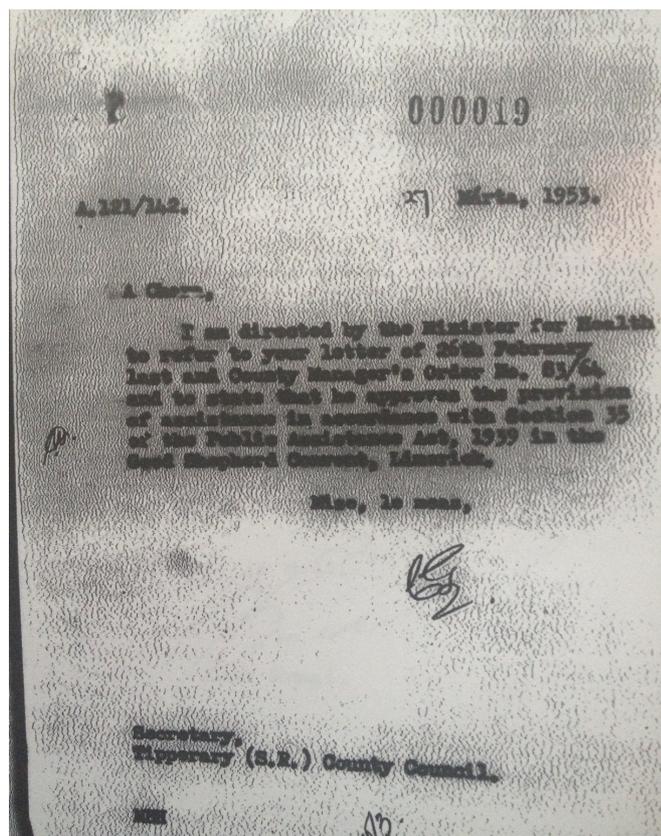
“that the Good Shepherd Convent, Limerick, be an approved Institution for the reception of Public Assistance Patients from Tipperary (S.R.) County Area, under section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939, subject to sanction of the Minister for Health”.²

13. The Department of Health subsequently provided the necessary sanction, with the letter of approval stating:

“I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to your letter of 26 February last and County Manager’s Order No. 53/64 and to state that he approves the provision of assistance in accordance with Section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939 in the Good Shepherd Convent, Limerick”.³

² Tipperary (SR) County Council, County Manager Order, 25 February 1953, File Ref Good Shepherd Convent Limerick Approval. INACT/INA/0/538512

³ Letter dated 27 March 1953 Department of Health to Secretary Tipperary (SR) County Council. File Ref Id.



14. The net effect of this was that the Council could refer women eligible for public assistance to the Magdalen Laundry and to provide financial payments to the institution in those cases.
15. Some months subsequently, the Council again wrote to the Department, referring to this approval and seeking confirmation on whether the Council could send to the institution two named females who were termed in the letter as “mental defectives”, as well as “any other mental defectives to that Institution, which we understand is prepared to accept them”.⁴
16. The Department sought and received clarification on the ages of the girls in question – one of whom was then 14 years of age, the other then 17 years of age. Whether or not the placement was intended to be “a temporary

⁴ Letter dated 21 August 1953 Tipperary SR County Council to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

arrangement until vacancies are available for them in a Home for Mental Defectives”⁵ was not clear.

17. The internal notes of the Department as well as subsequent communications with the Council record that it did not consider the institution to be approved for reception of so-called “mental defectives”⁶ and it appears there was contact with the Congregation in question on this point. Ultimately, an internal note records as follows:

“... Mother Prioress assured me when I visited the institution that the Convent would not admit mental defectives to any section of the institution, except slightly ‘sub-normal’ cases. I think if the older girl, the unmarried mother, is of this type, there would be no objection to her admission to the ‘Penitent’s’ side. In no circumstance could the Dept give any authority to a P.A.A. [Public Assistance Authority] to admit a mentally defective girl of 14 to this Institution. The Tipperary Co. Council must have been mistaken in considering that the Convent would admit them”.⁷

18. The records of the Religious Congregation in question confirm that the 17-year old girl was admitted to and spent just over one month in the Magdalen Laundry. Subsequent records of the County Council state she was admitted later to a named psychiatric hospital.⁸ Departmental records indicate that it verified this information both with the Congregation which operated the Magdalen Laundry and also with the psychiatric hospital in question.⁹

⁵ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 1 September 1953, File Ref Id

⁶ E.g. letter dated 13 March 1954 Department of Health to Tipperary (SR) County Council. File Ref Id.

⁷ Internal Memorandum dated 21 December 1953, File Ref Id

⁸ Letter dated 15 March 1954 Tipperary (SR) County Council to Department of Health, File Ref Id.

⁹ Departmental note, File Ref Id.:

“Examination of records kept in the Convent showed that [name] had been admitted to the ‘Penitents’ side on [date] and was there 5 weeks, after which she had to be admitted to [place] Mental Hospital. ... The Sister in Charge says she did not connect my enquiry with

19. Evidence was also found of approval of the “Magdalen Asylum” at High Park, Drumcondra, as an extern institution for the purposes of section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939 and and subsequent financial support for public patients there.¹⁰

20. The file records applications by three different County Councils for approval in this respect. All the following cases resulted in approval for payments under the Act by County Councils to the Magdalen Laundry, and were confirmed by the financial records of the Congregation which operated High Park (set out separately below).

21. In May 1954, Laois County Council wrote to the Department of Health, enclosing an Order made by the Laois County Manager:

“subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health, St Mary’s, High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin, is approved as an extern institution for the purposes of section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939”.¹¹

22. An internal note of the Department, dated 23 March 1954, indicates that according to a Register in the Department:

“The Magdalen Asylum, High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin has already been approved for Galway and Monaghan. File cannot be traced in Registry”.¹²

her, as correspondence had been directly with the girl’s parents and not with the Co. Council and it was the family doctor who had certified her as insane”.

¹⁰ Section 35: Magdalen Asylum, High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin. File ref A 121/165, INACT/INA/0/464179x

¹¹ Order made by the County Manager, Laois County Council 13 March 1954, transmitted by letter dated 15 March 1954 Laois County Council to Department of Health. File ref Id.

¹² Internal memorandum dated 23 March 1954, File Ref Id

23. It was in any event asked of the County Council “what class of patient it is proposed to send to that institution”.¹³ The County Council replied to the effect that the:

“patient proposed to be sent to St Mary’s, Highpark, Drumcondra, Dublin is an unmarried mother at present in [named hospital] and who has been found unsuitable for retention there”.¹⁴

24. A report from the medical officer at that institution was included, to the effect that she had:

“been clarified as mentally deficient since her admission here. ... The girl herself has become very difficult and we now find it impossible to manage her amongst a crowd of post natal cases. I recommend that she be removed as soon as possible. I do not consider her certifiable at the moment”.¹⁵

25. A subsequent handwritten note records that:

“the Sister in Charge of the Penitentiary is willing to accept the girl, provided she is merely sub-normal and not certifiable. ... No objection need be raised to sending the mother to High Park Convent”.¹⁶

26. A letter subsequently issued conveying the Ministers “consent under section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939 to the sending of this patient to St Mary’s High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin”.¹⁷ The effect of this was not alone to authorise the referral but also to authorise payment under the Act by Laois County Council for this woman.

¹³ Letter dated 29 April 1954 Department of Health to Laois County Council, File Ref Id

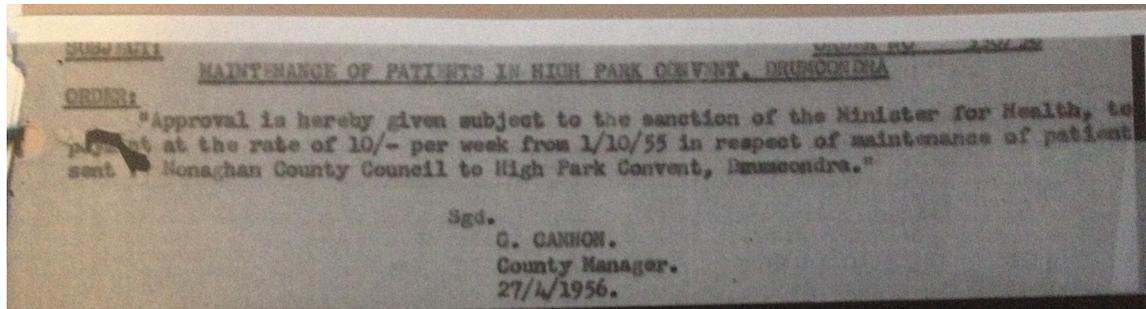
¹⁴ Letter dated 5 May 1954, Laois County Council to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

¹⁵ Id

¹⁶ Handwritten note dated 24 May 1954. File Ref Id.

¹⁷ Letter dated 25 June 1954 Department of Health to Laois County Council

27. The details contained on the file in relation to payments to High Park, Monaghan and Wicklow County Councils differ. First, the original file by which the Councils were granted approval for recognition of the Magdalen Laundry at High Park under the Public Assistance Act cannot be found. This file – as referred to above – has been missing since at least 1954.
28. However communications in relation to levels of payments by Monaghan and Wicklow County Councils (i.e. in the years after approval of the Magdalen Laundry for public assistance purposes) have been identified.
29. An Order of the Monaghan County Manager, dated 27 April 1956, in relation to “maintenance of patients in High Park Convent, Drumcondra” provides for a level of payment of 10/- per week from the Council for “patients sent by Monaghan County Council to High Park Convent”.¹⁸



30. A letter of response issued from the Department of Health, requesting information on the “class of patient concerned”.¹⁹ The Council responded that:

“the type of patient that this Health Authority has in mind as being suitable for admission to High Park Convent, Drumcondra, is an unmarried lady who has given birth to two or more children and whose

¹⁸ Order of the County Manager, 27 April 1956, File Ref Id

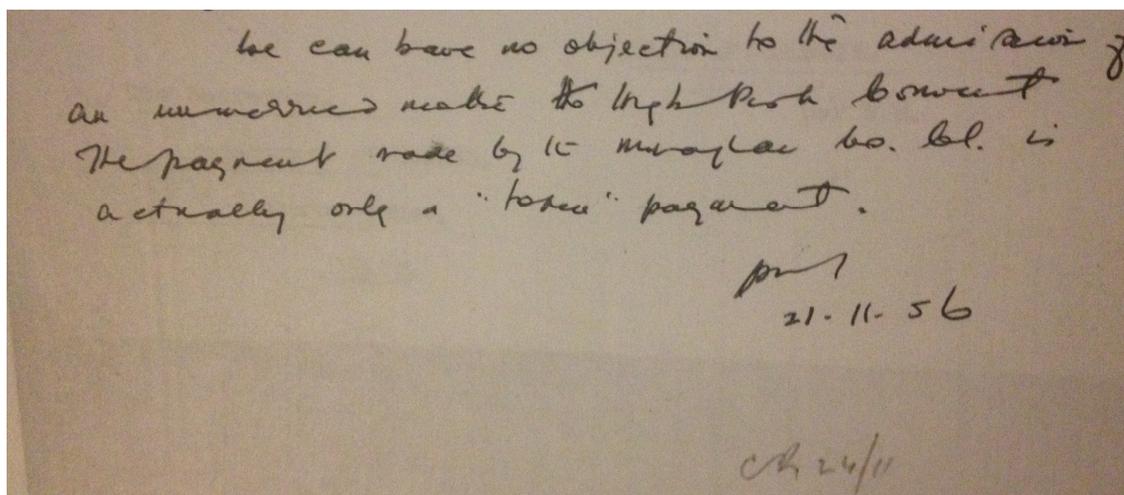
¹⁹ Letter dated 12 July 1956, Department of Health to Monaghan County Council. File Ref Id.

