

# **Public Health Services Pre- 1960 Limerick City Council**

**L/AH/PH/1**

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## **Introduction**

This collection relates to the public health services provided by Limerick Corporation from 1910 until the establishment of Limerick Board of Health 1960.

The role of Local Authorities in the provision of health services was inherited from the predecessor body the Limerick Union Board of Guardians. The guardians operated under two codes. Firstly, the poor law that regulated the hospitals and dispensaries, and secondly the Public Health Acts that governed sanitary and curative health services. Between 1898 and 1925 the functions of the Limerick Union Board of Guardians were handed over to Limerick Corporation.

Firstly, under the 1898 Local Government Act, the right to collect poor rates was transferred from the Board of Guardians to the borough and County Council (See Collection List L/FR/PR). In addition a new local authority called the Limerick District Mental Hospital Committee was also created (see P33). Both Limerick Corporation and Limerick County Council contributed the finances to pay for its operations, and its membership consisted of members of both local authorities.

An amalgamation scheme to abolish workhouses and replace them with a county home and county hospital in each administrative county had been recommended by the Viceregal Commission of Enquiry (which reported in 1903) and a Royal Commission on the Poor Law (which reported in 1909). This was carried through in 1922 when all the Boards of Guardians in Limerick County were abolished and the county hospital was established in Croom and the county home at Newcastle West for the old and infirm of Limerick County. The Limerick Union Board of Guardians was also abolished and the rural parts of the old Limerick union situated in Limerick and Clare, were amalgamated into their respective counties. The urban part was put under the jurisdiction of the Borough Council. The workhouse on the Shelbourne Road became the City Home and Hospital. As Limerick Corporation had lost the rate income provided by the rural districts of the former poor law union; there was considerable financial pressure in administering the Poor Law and health services from the urban area poor rate alone.

Under the 1925 Local Government Act, the management of the City Home and Hospital, home assistance scheme and other health services for the Limerick county Borough, was transferred to a Board of Health and Public Assistance for Limerick City. This board was to consist of ten members from Limerick Corporation and though it were appointed and financed by the county borough, it was to be independent from the local authority itself.

In 1929, the Board was dissolved and replaced by a commissioner. The commissioner resigned in 1931, due to disputes with the Borough Council over administration and financing of the home assistance scheme and other issues. The Board of Health again took office.

Between 1932 and 1933, the numbers of unemployed in Limerick city receiving financial aid known as home assistance increased significantly. This precipitated a

financial crisis in the Limerick county borough Board of Health and Public Assistance, which threatened the financial stability of the parent local authority, Limerick Corporation. This led to the McLysaght Enquiry, and ultimately led to the 1934 Management Act.

Under the 1934 Management Act, the Limerick County Borough Board of Health was abolished and its properties and functions transferred to the Corporation. The Tuberculosis Committee set up under the Acts of 1908 and 1913 was similarly subsumed. This was the first time that the health services were integrated with the municipal authority in Limerick.

The health services provided by Limerick Corporation and its' predecessor bodies were driven by legislative requirements found under the public health acts. They included services relating to the care and treatment of the sick and include functions such as maintenance of hospitals and other health institutions, prevention and control of infectious diseases, safeguarding the health of mothers and children, prevention of danger from food and control of sale of medical and toilet preparations.

The health provisions in the Public Health Acts and other statutes were brought together, modernised and incorporated in the Health Act, 1947. This health act also stipulated that 50% of expenditure on health be provided by central government in the form of grants to local bodies. Administration of the public health acts, which had related specifically to sanitation services, became part of the Local Government (Sanitary Services)

The Health Act of 1953 transferred the county and district hospital and dispensaries to the health authorities and detached from the public assistance scheme the treatment of the sick. In 1960, the Limerick Health Authority was established to administer the health services of both city and county, and all of the functions of the Limerick Mental Hospital Board, which was abolished. Thus the health system for Limerick City was no longer absorbed by the Corporation.

The collection is arranged into six main sections.