moral rehabilitation would prevent her becoming a health and social problem".²⁰

31. Internal Departmental notes, almost 4 months later, record that:

"We can have no objection to the admission of an unmarried mother to the High Park Convent. The payment rate by Monaghan Co. Council is actually only a 'token' payment".²¹

Approval for the payment was thereafter conveyed by the Department to the County Council.²²



he can have no objection to the admission of
an unmarried mother to High Park Convent
The payment rate by the Monaghan Co. Council is
actually only a "token" payment.
21-11-56
Ch 24/11

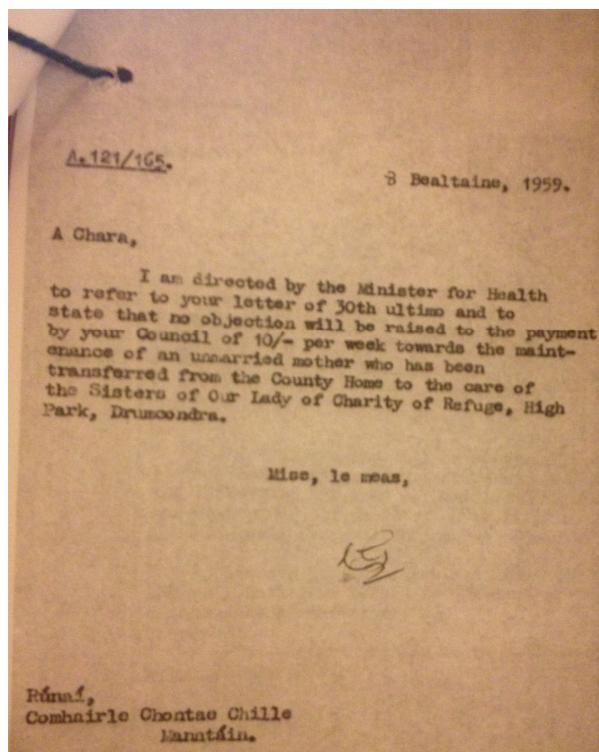
32. A similar payment level was approved by the Department in respect of Wicklow County Council in 1959. The first case in which this arose was one involving "an unmarried mother with a somewhat distressing history" who had "recently transferred from the County Home to the care of the Sisters of Our

²⁰ Letter dated 31 July 1956, Monaghan County Council to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

²¹ Internal Departmental note dated 21 November 1956. File Ref Id.

²² Letter dated 28 November 1956, Department of Health to Monaghan County Council. File Ref Id.

Lady of Charity of Refuge, High Park, Drumcondra, with the consent of her parents".²³ The Council sought approval of the Department for this payment.



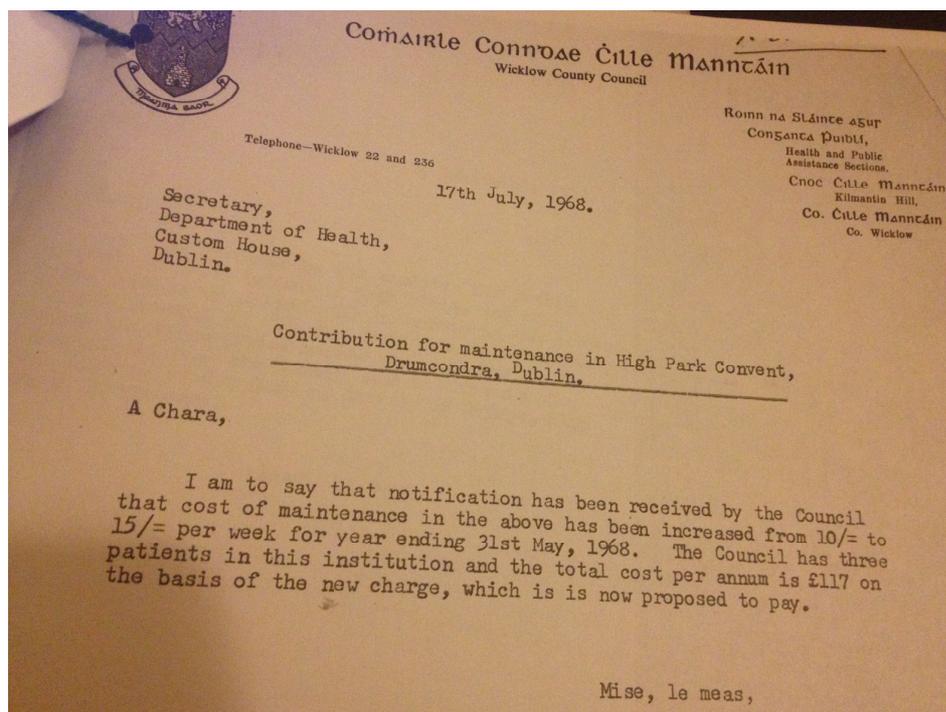
33. The Department responded to indicate that “no objection will be raised to the payment by your Council of 10/- per week” for the maintenance of this woman at the Magdalen Laundry at High Park.

34. No additional information is available on the case which led to this request and approval – but the file includes a letter dated 1968 referring to the fact that the Council “has three patients in this institution” and that it had received notification that:

“cost of maintenance in the above has been increased from 10/- to 15/- per week for the year ending 31 May 1968”.²⁴

²³ Letter dated 30 April 1959 Wicklow County Council to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

²⁴ Letter dated 17 July 1968 Wicklow County Council to Department of Health. File Ref Id.



35. An internal Department note records that:

“the rate of 10/- per week appears to have been fixed in 1955. It would not seem unreasonable therefore to increase the rate to 15/-.”²⁵

36. The Department subsequently granted approval, by way of letter confirming:

“no objection to the payment at the rate of 15/- per week for patients maintained at the Magdalen Asylum, High Park, Drumcondra, by Wicklow County Council.”²⁶

37. A less clear-cut case of payments made under section 35 of the Public Assistance Act was also identified by the Committee. The file in question, unfortunately, does not have much detail but relates to the approval by the Board of Assistance for the South Cork Public Assistance District of the “Good Shepherd Convent School” in Sunday’s Well, Cork.

²⁵ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 22 July 1968. File Ref Id.

²⁶ Letter dated 31 July 1968 Department of Health to Wicklow County Council. File Ref Id.

38. The Board of Assistance wrote to the Department of Health in 1952 proposing recognition of this institution as an extern institution under Section 35 of the Public Assistance Act 1939.²⁷ The Board of Assistance, in making this proposal, indicated to the Department:

“the practice followed by the Board for a number of years of sending to certain schools for maintenance and instruction certain classes of girls whose admission to County Homes as inmates or whose boarding-out with foster-parents was not considered advisable”.²⁸

39. The approval of the Department for recognition of the institution as an extern institution was sought:

“as two girls, formerly boarded-out children, who have been admitted to the Good Shepherd School, have attained the age of 16 years and their discharge from the school, owing to the circumstances of their cases, is considered to be highly undesirable in their own interests”.²⁹

40. The file does not include the names of the girls in question, or detail on what are referred to as “the circumstances of their cases”.

41. By replying letter, the Department of Health provided the necessary sanction for payment of assistance to the Good Shepherds for the two girls referred to, under Section 35 of the 1939 Act.³⁰

²⁷ Section 35: Good Shepherd Convent School, Sunday’s Well, Cork. File ref A121/155 (NATARCH/ARC/0/412239).

²⁸ Letter dated 4 December 1952 from Board of Assistance for the South Cork Public Assistance District to the Department of Health. File ref Id.

²⁹ Id

³⁰ Letter dated 18 December 1952 from the Department of Health to the Board of Assistance for the South Cork Public Assistance District to the Department of Health. File ref Id.

42. As indicated above, this case is not clear-cut: it does not refer to the Magdalen Laundry by its name (St Mary's), but rather instead refers to the "School" – which presumably relates to the Industrial School operated on the site by the Good Shepherd Sisters. However, the provisions of the Children Act in relation to licencing could have been applied to the girls. It is not clear why approval of the School as an extern institution would have resolved the issue raised by the Board of Assistance (or indeed how the two girls would have been accommodated there in the medium term). As the names of the girls are not included in the file, it is not possible to search for them in the records of the Religious Congregations, to determine if in fact they had been placed in the Magdalen Laundry on the site at Sunday's Well.

43. Although this file accordingly does not definitively establish payment to the Magdalen Laundry at Sunday's Well, the details of the case are recorded here in the interests of transparency.

44. Arrangements for payments to so-called "extern institutions" continued after enactment of the Health Act 1953. Section 10 of that Act provided that:

"(1) A health authority may, with the consent of the Minister, make and carry out an arrangement for the giving of institutional services to any person or to persons of any class, being a person or persons who is or are entitled to receive institutional services from such authority otherwise than under section 26 of this Act, in an institution not managed by such authority or another health authority.

(2) Payments shall be made by the health authority for institutional services provided pursuant to an arrangement under subsection (1) of this section and the payments shall be in accordance with such scale as may be approved of or directed by the Minister.

(3) Two health authorities may make and carry out any arrangement for the giving of institutional services by one of them on behalf of and at the cost of the other.

(4) Any arrangement which was in force immediately before the commencement of this section and which could be made upon such commencement under this section shall be deemed to be an arrangement made under this section”.³¹

45. A case identified by the Committee which originally arose under this section related to the Magdalen Laundry at Sean McDermott Street. Westmeath County Council sought approval of the Department for payment to that institution of “a contribution towards the cost of maintenance of a girl, [name] in that institution from [date] to [date]”.³²

46. The girl in question is identified in the file as being an epileptic who had been previously housed in the County Home. The period in which she had been in the Magdalen Laundry – approximately 6 weeks – occurred during 1963.

47. An initial response prepared in the Department refused the payment, as the institution “is not an approved institution for the purposes of section 10 of the Health Act 1953”. However this draft was not approved or issued. An internal Departmental note records that:

“The Gloucester St. Convent took this girl in at the request of the Matron, Co. Home, [place] and with the approval of the M.O. of the Co. Home. In the circumstances, I do not think they should be at a loss as a result of their efforts to help out in the case of this difficult girl. The amount involved is only £15 and I recommend that it should be sanctioned”.³³

48. This course of action was approved and the payment made.

³¹ Section 10, Health Act 1953

³² Grant under section 35 of Health Act 1953, Gloucester Street Convent, Dublin. File Ref L116/18, INACT/INA/0/443571

³³ Internal Departmental Noted dated 20 May 1964, File Ref Id.

ii. *Payments under section 65 of the Health Act 1953*

49. Section 65 of the Health Act 1953, relating to “assistance for certain bodies”, is of key importance in regard to funding by the State to Magdalen Laundries. It provided in full that:

“(1) A health authority may, with the approval of the Minister, give assistance in any one or more of the following ways to any body which provides or proposes to provide a service similar or ancillary to a service which the health authority may provide:

- (a) by contributing to the expenses incurred by the body,
- (b) by supplying to the body fuel, light, food, water or other commodity,
- (c) by permitting the use by the body of premises maintained by the health authority and, where requisite, executing alterations and repairs to and supplying furniture and fittings for such premises,
- (d) by providing premises (with all requisite furniture and fittings) for use by the body”.³⁴

50. This section, for organisations or bodies providing “a service similar or ancillary to a service” of the health authorities, can effectively be understood as the mechanism by which the Health Authorities funded non-state organisations to provide services which the Health Authorities would otherwise be required to provide. In other words, State subvention would be provided in respect of persons maintained in outside institutions, where public authorities would otherwise have had to make alternative arrangements for the maintenance of those persons.

51. Records were identified by the Committee in the archives of the Department of Health and Local Authorities of a significant number of payments by Health

³⁴ Section 65, Health Act 1953

Authorities to the Magdalen Laundries under section 65 of the Health Act 1953.

52. The first such case identified by the Committee relates to St Patrick's Refuge, the Magdalen Laundry operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Dun Laoghaire. The Committee identified a file containing an application in 1961 by the Sisters of Mercy for a section 65 grant for the institution.³⁵

53. A letter of application was made by the Congregation to the Dublin Health Authority.³⁶ The letter said as follows:

“There are some forty persons accommodated in a hostel (known as St Patrick's Refuge) attached to this hospital. They are unable to provide themselves with shelter or maintenance and they are cared for and maintained by the Community. Most of them have no known relatives and in cases where relatives are living they are unable to support the inmates. Practically all the inmates are mentally handicapped, difficult or emotionally disturbed or afflicted by infirmity arising from old age, and in some cases there is a combination of both conditions.

It seems to be the duty of the Health Authority to provide for the maintenance, care and treatment of such patients under the Health Act and I should be glad if the Health Authority would consider making a contribution to the Community for the service provided.

I should perhaps mention that there is little that can be done for most of these patients by way of rehabilitation; but in appropriate cases occupation is provided in the Laundry attached to the hospital”.³⁷

³⁵ 1961: St Patrick's Refuge (Attached to St Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire). Grant under Section 65. File ref ARC/0/417381 L116/15

³⁶ Letter dated 6 September 1961 from the Sisters of Mercy to the Dublin Health Authority, File ref L116/15

³⁷ Id

54. A copy of the letter was also sent to the Department of Health, under cover of a note indicating an application had been made for :

“financial assistance towards the maintenance and care of certain handicapped and infirm persons in the hostel attached to this hospital. I trust that this matter will have the sympathetic consideration of the Minister”.³⁸

55. The final item on the file is a handwritten note dated 14 November 1961 as follows:

“Informed by [named officer] Dublin Health Authority [phone number] that she carried out an inspection of St Patrick’s Refuge attached to St Michael’s Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, about 3 weeks after receipt of letter of 6 September 1961 from the Superioress. A full report on the institution has been submitted to the Health Authority and is under consideration”.³⁹

56. It was not possible for the Committee to identify the records of the Dublin Health Authority in relation to this matter to determine with certainty what came of the application.

57. In another case, even though the individual case-file could be located, a record was identified by the Committee confirming that a section 65 grant was paid in 1967 to the Magdalen Laundry at Peacock Lane, Cork, by the Cork Health Authority. This was established by the Committee on the basis of an internal Departmental Memorandum dealing with subsequent applications. Insofar as relevant to the grant to Peacock Lane, the Memorandum says as follows:

³⁸ Letter dated 6 September 1961 from the Sisters of Mercy to the Department of Health. File ref Id.

³⁹ File Ref Id

“In June of last year (following representations from Deputy [name]), we asked Cork Health Authority if they would consider making section 65 grant to St Vincent’s Convent, Cork towards the maintenance of disabled females maintained there. This institution also derived its income from the operation of a laundry. (It is run by the Sisters of Charity). A grant of £1,000 was sanctioned in November last towards the maintenance of 25 to 30 disabled females. This grant was approved on the basis that the health authority would have a liability to provide shelter, maintenance and any necessary medical treatment these patients might require if they were not maintained in the Convent and had nowhere else to go”.⁴⁰

58. Records were also identified in relation to a grant under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 to the “Magdalen Home, Donnybrook”.⁴¹ In a letter to the Department of Health, the Dublin Health Authority recorded that:

“There are 32 permanently disabled or subnormal unemployed females amongst the inmates maintained in the Convent of St. Mary Magdalen, Donnybrook, which is run by the Irish Sisters of Charity. The main source of income is from the operation of a laundry staffed by other inmates”.⁴²

59. The Dublin Health Authority then proposed financial support in the form of a contribution:

“towards the maintenance of the 32 totally disabled persons, none of whom have any income and who are by residence in an Institution

⁴⁰ Proposed Section 65 grant to Irish Sisters of Charity, Magdalen Home, Donnybrook. File Ref M123/1/8/3, INACT/INA/0/460546. Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 31 January 1968

⁴¹ Proposed Section 65 grant to Irish Sisters of Charity, Magdalen Home, Donnybrook. File Ref M123/1/8/3, INACT/INA/0/460546

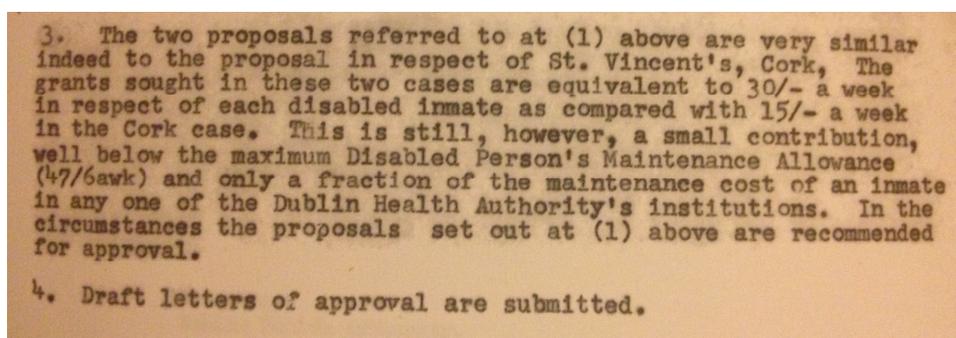
⁴² Letter dated 5 January 1968 from Dublin Health Authority to the Department of Health. File Ref Id.

precluded from receiving a Disabled Persons (Maintenance) Allowance”.⁴³

60. The level of payment proposed was a grant “at an approximate weekly rate of 30/-d. for each disabled person, that is £2,500 in a full financial year”.⁴⁴ The approval of the Department of Health was sought for this proposal.

61. The internal Departmental consideration of the matter refers to other similar proposals and then assessed the matter primarily on grounds of cost:

“The grants sought in these two cases are equivalent to 30/- a week in respect of each disabled inmate as compared with 15/- a week in the Cork case. This is still, however, a small contribution, well below the maximum Disabled Person’s Maintenance Allowance (47/6 a week) and only a fraction of the maintenance cost of an inmate in any one of the Dublin Health Authority’s institutions. In the circumstances the proposals set out at (1) above are recommended for approval”.⁴⁵



3. The two proposals referred to at (1) above are very similar indeed to the proposal in respect of St. Vincent's, Cork. The grants sought in these two cases are equivalent to 30/- a week in respect of each disabled inmate as compared with 15/- a week in the Cork case. This is still, however, a small contribution, well below the maximum Disabled Person's Maintenance Allowance (47/6awk) and only a fraction of the maintenance cost of an inmate in any one of the Dublin Health Authority's institutions. In the circumstances the proposals set out at (1) above are recommended for approval.

4. Draft letters of approval are submitted.

62. The Department subsequently wrote to the Dublin Health Authority granting approval for the payment of a grant under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 in

⁴³ Id

⁴⁴ Id

⁴⁵ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 31 January 1968, File Ref Id.

the amount of £2500 for the maintenance of “32 permanently disabled or subnormal unemployable females” there.⁴⁶

63. Grants under section 65 to the Magdalen Laundry at Donnybrook were made in a number of years that followed. In 1969, the grant was in respect of an increased number of women – 38 in total.⁴⁷

64. An internal Departmental Memorandum in relation to the request records the basis of and rationale for such payments as follows:

“The grant is in respect of the maintenance of 38 permanently disabled or sub-normal unemployable females in the Convent of St Mary Magdalen, Donnybrook. The Health Authority would have a liability to provide shelter and any necessary medical treatment these persons might require if they were not maintained in the Convent.

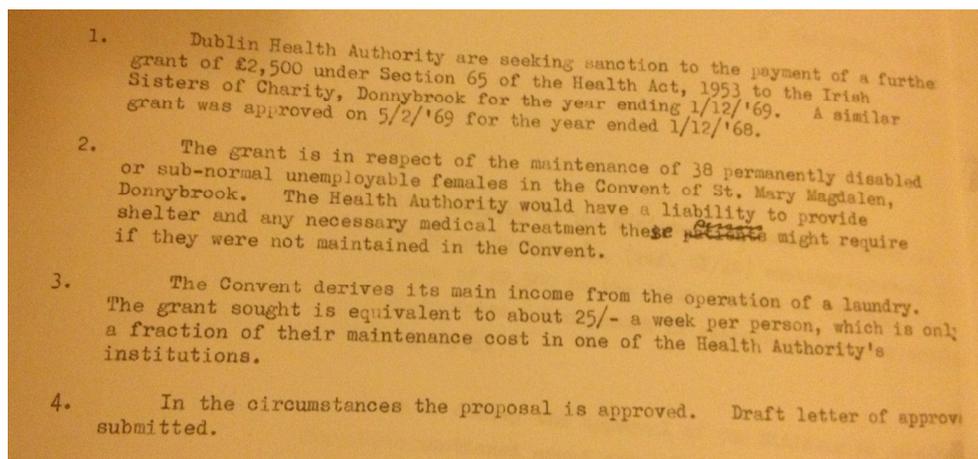
The Convent derives its main income from the operation of a laundry. The grant sought is equivalent to about 25/- a week per person, which is only a fraction of their maintenance cost in one of the Health Authority’s institutions.