Section A consists of the annual reports, dating 1912-1938, on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the City of Limerick, submitted by the medical superintendent officer of health (MSOH). The MSOH was responsible for the "effective administration of the sanitary laws", for promoting the public health of the people, and after 1925 for advising both the Board of Health and the Council on all health matters. Individuals who held the position of MSOH include Michael S. McGrath (1912-1929), T.W. Moran (1931-1933; 1935), H. G Roche-Kelly (1934), and James McPolin (1935). The annual reports are very useful sources for researchers wishing to get an overview of sanitary conditions and of health services in Limerick city as they include summary report of all activities and statistics regarding infectious diseases, numbers of patients treated under various schemes, and number of lodging houses, bakehouses, and slaughterhouses inspected, (L/AH/ PH/1/1-38)

Section B relates to the management of Limerick City Health services prior to 1934. It includes correspondence and reports received by the Public Health Committee, dating 1910-1911 (L/AH/PH/1/2). (See also L/SMIN/ 8/2-10, Public Health Committee Minute Books

1885-1930). This section also includes the outgoing letter book of the Commissioner of Public Health for Limerick City (L/AH/PH/1/3) and volumes containing correspondence and sanctions received from the Department of Local Government and Public Health during the period 1923-1930 (L/AH/PH/1/4/1-6).

Section C relates to Limerick City Home and Hospital, on Shelborne road (now St. Camillus Hospital). When the work house was first taken over by the Limerick County Borough Council Board of Health and Public Assistance it was in a state of dilapidation, and lacked proper sanitary arrangements. By the time of McIlysaght Report in 1932, little had been done to improve these conditions. This collection only includes small number of records relating to the Institution. These include a management committee book (1923-1930), book of tenders relating to purchases (1935-1938), and files relating to the construction of a laundry in the City Home and Hospital (1950). These records can be used to research conditions within the home and hospital, and the medical supplies, drugs, and food, which were purchased for patients. This section also includes some information relating to staffing of the Home and Hospital. However for additional information regarding staff that assisted in the provision and administration of Health services, see the collection **L/FR/HR Human Resources, Limerick City Council**

Section D relates to the various public health schemes administered by the Limerick county borough Board of Public Health and Assistance and Limerick Corporation between 1910 and 1970. These schemes were generally required under Public Health acts, and had to be approved by the Department of Local Government and Public Health.

One of the most significant health schemes in operation throughout Ireland in the first half of the century was Tuberculosis Scheme. In the early 1900's tuberculosis claimed the lives of 11,500 per year in Ireland making in the most common cause of death among Irish people, and accounting for nearly twice as many deaths as all other infectious diseases combined. The preventative and treatment services operated by Local Authorities and by Boards of Health and Public Assistance had emanated from the Tuberculosis Prevention Act of 1908. However the stresses of World War II period highlighted nationally the inadequacies of the existing schemes and steps were taken to remedy deficiencies both in sanatoria beds and equipment in the field services. This led to the Tuberculosis (Establishment of Sanatoria) Act, 1945. L/AH/PH/1/9/1-8 relates mainly to the reorganisation of the Limerick Tuberculosis scheme in 1940's. It includes files relating to topics such as the role of the Irish Red Cross and the Limerick Regional Committee for the Rehabilitation of Tuberculosis, health services and financial assistance available to TB sufferers in Limerick and their dependents, the establishment of a mass radiography unit in Limerick, and efforts of the MSOH to raise awareness and educate the general public of Limerick on the dangerous of tuberculosis.

L/AH/PH/1/10-11 consists of files relating to schemes to prevent and treat venereal diseases and the operation of a diphtheria immunisation scheme in the county borough of Limerick.

L/AH/PH/1/12/1-2 relates to the public health scheme to provide school meals to children. School meals provided by public authorities had their origin in Education

(Provision of Meals) Acts, 1914 to 1917 which authorized borough and urban district council to make provision of meals for children attending national schools in their district. In 1930 similar power was given to town commissioners. If any school children in the area of these authorities was unable by reason of lack of food to take full advantage of the education provided for them, and there are no other funds available to defray the costs, the local authority can be authorized by the central authority to expend from the rates an amount that will meet the cost of food. Half of the actual expenditure on food was recouped out of a state grant. Meals generally consisted of milk/coca and bread and butter

L/AH/ PH/1/13 relates to the maternity and child welfare scheme in the 1940's in county borough of Limerick. Since 1915 local authorities have had the power to attend to the health of expectant mothers and children. In addition to medical supervision and advice, food and medicines were also supplied. Additionally parents who were in receipt of home assistance or who could not afford to purchase an adequate supply of milk for children under five were supplied with milk free of charge.

L/AH/PH/1/14 relates to the provision of Home Assistance.

L/AP/PH/1/15 The law relating to safeguarding food supply was contained in the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts 1875-1936, the Milk and Daries Act 1935, and the Slaughter of Animals Act 1935, Part V of the Health Act 1947, and the Health of Act of 1953, and the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1950 and 1952. The legislation was designed to ensure so far as possible that the public was not deceived by adulteration and fraud and that the public health is not injured by food and drink that is contaminated or otherwise unfit for use. The enforcement of these provisions was mainly in the hands of the health inspectors. Inspectors of the local authority took samples and submitted them to the public analyst appointed by the local authority. If the report was unfavourable than the Inspector could prosecute the perpetrator.

Section D relates to other medical institutions in Limerick City, which were private institutions, and outside the direct control of Limerick Corporation but did receive financial support from the Corporation. These files includes correspondence and annual reports received front Barrington's Hospital, St. John's Hospital, the Maternity Hospital in Bedford Row and the County Infirmary on Mulgrave Street. **See also P5 Bedford Lying-In Maternity Hospital and L/FM Financial Management Pre-1934.** This section also included annual reports received from the Limerick District Mental Hospital. This independent authority was funded by both Limerick Corporation and Limerick County Council. It was abolished under the Health Act 1960. **See P33 Limerick District Mental Hospital.**

Section F relates to attempts to reorganise Health services in Limerick City and County between 1930's and 1950's. It is useful for researchers examining the role of Limerick City Council, Limerick County Council, and the Department of Local Government and Public Health (afterwards Department of Health) in bringing about the 1960 Health Act

This collection very useful to researchers of health and social services provided in Ireland in early to mid twentieth century, specific medial institutions in Limerick City,

L/AH/PH/

background to modern health service, and biography of individuals such as McPolin, whose letters, reports, and opinions are laced through out the collection.

Researchers should be aware that Limerick Archives holds a large number of related collections.

P5 Bedford Row Lying In Hospital

P33 Limerick District Mental Hospital

L/CS City Surveyors Officer

LK/AH/PH Board of Health and Public Assistance for County Limerick.

BG/100Board of Guardians, Limerick Union

L/SMIN Special Collection Minute Books

L/FM Financial Management Pre-1934

L/HG Housing

**A.     Medical Superintendent Officer of Health**  
**Annual Reports 1912-1938**

Printed Annual Reports on the health and sanitary condition of the City of Limerick, submitted by the medical superintendent officer of health. Reports include list of members of the public health committee, and of officers of the public health committee; vital statistics relating to population of Limerick; statistics on infectious diseases such as scarlatina, enteric fever, diphtheria, and consumption; report of the Sanatorium Benefits under the Insurance Act which include a tuberculosis dispensary, domiciliary treatment and provision of beds in a Sanatorium, report on disinfection of streets and houses; statistics on sanitary work carried out; reports on housing of the working classes; reports on meals for school children, water supply, baths and wash houses, public conveniences, bakehouses, slaughter houses, offensive trades, common lodging houses, ambulance calls, orders under the Tuberculosis (Ireland) Order 1913, and weather statistics . Individuals who held the position of Medical Superintendent Officer of Health include Michael S. McGrath (1912-1929), T.W. Moran (1931-1933; 1935), H. G Roche-Kelly (1934), and James McPolin (1935)

1/[1-9]		
1/10	1912	17 pp
1/11	1913	19 pp
1/12	1914	18 pp
1/13	1915	18 pp
1/[14-22]		
1/23	1925	15 pp.
1/24	1926	16 pp
1/[25-26]		
1/27	1929	26 pp
	Includes report on Limerick Water Supply prepared by Professor Pierce F. Purcell, M. Inst. C. E.	
1/[28]		
1/29	1931	8 pp
1/30	1932	18 pp
1/31	1933	25 pp
1/32	1934	13 pp
1/33	1935	17 pp.
1/[34-35]		
1/36	1938	37 pp
	Includes annual report of Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Officer	