In the circumstances the proposal is approved”.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Letter dated 5 July 1968 Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

⁴⁷ Letter dated 22 April 1969, Dublin Health Authority to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

⁴⁸ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 1 May 1969. File Ref Id



65. The Department subsequently approved a grant at the same level of £2,500 “to the Irish Sisters of Charity, St Mary Magdalen, Donnybrook” in respect of the maintenance of these women during 1969.⁴⁹

66. Again in 1970, the Health Board proposed making the same section 65 grant to the Magdalen Laundry at Donnybrook and sought Departmental approval to do so. At that point, the number of women had increased to a total of:

“40 permanently disabled or sub-normal unemployable females in the Convent. The Health Authority would, of course, have responsibility to provide maintenance for these persons, were it not for the Convent”. The Convent derives its main income from the operation of a laundry.⁵⁰

67. The method of payment was, however, adjusted to be made on the basis of financial years rather than calendar years. As a result, the payment for 1970 was for four months only and amounted to £833-6-8, with the recommendation that an additional grant be sought for “the full twelve months period ending 31 March 1971”.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Letter 5 May 1969, Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

⁵⁰ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 13 May 1970. File Ref Id.

⁵¹ Letter dated 15 May 1970, Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

68. A very similar process and result was identified by the Committee in relation to payment of section 65 grants by the Dublin Health Authority to the Magdalen Laundry at Sean McDermott Street, Dublin.⁵²

69. The first such payment appears to have occurred in 1968. The Dublin Health Authority wrote to the Department of Health, indicating that:

“There are 34 permanently disabled or subnormal unemployed females amongst the inmates maintained in the Convent, Lower Sean McDermott St., which is run by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. The main source of income is from the operation of a laundry staffed by other inmates.”⁵³

70. Again, the Health Authority sought approval to make a contribution:

“towards the maintenance of the 34 totally disabled persons, none of whom have any income and who are by residence in an Institution precluded from receiving a Disabled Persons (Maintenance) Allowance. The Authority’s Chief Executive Officer is prepared to approve a grant at an approximate weekly rate of 30/-d. for each disabled person, that is £2,500 in a full financial year.”⁵⁴

71. The internal Departmental analysis of the application was carried out at the same time as the Donnybrook application. It was decided that the grant sought was:

“equivalent to 30/- a week in respect of each disabled inmate ... This is still however a small contribution well below the maximum Disabled Person’s Maintenance Allowance (47/6 a week) and only a fraction of

⁵² Payment of Section 65 Grant to Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, Lower Sean McDermott Street. M123/1/8/3, INACT/INA/0/458996

⁵³ Letter Dublin Health Authority to Department of Health dated 5 January 1968, File Ref Id

⁵⁴ Id

the maintenance cost of an inmate in any one of the Dublin Health Authority's institutions".⁵⁵

The application was as a result approved.⁵⁶

72. The Dublin Health Authority sought sanction for the same payment the following year, 1969, for the same number of women (34).⁵⁷ The internal Departmental consideration of the application once again considers the question of costs. The relevant Memorandum indicates that the grant is proposed in respect of maintenance of 34 "permanently disabled or sub-normal, unemployable females" at Sean McDermott Street. It then sets out as follows:

"The Health Authority would have a responsibility to provide shelter, maintenance and any necessary medical treatment, these persons might require if they were not maintained in the Convent and had nowhere else to go. The Convent derives its main income from the operation of a laundry staffed by other girls residing there. The grant sought is equivalent to about 30/- a week per person which is only a fraction of what it would cost to keep them in one of the Health Authority's institutions. In the circumstances, the proposal is recommended".⁵⁸

This was again approved.⁵⁹

73. The Dublin Health Authority again proposed the same payment in 1970 in respect of "approximately 30" women.⁶⁰ It was noted that:

⁵⁵ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 31 January 1968, File Ref M123/1/8/3, INACT/INA/0/460546

⁵⁶ Letter dated 5 February 1968 Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref M123/1/8/3, INACT/INA/0/458996

⁵⁷ Letter dated 6 May 1969 Dublin Health Authority to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

⁵⁸ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 15 May 1969. File Ref Id.

⁵⁹ Letter dated 19 May 1969 Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

“the Health Authority would, of course, have responsibility to provide maintenance for these persons, were it not for the Convent. The Convent derives its main income from the operation of a laundry staffed by other girls residing there”.⁶¹

74. This was again approved, although in order to “standardise all grants for payment within the financial year only”, the approval was for the 4 months to 31 March 1970 only (£833-6-8) with a further grant to be sought from then until the end of the following financial year on 31 March 1971.⁶²

75. The file also records (in the context of determination of which Division should deal with such applications) that “the subject of the present grant application was mainly a Refuge for destitute persons”, as opposed to “institutions where treatment is provided”.⁶³

76. An application for the following financial year was again made by the Health Authority.⁶⁴ From this point on, it was proposed to “fix payment now at a rigid figure of 30/- per capita, per week”.⁶⁵ Approval issued in due course, agreeing both to the proposal and the amount intended (30/- per week). It had originally been considered, within the Department, that it may be appropriate to request the Health Authority to indicate whether the women for whom the grant was paid were “subjected to routine medical examination beforehand by the Chief Medical Officer of the Health Authority”.⁶⁶ However a handwritten note

⁶⁰ Letter dated 14 April 1970, Dublin Health Authority to Department of Health; and internal Memorandum 29 April 1970. File Ref Id.

⁶¹ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 29 April 1970. File Ref Id.

⁶² Letter dated 11 May 1970 Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

⁶³ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 29 April 1970. File Ref Id.

⁶⁴ Letter dated 19 May 1970, Dublin Health Authority to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

⁶⁵ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 3 June 1970, File Ref Id.

⁶⁶ Draft letter (not issued). File Ref Id.

indicated that such medical certification might be “difficult in practice”⁶⁷ and instead, the letter as issued stated as follows:

“The Health Authority should also indicate what precise steps are taken to satisfy themselves in regard to the numbers of persons for whom a grant is paid, and the degree of such persons’ disabilities”.⁶⁸

77. The response to that letter of the Dublin Health Authority is not recorded – this also being the year in which the Eastern Health Board would have taken over responsibility for the health function. The next material on file relating to funding of the Magdalen Laundry dates to 1973, when it is recorded that the amount payable was now £67.50 per week and was being paid by the Eastern Health Board “in respect of 45 unemployable and mentally handicapped women”.⁶⁹ Full details of the 45 women and the nature of their disability are recorded (a large number being recorded as ‘mentally deficient’, while the majority of the remainder are recorded as ‘old age’, ‘physical handicap’, deaf, ‘unstable’, alcoholic, epileptic or ‘deformed’).

78. A handwritten Departmental Memorandum indicated that:

“this institution is maintaining approx. 100 women at present. The Health Board would have a liability to provide shelter, maintenance and any necessary medical treatment these patients might require if they were not maintained in the Convent and had nowhere else to go”.⁷⁰

79. It records that the Health Board was paying “£1.50 a week in respect of approx 46 of these women”. The note records that an increase in support for the laundry “is justified” on a number of grounds, as follows:

⁶⁷ Handwritten note on Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 3 June 1970, File Ref Id.

⁶⁸ Letter dated 23 June 1970, Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

⁶⁹ Letter dated 22 March 1973 Convent of Our Lady of Charity to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

⁷⁰ Internal Departmental memorandum, handwritten dated 1 May 1973. File Ref Id.

“In private homes for the aged generally including the new welfare homes a capitation payment of £1 a day is payable regardless of whether the patients are in receipt of OAP or not”.⁷¹

80. In relation to the disabled women for whom the Board was paying £1.50 a day, the Memorandum suggests that:

“Strictly, these people should be getting the maximum of the Disabled Person’s Maintenance (£4.90) Allowance from the Health Board if they were not in an institution. Surely the institution is at least entitled to this amount for their maintenance. ... The average weekly capitation payment in respect of centres for the mentally handicapped is in the region of £15”.⁷²

81. The next category for which payment was considered related to women who were:

“disabled to some extent although they are working in the Laundry. They would almost certainly be a liability on the Health Board if they were not maintained in this institution and for this reason alone some payment should be made in respect of them”.⁷³

82. The Memorandum concludes by noting that the payment under section 65:

“is of course a matter for the Health Board in the first instance. ... We could get in touch with the Board regarding the possibility of giving increased financial support to the institution and write to [the Congregation] pointing out that the matter has been taken up with the Board”.⁷⁴

This course of action was approved.

⁷¹ Id

⁷² Id

⁷³ Id

⁷⁴ Id

83. A subsequent note calculates the approximate amount to which the institution would be entitled:

“Strictly speaking the Order is entitled to payment on a capitation basis for those women who would otherwise be a liability on the Health Board”,

and calculates the amounts which would be due in respect of 14 OAPs, 65 “retarded (mentally or physically) women” and 18 “unstable women at hostel rates”, estimating the amount as £23,658.⁷⁵

84. The Memorandum continues however, to note an alternative to payment of the amounts which would otherwise be due. It states as follows:

“In view, however, of the fact that the institution has up to now been to a large extent self-supporting due to the laundry industry which they are running it would be worthwhile considering financial support by way of a section 65 grant to finance the annual deficit in the running cost”.⁷⁶

This was described as the “more economical method” and the Memorandum recommends “that consideration be given to supporting this institution by way of financing the annual deficit under section 65”.⁷⁷

85. A “fact-finding visit” was decided on by the Department, before a decision would be taken on these funding recommendations.⁷⁸ The note sets out information on the “various services provided by the convent”, including “a casual unit” for “night shelter. This unit is also used to house girls who are on remand”, a “training centre for adolescents” (separated from the rest of the institution the previous year, 1972, to which girls were referred and paid for by

⁷⁵ Internal Departmental memorandum, handwritten dated 18 May 1973. File Ref Id.

⁷⁶ Id

⁷⁷ Id

⁷⁸ Internal Memorandum dated 27 May 1973. File Ref Id.

the National Rehabilitation Board) and what was described as “a Residential Unit for Women”.⁷⁹

86. A description was included in relation to the latter, describing the women who were there as:

“OAPs, mentally or physically retarded women, mildly handicapped and delicate women and women who are unstable for social or moral reasons”.⁸⁰

The outcome of the visit was a recommendation:

“that an increase commensurate with the Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance be considered and I would therefore suggest that the capitation rate of £1.50 p.w. be increased to £5.90 p.w. This would take cognisance of inflationary factors. It would further enable the convent to meet the expected heavy deficit in 1973”.⁸¹

87. A subsequent note sums up one official’s view on the matter.

“This institution is providing worthwhile services for a large no. of women who are unfit for work, mainly because of their mental condition. They have no fixed homes and were it not for the care of the nuns they would require shelter and maintenance in other Welfare Homes. Normally these women would be eligible for Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowances if they were residing in their own homes, but they are precluded from the benefits of those allowances because they are being cared for in institutions. ...

I was very impressed by the standard of care and comforts provided for these inmates. The residential accommodation was bright and homely and comfortable and was far in advance of other hostel accommodation provided for casuals.

⁷⁹ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 13 June 1973. File Ref Id.

⁸⁰ Id

⁸¹ Id

Accordingly I recommend that the EHB be advised that the Dept. would approve of

- (a) A grant under section 65 of £4 per week in respect of current year for physically or mentally incapacitated inmates, who are not eligible for social welfare benefits;
- (b) An increased grant of £5.90 for such women for next financial year”.⁸²

88. However, the replying Departmental note states that although:

“this institution is providing services in what appear to be satisfactory conditions, for approximately 67 women who might otherwise be maintained in institutions by the Eastern Health Board. ... I do not think we can use the amount of the Disabled Persons Allowance as an appropriate yardstick for covering the size of grant for an institution of this kind. The alternative one would normally consider would be to make a grant on the basis of the annual deficit but it appears from your minute that it is difficult to isolate an appropriate figure”.⁸³

89. The proposal made was to increase the Health Board grant from £1.50 to £2 per week per person with a recommendation that a further increase be considered “for next year’s estimates”.⁸⁴ This decision was conveyed to the Congregation, in a letter which also wished “continued success in your very commendable work in Sean MacDermott Street”.⁸⁵ The alternative to capitation payments – “a grant based on the annual deficit in running the Home” – was also transmitted to the Congregation.⁸⁶

⁸² Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 15 June 1973. File Ref Id.

⁸³ Departmental Memorandum dated 22 June 1973. File Ref Id

⁸⁴ Id

⁸⁵ Letter dated 5 July 1973 Department of Health to Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. File Ref Id.

⁸⁶ Letter dated 22 August 1973 Department of Health to Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. File Ref Id.

90. It appears that the level of the grant was not further increased until 1976, at which point the Eastern Health Board sought and was granted approval by the Department of Health for an increase from £2 per week to £3 per week.⁸⁷

91. A file was also identified by the Committee which confirms grant payments under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 to the Good Shepherd Convent, Limerick.⁸⁸

92. The process began with an Order of the Limerick County Manager:

“subject to the sanction of the Minister for Health, that a grant of £1,500 per year, effective as from 1 October 1970, be made to the Good Shepherd Home, Limerick, in respect of women maintained in the Home”.⁸⁹

93. The Limerick Health Authority, in its application to the Department for approval for this course of action, stated that applications had been received for Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance for 15 women “maintained in the Good Shepherd Convent, Clare St, Limerick”. All 15 were:

“medically certified and from a medical point of view the applicants did qualify for an allowance under section 50 of the Health Act 1953”.⁹⁰

94. However such payments were not permitted for:

“persons maintained in an institution ... and it is considered the best way to meet the applications and to give some assistance to the Good

⁸⁷ Letter dated 29 October 1976, Eastern Health Board to Department of Health; and letter dated 12 November 1976, Department of Health to Eastern Health Board. File Ref Id.

⁸⁸ Limerick – Good Shepherd Convent, Clare St, Application for section 65 grant. File Ref M123/3/17/1, INACT/INA/0/449343

⁸⁹ County Manager Order BM 1,170, dated 27 October 1970. File Ref Id.

⁹⁰ Letter dated 28 October 1970 Limerick Health Authority to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

Shepherd Home is by way of a grant under section 65 of the Health Act 1953”.⁹¹

The letter also indicated that the Health Authority requested the Congregation “to agree to giving of some pocket money to the women concerned and also that they would be provided with clothing of a non-institutional type”.⁹²

95. The Department’s considered this matter in a similar way to other section 65 applications and indicated that:

“The Health Authority would have a responsibility to provide shelter, maintenance and any necessary medical treatment these persons might require, were it not for the Convent. This could well cost £7 approximately per person per week. The grant sought is equivalent to “£2 per week per person. The Convent’s main source of income is derived from the operation of a laundry, but the profits are now being badly hit by competition from the commercial cleaners”.⁹³

96. In response to a request by the Department for information on the finances of the institution, the Health Authority reported to the Department that it was unable to provide direct information but that:

“the Convent was noted in Limerick City, not for its wealth, but for its poverty. One of their consultants [name], has frequently informed the Health Authority that the Sisters are in very poor circumstances indeed”.⁹⁴

⁹¹ Id

⁹² Id

⁹³ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 3 November 1970. File Ref Id.

⁹⁴ Internal Departmental Memorandum dated 11 November 1970. File ref Id

97. The Department of Health subsequently approved payment of the grant as proposed by the Limerick Health Authority for the year commencing 1st October, 1970.⁹⁵

98. Approval for payment of a section 65 grant to the Magdalen Laundry in Limerick was also sought by the Mid-Western Health Board (successor to the Limerick Health Authority) the following year, 1971. Two of the women in relation to whom the grant had been approved in 1970 had “been discharged”, but grants were sought for two others in their place.⁹⁶ Approval was again given by the Department for the payment of £1,500.⁹⁷ Approval was also sought and granted for the following years 1972⁹⁸, 1973⁹⁹ and 1974¹⁰⁰.

99. The application made by the Mid-Western Health Board to the Department of Health in 1975 seeking approval for additional payments includes additional information. It provided that:

“Since October 1970 with the approval of the Minister, a contribution of £1,500 per annum is made towards the maintenance of 15 Sub-Normal and Disabled Females in the Good Shepherd Convent, Limerick. An application has been made for a maintenance allowance for a further 15 girls of a similar category. The majority of these girls are from the Mid-Western Health Board area and are all in the Institution for a considerable time. They are able to make only a minimal contribution to

⁹⁵ Letter dated 13 November 1970, Department of Health to Dublin Health Authority. File Ref Id.

⁹⁶ Letter dated 2 September 1971 Mid Western Health Board to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

⁹⁷ Letter dated 14 September 1971 Department of Health to Mid Western Health Board. File Ref Id.

⁹⁸ Letter dated 12 September 1972 Mid Western Health Board to Department of Health; and approval by letter dated 17 October 1972 Department of Health to Mid Western Health Board. File Ref Id

⁹⁹ Letter dated 25 September 1973 Mid Western Health Board to Department of Health; and approval by letter dated 5 December 1973 Department of Health to Mid Western Health Board. File Ref Id

¹⁰⁰ Letter dated 9 May 1974 Mid Western Health Board to Department of Health; and approval by letter dated 23 May 1974 Department of Health to Mid Western Health Board. File Ref Id

the work in the Convent Laundry. In fact, this latter, because of the necessity of having to employ outside staff are finding some difficulty in competing with the Commercial Laundry services. I am satisfied that we should agree to make an additional Section 65 grant of £1,500 towards the maintenance of these additional girls".¹⁰¹

100. The Department of Health approved this further proposed payment for an additional 15 women and conveyed the necessary sanction to the Health Board.¹⁰²

101. A Department of Health file was also identified in relation to grants under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 to the Magdalen Laundry at High Park.

102. Letters of application from the Order to the Minister of Health in 1969 indicate that a grant was sought for "72 girls certified by two Doctors as unemployable, disabled and subnormal".¹⁰³ It indicates that:

"if these girls were maintained in a State Institution the cost would be at least £6 per week. The Grant we apply for allows £1.10 per week. Should any of your officials wish to visit us to ascertain facts for themselves we would heartily welcome them".¹⁰⁴

103. The application was approved by the Department and "a total grant of £5,000 to High Park Convent" in respect of the year ending 31 March 1970 from the Dublin Health Authority was sanctioned.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰¹ Letter dated 1 January 1975, Mid Western Health Board to the Department of Health. File Ref Id.

¹⁰² Letter dated 10 January 1975, Department of Health to the Mid Western Health Board. File ref Id.

¹⁰³ Letter dated 25 November 1969 Sisters of Our Ldy of Charity to Department of Health. File Ref Eastern: An Grianan / Cor Unum, High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. File Ref C14.02.01, CCP/INA/0/489173

¹⁰⁴ Id.

¹⁰⁵ Letter dated 15 January 1970, Department of Health to Sisters of our Lady of Charity. File Ref Id

104. A note on the file records the rationale behind the grant as follows:

“In considering the applications, consideration was given to the maintenance by the Convent of (a) 35 severely disabled and unemployable females and (b) 48 sub-normal females who cannot be employed productively. Dublin Health Authority would have a responsibility to provide sheltered maintenance and any necessary medical treatment, those women might require, were it not for the Convent.

The Convent’s main source of income is derived from the operation of a Laundry which is run on a commercial basis. Some of the residents are employed in this Laundry”.¹⁰⁶

105. In expectation of a visit by the Minister for Health to High Park, officials of the Department:

“discussed the Convent’s activities with the Health Authority. They say that this is one of the most progressive ‘Houses’ in the social field”.¹⁰⁷

106. The speech delivered by the Minister during his visit to High Park in June 1970 is recorded on file. The speech records the Minister’s view that he was:

“most impressed by the range of welfare services provided there. ... The complex of welfare facilities included residential accommodation for some 150 girls and women ranging from teenagers to old age pensioners. Many of these women cannot find outside employment because of mental subnormality. ... It was a major responsibility to provide residential facilities for 150 people and when taken in

¹⁰⁶ Internal Note, Department of Health (M Division) dated 5 February 1970. File Ref Id

¹⁰⁷ Id

conjunction with the modern commercial laundry at the Monastery, testified to the initiative, industry and ingenuity of the Sisters”.¹⁰⁸

107. He also referred to the “happy relationship between the health authority and the Sisters”, including reference to the annual grant. His grant “would not compensate for the personal dedication of the Sisters but it was a practical recognition by the State of the welfare services provided by them”.¹⁰⁹

108. An application by the Magdalen Laundry at Waterford for a grant under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 was also identified by the Committee.¹¹⁰ The application made by the Congregation was quite detailed. The note indicated that:

“There has always been a large turnover in numbers, but some remained on under our care over the years. Most of the older women at present under our care are socially inadequate, and a large percentage of them are mildly or moderately retarded.”

109. The women are categorised in that application as either “unemployable” (18), “semi-employed” (14), “fully employed here, but incapable of outside employment without constant support” (21) and “fully employed and capable” (10). The latter category are likely refers to consecrates, as the Note referred to this group as:

“the more dependable of our residents. The majority of these are women who have devoted their lives to helping the Good Shepherd Sisters in their work”.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁸ Address by the Minister for Health on the occasion of his visit to the Monastery of Our Lady of charity, High Park, Drumcondra on Monday 22 June 1970. File Ref Id.

¹⁰⁹ Id.

¹¹⁰ Good Shepherd Home Waterford. File Ref M123/6/29, INACT/INA/0/443461x

¹¹¹ Id

110. The South Eastern Health Board sought the views of the Department in relation to the application.¹¹² The responding letter of the Department referred to the position as “very similar to that obtaining at the Convent of Our lady of Charity, Sean McDermott Street Dublin” and details the payments made in that case by the Eastern Health Board. The Department further noted that:

“the women in residence at the Good Shepherd Convent, Waterford, who are classed as unemployed (18) or as semi-employed (14) would seem to correspond to the type of case covered by the capitation rate paid under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 to the Sean McDermott Street Convent”.¹¹³

111. No further papers appear on file and it is accordingly not possible to say whether or not the application was approved.

112. The Committee also identified a file relating to a section 65 grant to the Good Shepherd Convent, Sunday’s Well in Cork.¹¹⁴ The file includes a description of the Convent, including the laundry, by the Southern Health Board, as follows:

“The Convent provides welfare accommodation for approx. 70 persons, 19 of whom are in receipt of contributory old age pensions and two in receipt of disabled persons (maintenance) allowance. The main income of the Convent is derived from a laundry service provided by the sisters and from those residents in receipt of pensions and other allowances. Traditionally the labour in the laundry was provided by the residents in the convent. However, the output from this type of labour is decreasing and is having to be replaced by paid labour and

¹¹² Letter dated 23 July 1973, South Eastern Health Board to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

¹¹³ Letter dated 17 August 1973, Department of Health to Arus Slainte, Patrick Street, Kilkenny. File Ref Id.

¹¹⁴ Southern Health Board:- Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Glandore and Good Shepherd Convent, Sunday’s Well, Cork. File Ref W123/7/5/8, INACT/INA/0/465450

consequently the future of the laundry as a source of income is in some doubt. It is clear the type of person resident in the Convent at present would ultimately be the responsibility of the Board and if the laundry is to be maintained the Board will have to consider the question of making a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the residents in the Convent".¹¹⁵

113. The Note also indicates that if the convent were to cease activities "in relation to the maintenance of residents now the Board would probably have to find suitable alternative accommodation".¹¹⁶ The Southern Health Board sought Departmental approval for a grant in relation to these women.¹¹⁷

114. An internal Departmental note suggests approval of the grant, on condition of consultation with a named geriatrician.¹¹⁸ However, in light of the fact that "no provision was made for these grants in the Board's budget for the current year", the proposal was:

"deferred, unless of course the amount becomes available to the Board by way of savings on other items of expenditure, in which event sanction may be presumed".¹¹⁹

115. Information in relation to payment of a section 65 grant to the Magdalen Laundry, Sean McDermott Street in 1972 was also identified by the Committee.

¹¹⁵ Letter dated 5 June 1974, Southern Health Board to General Hospitals Committee. File Ref Id.

¹¹⁶ Id

¹¹⁷ Letter dated 16 July 1975, Southern Health Board to Department of Health. File Ref Id.

¹¹⁸ Note dated 12 August 1975. File Ref Id

¹¹⁹ Letter dated 13 October 1975 Department of Health to Southern Health Board. File Ref Id.

116. An internal Departmental Note confirmed that approval of payment of a grant under section 65 had been conveyed to the Dublin Health Authority in June 1970:

“in respect of the house run by the Sisters of Charity at Lower Sean MacDermott Street. ... This approval was granted in connection with the maintenance of permanently disabled or sub-normal females”.¹²⁰

117. The Note also addressed more recent developments, in particular the establishment of a training centre for teenage girls and a request that the Department “accept financial responsibility for girls accepted into care at this Training Centre”.¹²¹ The Centre had been previously approved by the Department of Education.¹²²

118. A note on file records the report of the official who inspected the training centre at the “Convent of Our Lady of Charity, Lower Sean McDermott Street”.¹²³ The report includes the following account of discussions in relation to two underage girls and their maintenance under section 55 of the Health Act. Other than those cases, the official’s note recorded discussions with the Sisters:

“I informed her that I had discussed the matter with you and that Section 65 of the Act might be considered as a possible solution for the other girls. Sister had told me that the families of these girls are inadequate and they would not be able to help financially. As arranged with you I suggested that Sister should write to the Eastern Health Board requesting maintenance for the girls under section 65 for the

¹²⁰ Note 24 November 1972

¹²¹ Id

¹²² Id

¹²³ Note dated 3 October 1972

over sixteens and that, when her request was passed to the Department, it would be considered sympathetically”.¹²⁴

119. The file contains a subsequent letter which confirms that the Department:

“approves of Our Lady’s Convent, Lower Sean McDermott Street, Dublin, and the Good Shepherd Convent, the Manor, Waterford, for the reception into care of special cases of girls under 16 years of age who are not suitable for admission to residential homes.

Accordingly sanction to the payment of the approved capitation rate – at present £15 per week – may be presumed in respect of such children referred for admission by the health board. Health boards, however, should not accept liability for payment for any other admissions unless their approval has been sought and obtained prior to the admission. Such approval by the health board should be given only where the board is satisfied after consideration of all the circumstances of the case that the child cannot be suitably cared for in a generally approved residential home. The sisters-in-charge of the respective Convents have been informed to this effect”.¹²⁵

120. As set out above, the retention of financial records occurs on a different basis and for different lengths of time than other categories of records. The above records have been identified following extensive searches, but it cannot be excluded that similar grants were approved for Magdalen Laundries in addition to those identified above, but that no records survive.

iii. Criminal justice payments (remand and probation)

121. Section 1 of the Criminal Justice Act 1960 defines a remand institution as “an institution (other than a prison) whose use for the purposes of this Act

¹²⁴ Id

¹²⁵ Letter dated 14 April 1975 from the Department of Health to the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant Health Boards. Our Lady’s Convent, Sean McDermott Street. Ref W7/6/1; File ref C14/4.

has been approved of by the Minister”; and section 9 of the same Act provides in pertinent part that:

“Where a statute or instrument made under statute confers a power to remand in custody or to commit in custody for trial or for sentence a person who is not less than sixteen nor more than twenty-one years of age, the power shall be deemed to include a power to remand or commit the person in custody to a remand institution and the statute or instrument, as the case may be, shall have effect accordingly”.¹²⁶

122. Our Lady's Home, Henrietta Street and “St. Mary Magdalen's Asylum, Lower Sean McDermott Street” were both approved by the Minister on 21 October 1960 as remand centres for female persons (not less than 16 and not more than 21 years of age).¹²⁷ For the purposes of this Report, only the Magdalen Laundry at Sean McDermott Street is relevant, as Our Lady's Home, Henrietta Street was not a Magdalen Laundry.
123. The Committee identified records which confirm that payments were made to Sean McDermott Street in relation to girls and women placed there on remand. This practice of payment was also extended to cover the cases of girls and women required to reside at the Magdalen Laundry as a condition of probation. There was no specific statutory basis for these payments.
124. A letter was identified by the Committee from the Department of Justice to the Department of Finance in 1964 which provides information on the level of payments concerned. It explained that the capitation grant for Henrietta Street was originally fixed in 1945 at 15/- per week and took account of the girls' services in the laundry. (The gross cost was estimated at 31/- per week). In 1959, after the laundry at Henrietta Street ceased to operate,

¹²⁶ Section 9(1) of the 1960 Act

¹²⁷ File ref 8/272/6

capitation for the remaining Home was increased to 25/- and further increased in 1962 to 35/-.

125. The letter compares this level of payment to those made to Industrial and Reformatory Schools, which were then between 55/- and 59/- per week. Sanction was sought for an increase to 45/- for both Henrietta Street and the Magdalen Laundry at Sean McDermott Street.¹²⁸

126. Full records of all payments made by the Department of Justice for girls and women placed on remand or probation have not been found. This can be explained by the fact that records supporting payments by the Department are ordinarily (as set out above) retained for a period of 7 years only. Nonetheless some records were identified which established the amount of payments made in one year to Sean McDermott Street under this heading and the accountant to the Order of Our Lady of Charity has, on the basis of the records of the Order, calculated that the full value of the payments made to Sean McDermott Street in relation to placement of girls or women on remand there in 1961, 1966 and 1971 as €5,092 (expressed in 2011 Euro terms).¹²⁹ Information on the intervening years is not available.

127. The arrangements whereby girls and women could be placed on remand at a Magdalen Laundry operated by the Order of Our Lady of Charity came to an end in 1980 – the Order informed the Department in December 1979 that they were no longer willing to accept girls or women on remand after February 1980. The last request for payment was for the quarter ending March 1980.¹³⁰

Proposed grant for conversion of a Magdalen Laundry

¹²⁸ Minute dated 29 December 1964, Department of Justice to the Department of Finance.

¹²⁹ See further below

¹³⁰ File Ref 93/31, Part 4

128. A different file was identified by the Committee, relating to the Eastern Health Board Capital budget for 1971. One of the proposed items was to grant aid the Sisters of Charity for a “new Magdalen Home, Donnybrook” in the amount of £100,000.¹³¹ This proposal did not, however proceed – it was removed from the list of possible projects (“the department’s services sections were examining this proposal which had policy implications”).¹³²
129. It is likely that this proposal related to a matter addressed in more detail on a separate Departmental file – namely a proposal for conversion of the Magdalen Laundry at Donnybrook to a “training centre for mentally handicapped”.¹³³ The proposal was made with the input of the National Organisation for Rehabilitation whose officers visited the Magdalen Laundry. A note recording the outcome of that visit indicates that:
- “the present residents include about 12 pensioners in the infirmary. The others range in age from 16 years – 65 years and consist mainly of mentally handicapped or ineffective women who reside there and work in the laundry”.¹³⁴
130. The proposal was considered for a period, but did not ultimately come to fruition.¹³⁵

Other grants awarded during transition periods or after the closure of the Laundries

¹³¹ Grants under section 65 of the Health Act 1953 to Voluntary Organisations by the Eastern Health Board. File Ref 1/10/26.

¹³² Undated note of meeting. File Ref Id.

¹³³ Magdalen Home, Donnybrook. Proposal for provision of training centre for mentally handicapped persons. File Ref L50/187. INACT/INA/0/450308x

¹³⁴ Undated note entitled “Magdalen Home, Donnybrook”, transmitted by the National Organisation for Rehabilitation to the Department of Health by letter dated 7 January 1965. File Ref Id.

¹³⁵ Internal noted date 14 May 1970, recording that

“While the position is not yet clear I think it may be taken that the suggestions in regard to the Magdalen Asylum may be regarded as dead - unless the matter is raised again. File may therefore be marked A/F”.

131. A number of other grants were also awarded to Magdalen Laundries under various miscellaneous headings - after closure of the laundry operations or during their transition to, for example, nursing homes or sheltered housing.

132. *Scheme of Grants for Locally based Women's Groups*: The Magdalen Laundry at Peacock Lane, Cork, closed in 1991. A grant was awarded in 1992 by the Department of Social Welfare, under a "Scheme of Grants for Locally based Women's Groups".¹³⁶ The grant was made pursuant to an application by the Congregation. Confirmation of the grant was made by letter of the Department of Social Welfare:

"Further to your application under the scheme of grants for locally based women's groups, I wish to inform you that a grant of £300 has been approved for your group towards a personal development education programme for women living in the Magdalen Shelter. Arrangements are being made for issue of a payable order shortly".¹³⁷

133. Other correspondence found in relation to this grant concerned follow-up of accounts which demonstrated the use that had been made of the grant of £300 – this included two letters of enquiry from the Department¹³⁸ and a response from the Order providing "a statement of accounts for the grant received by this Centre in 1992".¹³⁹

134. *Scheme of grants for voluntary bodies who provide housing and resettlement services for Homeless Persons*: The same institution was also

¹³⁶ Letter dated 24 September 1992 from the Minister of State at the Department of Environment to St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork, Archive of the Religious Sisters of Charity

¹³⁷ Letter dated 22 September 1992 from Department of Social Welfare (Community & Voluntary Support Services) to St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork, Archive of the Religious Sisters of Charity

¹³⁸ Letter dated 1 March 1994 from Department of Social Welfare (Voluntary and Community Services) to St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork, Archive of the Religious Sisters of Charity

¹³⁹ Letter dated 16 September 1994 from St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork to Department of Social Welfare (Voluntary and Community Services) , Archive of the Religious Sisters of Charity

awarded a grant in relation to homelessness by Cork Corporation in 1996, under the above-mentioned scheme, which had formerly been administered by the Department of Social Welfare but for which responsibility was delegated to Local Authorities in 1996. The scheme was intended for:

“Once-off grants to help voluntary and community groups working with the homeless. The grants may be made for the necessary renovation, repair or fitting out of premises, the purchase of equipment or special projects which do not qualify for funding under the Department’s Capital Assistance Scheme or the scheme of grants for the provision of communal facilities in housing projects operated by approved housing bodies”.¹⁴⁰

The total amount available under the Scheme for 1996 was £140,000.

135. The Religious Sisters of Charity applied for and were approved for a grant of a total amount of £3,919.94 under this Scheme for the “ongoing development of this Centre for the women in our care” and, in that regard, invited Cork Corporation to “visit and see our work”.¹⁴¹

136. *Housing Act 1988*: Records were also identified which confirm payments to “St Vincent’s Centre (previously the Magdalen Laundry at Peacock Lane in Cork) by the relevant local authority, Cork Corporation, commencing 2 years after the closure of the Laundry, under section 10 of the Housing Act 1988. This section, insofar as relevant, provides that a housing authority may “make arrangements, including financial arrangements, with a body approved of by the Minister for the purposes of section 5 for the provision by that body of accommodation for a homeless person”.

137. A letter from the Cork Corporation to the Convent stated:

¹⁴⁰ Letter dated 5 July 1996 from Cork Corporation, enclosing Circular N9/96

¹⁴¹ Letter dated 17 August 1996 from Peacock Lane to Cork Corporation, Archive of the Religious Sisters of Charity

“Cork Corporation has included a sum to cover payment of £2.50 per bed night for persons deemed to be homeless in St Vincent’s Centre in the draft estimates for 1993. If approved, claims can be made either on a monthly or quarterly basis on the enclosed claim forms. I will contact you again when the Estimates for 1993 are approved in December”.¹⁴²

138. In July of that year, a Cork Corporation circular letter to “each sheltered housing complex”, including Peacock Lane, set out clearly the criteria which applied (and which, by definition Peacock Lane was at that point considered to meet):

“Under the terms of the Voluntary Housing Scheme loans / grants are sanctioned to approved bodies such as yours on the condition that 75% of the units of accommodation provided will continue to be rented to:

1. Elderly persons eligible for local authority housing, or
2. Homeless persons, or
3. Handicapped persons, persons who are victims of family violence, of desertion, single parents and persons who are on Local Authorities Housing Waiting Lists.

Each Local Authority is asked to ensure that these conditions are complied with. I would appreciate if you would submit details of the residents currently occupying units in your complex. I require the name and income in each case”.¹⁴³

139. The Religious Sisters of Charity responded by letter including “as requested details of the residents currently occupying units in this Centre” (50 women, one of whom was identified as having private income, 19 of whom were in

¹⁴² Letter dated 2 September 1992 from Cork Corporation (Housing / Architects Department) to St Vincent’s Centre, St Mary’s Road, Cork, Archive of the Religious Sisters of Charity

¹⁴³ Letter dated 2 July 1992 from Cork Corporation (Housing/ Architects Department) to “Each Sheltered Housing Complex”, copy as sent to St Vincent’s Centre, St Mary’s Road, Cork

receipt of the Old Age Pension, and 30 of whom were in receipt of the Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance).¹⁴⁴

140. The following year, 1993, the same circular letter was again issued to all recipients of these grants, including Peacock Lane.¹⁴⁵ The Congregation again responded and provided all requested details (18 women living in receipt of Old Age Pension; and 29 women in receipt of the Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance).¹⁴⁶

141. Payments under the section continued for the following two years, 1994 and 1995. Letters from Cork Corporation to Peacock Lane provide information on the increase of rates from time to time (to £4.00 per night in 1994¹⁴⁷ and to £5.00 per night in 1995¹⁴⁸).

B. Records of the Religious Congregations

142. The financial records of the Religious Congregations were also examined by the Committee to identify any records of grants, or payments received from the State or State agencies. An advantage of these records was that in some cases, they extend back to earlier years for which official financial records no longer exist. All the records in question were voluntarily shared with the Committee by the Religious Congregations.

¹⁴⁴ Letter dated 27 July 1992 from St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork to Cork Corporation (Housing / Architects Department)

¹⁴⁵ Letter dated 11 August 1993 from Cork Corporation (Housing/ Architects Department) to "Each Sheltered Housing Complex", copy as sent to St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork

¹⁴⁶ Letter dated 13 August 1993 from St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork to Cork Corporation (Housing / Architects Department)

¹⁴⁷ Letter dated 11 January 1994 from Cork Corporation (Housing Section) to St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork

¹⁴⁸ Letter dated 7 February 1995 from Cork Corporation (Housing / Architects Department) to St Vincent's Centre, St Mary's Road, Cork

143. In some cases, the legislative basis of the payment is recorded in these records, along with its source. However in many cases only the source of the payment and amount is recorded. In those cases it is accordingly not possible to be definitive about the basis of funding. However, the vast majority of the payments, the source of which can be identified, would appear to be made either by way of public assistance payments or grants under the Health Acts.

144. The case of Limerick can first be considered. A single hard-backed accounts book records income and expenditure for all activities of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Limerick (Convent, Magdalen Laundry, Industrial School and Reformatory School) from December 1920 to 1992. The ledger has pre-printed headings for all substantive columns on both the receipts and expenditure pages divided between the four institutions listed above. The terminology on the pre-printed headings is as follows:

Convent; Penitents; St Josephs; St Georges; Total.

The 'Penitents' column was re-named as "St Mary's" from 1975 onwards.

145. The following extracts were compiled by the Committee from the 'Penitents' column of the Receipts pages of that ledger, that is, from the column for payments to the Magdalen Laundry. As can be seen in the table below, the ledger includes detail of payments by Ennis Board of Health consistently to the Magdalen Laundry from 1928 to 1947. In light of the small amount of the payments, as well as their source, it is likely that these payments were made on a Public Assistance basis and in relation to women referred from the operational areas of the Council to the Magdalen Laundry operated by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Limerick.

Year	Good Shepherd, Limerick, accounts book Description of source of funds ascribed in relation to 'penitents'	£	s.	d.
1928	Ennis Board of Health	38	1	3
1929	Ennis Board Health	23	19	0
1930	Ennis Board of Health	53	2	0
1931	Ennis Board Health	18	4	0
1932	Ennis Board Health	18	6	0
1933	Ennis Board Health	36	10	0
1934	Ennis Board Health	42	8	0
1935	Ennis Board Health	27	8	0
1936	Ennis & voluntary	45	0	0
1937	Ennis & Voluntary	74	9	0
1938	Ennis & Voluntary	76	15	0
1939	Ennis Co. Home	32	2	0
1940	Ennis Co. Co.	18	6	0
1941	Ennis B. Health	18	6	0
1942	Ennis Board of Health	18	5	0
1943	Ennis Board of Health	18	5	0
1944	Ennis Board Health	18	6	0
1945	Ennis B. of Health	18	6	0
1946	Ennis B. of Health	18	5	0
1947	Ennis Board of H.	18	5	0

146. The same ledger also contains information on payments from what was described by the Sisters as the "Limerick Health Authority" from 1970; as well as the Mid-Western Health Board. Full details are set out in the following table.

--	--	--

Year	Good Shepherd, Limerick, accounts book Description of source of funds ascribed in relation to 'penitents'	£
1970	Limerick Health Authority	250.00
1971	Limerick Health Authority	1,500.00
1972	Limerick Health Grant	1,375.00
1973	Limerick Health Grant	1,500.00
1974	Limerick Health Grant	1,500.00
1976	MWHB Limerick grant	4,500.00
1977	Limerick Health Grant	4,000.00
1978	Limerick Health Grant	4,300.00
1979	Limerick Health Grant	4,500.00
1980	Limerick Health Grant	10,000.00
1981	Limerick Health Grant	10,000.00
1982	Limerick Health Grant	11,000.00
1983	Limerick Health Board Grant	12,000.00
1985	Health Boards	12,000.00

147. The financial records of the Order of Our Lady of Charity were also reviewed.¹⁴⁹ In relation to High Park, payments were identified from six County Councils, as follows:

- Monaghan County Council;
- Wexford County Council;
- Meath County Council;
- Louth County Council;
- Wicklow County Council; and
- Laois County Council.

¹⁴⁹ High Park ledger reference OLC1/09/3-114.

148. In light of the amounts of the payments, as well as in some cases the descriptions recorded in the ledger, it is likely that these payments were made in relation to women referred to the Magdalen Laundry from the operational areas of the relevant County Councils. In all cases, the terminology used in the following table reflects the language of the original ledger entries.

Date	High Park accounts ledger Extracts from 'cash received'	Payment by	£	s	d
1954					
May	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan County Council	45	10	0
1955					
May	Maintenance Penitents	Wexford, Meath or Monaghan County Council ¹⁵⁰	82	5	0
June	Maintenance Penitents (6/9/54-30/5/55)	Dundalk, Louth County Council	19	0	0
October	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan County Council	37	0	0
December	Maintenance Penitents for half year	Dundalk County Council	13	0	0
1956					
June	Maintenance Penitent	Louth County Council	13	0	0
1957					
February	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan County Council	93	10	0
June	Maintenance Penitents	Louth, Meath or Dublin County Council*	13	0	0

¹⁵⁰ Multiple entries appear on same ledger line –all 3 of these County Councils named on the relevant ledger line

Date	High Park accounts ledger Extracts from 'cash received'	Payment by	£	s	d
December	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan or Louth County Council ¹⁵¹	13	0	0
December	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan or Louth County Council ¹⁵²	78	0	0
1958					
July	Maintenance Penitents for half year	Louth County Council	13	0	0
1959					
February	Maintenance Penitents year ending 30/9/1958	Monaghan County Council	78	0	0
June	Maintenance Penitent	Laois or Louth County Council ¹⁵³	13	0	0
October	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan County Council	58	0	0
December	Maintenance 2 Penitents	Wicklow County Council	29	10	0
1960					
July	Maintenance Penitents	Louth County Council	13	0	0
July	Maintenance 2 Penitents half year	Wicklow County Council	26	0	0
December	Maintenance 2 Penitents one year	Laois or Monaghan County Council	52	0	0
1961					

¹⁵¹ Multiple entries appear on same ledger line –all 3 of these County Councils named on the relevant ledger line

¹⁵² Multiple entries appear on same ledger line –all 3 of these County Councils named on the relevant ledger line

¹⁵³ Multiple entries appear on same ledger line –all 3 of these County Councils named on the relevant ledger line

Date	High Park accounts ledger Extracts from 'cash received'	Payment by	£	s	d
July	Maintenance 2 Penitents half year to 1/5/61	Wicklow County Council	52	0	0
July	Maintenance 1 penitent half year to 1/5/61	Louth County Council	26	0	0
October	Maintenance 2 penitents	Monaghan County Council	52	0	0
1962					
September	Maintenance Penitent	Louth County Council	26	0	0
October	Maintenance 2 Penitents	Wicklow County Council	52	0	0
November	Maintenance Penitents	Monaghan County Council	40	10	0
1963					
July	Maintenance 2 Penitents	Wicklow County Council	52	0	0
July	Maintenance Penitent	Louth County Council	26	0	0
November	Maintenance Penitent	Monaghan County Council	26	0	0
1964					
July	Maintenance Penitent	Dundalk County Council	26	0	0
July	Maintenance Penitents	Wicklow County Council	52	0	0
November	Maintenance Penitent	Monaghan County Council	26	0	0
1965					
June	Maintenance Penitent	Louth County Council	26	0	0
July	Maintenance Penitents	Wicklow County Council	61	5	0
December	Maintenance Inmate	Monaghan County Council	26	0	0
1966					
June	Maintenance Penitent	Louth County Council	26	0	0
September	Maintenance Penitents	Wicklow County Council	58	5	0
November	Maintenance Penitent	Monaghan County Council	26	0	0
1967					

Date	High Park accounts ledger Extracts from 'cash received'	Payment by	£	s	d
June	Maintenance Penitents	Wicklow County Council	66	5	8
July	Maintenance Penitent	Monaghan County Council	26	0	0
1968					
July	Maintenance 3 Penitents	Wicklow County Council	117	0	0
October	Maintenance Penitent	Monaghan County Council	39	0	0
1969					
July	Maintenance 3 Penitents	Wicklow County Council	117	0	0
October	Maintenance Penitent	Monaghan County Council	39	0	0
1970					
August	Maintenance 3 Girls	Wicklow County Council	156	0	0
1971					
July	Maintenance 3 Girls	Wicklow County Council	156	0	0

149. The same ledger also records, in August 1973, payment by the Eastern Health Board for “Maintenance 3 girls” in the amount of £ 803.57.

150. Financial records of the same Order for Sean MacDermott Street (formerly Gloucester Street) were also examined by the Committee.¹⁵⁴

151. Payments identified in that ledger as being from the State were extracted and are presented in the table below. In all cases, the terminology used reflects the language of the original entries.

¹⁵⁴ Sean MacDermott Street ledger reference OLC2/9/3-64

Date	Sean McDermott Street, accounts ledger Extracts from "cash" and "cash accounts" pages	£	S	D
1968				
March	Dublin Health Authority, 1 James's St Grant (Dec 67 – February 68)	625	0	0
November	Grant from the Dublin Health Authorities for board of 3 girls:			
	[named person]	89	14	0
	[named person]	43	6	8
	[named person]	86	13	4
December	Maintenance for [named person] from Meath County Council (Due on June 30th)	41	12	0
December	Maintenance for 3 + 1 girls from 4/11-31/12	95	10	0
December	Maintenance of Girls	137	2	0
1969				
February	Maintenance from Courts of Justice for [named person] (gave £25)	33	5	0
February	Maintenance from Courts of Justice for [named person] (gave £5)	10	19	0
February	Returns Maintenance (Part of payment)	16	0	0
March	Per courts of justice received 14 March '69	91	0	0
March	Maintenance (part for St Anne's Girls)	25	0	0
April	Maintenance (Part for girls at St Anne's)	50	0	0
May	Maintenance towards meat for St Anne's	15	6	6
May	Return from Girls Maintenance	58	0	0
June	Maintenance from the Department of Justice for Girls on remand and probation Jan '68 to April '69	545	1	7
June	Returns from Maintenance for Hostel girls	73	0	0
July	Maintenance for Girls St Anne's	43	0	0
August	Maintenance from Girls in St Anne's	50	0	0
September	Maintenance for Girls in St Anne's	75	0	0

Date	Sean McDermott Street, accounts ledger Extracts from “cash” and “cash accounts” pages	£	S	D
October	Maintenance for Girls in St Anne’s	53	0	0
November	Maintenance for Girls St Anne’s	53	0	0
December	Maintenance for Girls St Anne’s	63	0	0
1970				
January	Returns Maintenance for Girls	78	10	0
February	Maintenance back money Dublin Health Authority for [named person]	100	0	0
February	Maintenance Girls in St Anne’s	42	0	0
March	Returns Maintenance from Girls	27	0	0
April	Kerry Co Council payment for single roller cylinder	400	0	0
April	Maintenance for 1 girl	18	0	0
May	Maintenance Girls	14	10	0
1973				
June	Maintenance [named person] 1 week	5	0	0
June	Maintenance from Hostel	50	0	0
August	Maintenance from girls in Hostel	50	0	0
November	Maintenance money from Hostel	60	0	0

152. The financial records of the Religious Sisters of Charity were also examined. A ledger relating to the Magdalen Laundry at Peacock Lane, Cork (“Institution Residence Receipts”) includes information from 1974 to 1996. In this context, “institution” refers to the residence in which the women who worked in the Laundry lived.

153. Although the ledger covers the period from 1974 onwards, there is one entry in the 1974 summary which is stated to be ‘for 1973’. As the Laundry closed in 1991, information from 1992 onwards is not included in the following table which extracts State payments recorded in the original. The

terminology contained in the following table reflects the language of the original entries.

Date	Peacock Lane, "Institution Residence Receipts" Detail	£	P
1974			
18 January	Southern Health Board (For 1973)	1200	00
7 June	Southern Health Board	300	00
September	Southern Health B.	350	00
November	Southern Health B.	550	00
1975			
21 March	Southern Health Board	500	00
3 June	Southern Health	500	00
11 August	Southern Health Board	500	00
21 November	Southern Health Board	500	00
1976			
22 March	Southern Health Board	500	00
13 May	Southern Health Board	600	00
September	Southern Health B.	600	00
16 November	Southern Health Board	500	00
1977			
29 March	Southern Health	625	00
10 June	Southern Health Board	625	00
19 August	Southern Health	625	00
17 November	Southern Health Board	625	00
1978			
23 February	Southern Health Board	650	00

Date	Peacock Lane, "Institution Residence Receipts" Detail	£	P
19 May	Southern Health Board	665	00
24 August	Southern Health Board	655	00
2 December	Southern Health Board	655	00
1979			
April	Southern Health Board	655	00
17 July	Southern Health Board	740	00
29 August	S.H.B.	780	00
8 November	Southern Health Board	725	00
1980			
14 February	S.H.B.	750	00
5 June	Southern Health Board	750	00
11 August	S.H.B.	750	00
13 November	S.H.Board	750	00
1981			
18 February	S.H.Board	750	00
7 May	S.H.B.	750	00
13 August	S.H.B.	750	00
19 November	S.H.B.	750	00
1982			
20 May	Southern Health Board	1500	00
2 September	S.H.B.	750	00
28 November	S.H.B.	750	00
1983			
10 March	S.H.B.	750	00
30 May	S.H.B.	750	00

Date	Peacock Lane, "Institution Residence Receipts" Detail	£	P
15 September	S.H.B.	750	00
15 December	S.H.B.	750	00
1984			
19 April	S.H.B.	750	00
12 June	S.H.B.	750	00
11 August	S.H.B.	750	00
31 December	S.H.B.	750	00
1985			
1 June	Southern Health Board	175	00
25 July	S.H.B.	750	00
29 August	S.H.B.	750	00
20 September	S.H.B. (Grant)	750	00
1986			
17 January	S.H.B.	750	00
8 April	S.H.B. and Maintenance	762	50
22 August	S.H.B.	762	50
3 November	S.H.B.	762	50
1987			
26 January	S.H.B.	762	50
14 July	SHB ¹⁵⁵	762	50
28 July	S.H.B.	762	50
12 August	S.H.B.	762	50
December	S.H.B.	762	50
1988			

¹⁵⁵ Amount is recorded under column for S.H.B., although narrative detail reads 'Trustee'

Date	Peacock Lane, "Institution Residence Receipts" Detail	£	P
22 February	S.H.B.	762	50
June	SHB ¹⁵⁶	762	50
11 July	SHB ¹⁵⁷	900	00
October	SHB	762	00
November	S.H.B.	762	50
1989			
March	SHB	762	50
12 July	SHB	762	50
29 September	SHB	762	50
December	SHB	762	50
1990			
16 July	SHB Grant	762	50
3 October	SHB	762	50
18 December	SHB	762	50
1991			
20 February	SHB	762	50
20 May	SHB	762	50
10 July	SHB ¹⁵⁸	762	50
19 September	Southern Health Board	762	50

¹⁵⁶ Amount is recorded under column for S.H.B., although narrative detail reads 'Social Welfare'

¹⁵⁷ Amount is recorded under column for S.H.B., although narrative detail reads 'Maintenance'. This is a narrative which appears throughout the text for a different column- it could be expected this is therefore simply an incorrect reference in this case

¹⁵⁸ Amount is recorded under column for S.H.B., although narrative detail reads 'Maintenance'

154. The same ledger also records grants to Peacock Lane from Fás and the so-called Activation Programme of Cork Corporation, from 1993 to 1996. These grants, which were made after closure of the Magdalen Laundry, are understood by the Committee to relate to work placements there for persons who were resident outside the institution. These are accordingly not included in the scope of this Report.
155. Although accounts are available for the Magdalen Laundry operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Galway (as set out in more detail in Part IV, Chapter 20), they do not include details of any funding by the State to the institution.