**B.     Management of County Borough Health Services Pre 1934**

**(i) Public Health Committee (1910-1911)**

See L/SMIN/8/1-10

2/1                    12 January 1910-29 December 1911                    File of letters and reports submitted to the Public Health Committee, arranged by date at which matter was discussed at Committee meeting (See L/SMIN 8/1-10). Includes reports from the Medical Superintendent Officer of Health regarding number of infectious disease cases in Limerick; includes reports from Sanitary Inspectors regarding inspection of various Common Lodging Houses, inspection of suppliers of food produce and inspection of Theatre Royal and National Theatre; includes letters from individuals regarding notices served upon them to provide sanitary facilities in their property; includes reports and letters of complaints submitted by individuals and groups regarding public health matters or sanitary conditions; includes Medical Officer Returns for Half Year. Includes letters with comments such as 'I beg to draw your attention to the unhealthy, unwholesome and unsanitary conditions of the Marine Store held by a man named Cropman (letter from Andrew Lee, 9 March 1911); Includes comments in reports such as 'The inspectors beg to report that we visited at intervals the following registered Common Lodging Houses ...during the month of November. We found them clean and well kept (28 November 1911) and 'I am pleased to report that Scarlatina has not been so prevalent in the city for the past two weeks.' (Report of M.S McGrath, M.S.O.H, 23 August 1911).

c. 300 pp

2/2                    1910-1913                    File of plans and drawings which were submitted to the Public Health Committee for approval. Includes plans for alterations to number 25 Roches street (1910); plans submitted by Margaret Hogan for new house at Castle View Gardens, North Strand (1912); plans submitted by Anne O' Mara for new house at number 25 Mungret street (1912); plans submitted by Mr. Thomas Meany to convert upper part of coal stores, James street into three dwellings (1912); plans submitted by Patrick Doyle for new cottages to be built at John Street (1912); drawing submitted by George V. Fogarty with design for portico for the Theatre Royal (1912); plan of new house at High Road, Thomond Gate (1912); Plan of proposed alterations and additions to new cinematography theatre, 69 O'Connell street (1912); plan of proposed new chimney shaft for Shannon Laundry, Limerick (1912); Plan of alterations to the Royal George Hotel, Limerick (1913).

c. 15 pp.

**(ii) Commissioner of Public Health (1930)**

3	1 January 1930-30 June 1930	Outgoing letter book consisting of copies of letters sent by the secretary to the Commissioner administrating the affairs of the Limerick County Borough Board of Health to correspondents such as Department of Local Government and Public Health, William M. Nolan (town clerk, Limerick Corporation), Resident Medical Officer of City Home and Hospital, Assistance Officer (City Dispensary, Limerick County Borough Board of Health, School Medical Officer (Limerick County Borough Board of Health), Tuberculosis Officer County (Limerick County Borough Board of Health) , various officers of other medical institutions, and suppliers of medical equipment. Includes letters regarding annual estimates of expenditure for Limerick County Borough of Health, cost of reorganising City Home and Hospital, cost of repairs work to City Dispensary Building, treatment of tuberculosis in Limerick City, requisitions for medical supplies and employment of medical staff. Includes also letters regarding liability for maintenance and treatment of patients in City Home and Hospital which dependant on individuals case and financial status were sent to relatives of patient, Pension Officers, employers and National Health Insurance Committees, or the assistance officer (Limerick County Borough Board of Health).Includes letters regarding financial assistance for treatment or supplies such as glasses, and crutches which particular persons were entitled under various schemes including home assistance and boarded out children. Includes letters regarding the admittance of Limerick patients to medical institutions such as Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital.
		c. 200 items

**(iii) Sanctions for the Department of Local Government (1923-1932)**

See also L/AH/PH/1/5-8

Volumes consisting of sanctions and correspondence received from the Department of Local Government and Public Health by the City Home and Hospital Committee (1923-1925), Limerick County Borough Board of Health (1925-1929, 1931-1932), and by the Commissioner for Health (between 1929-1931). The sanctions relate to the administration of health services in Limerick City, and relate mainly to the City Home and Hospital, and to the administration of the city dispensaries. Topics include permission to employ various categories of staff and terms of staff employment, permission to purchase medicines and surgical supplies for the city home and hospital and city dispensaries, sanction to carry out building repairs and improvements to the City Home and Hospital; sanctions regarding patient care and statistics regarding patients and illnesses

5 volumes

4/1	27 January 1923-29 July 1927	c. 120 pp
	Includes plans and specifications for proposed Sanitary Annexe at City Home and Hospital	
[4/2]		
4/3	6 January 1928-21 December 1929	c. 160 pp
4/4	9 January 1929-3 December 1929	c. 160 pp
4/5	12 December 1929-22 December 1932	c. 160 pp
4/6	4 January 1932-31 December 1932	c. 160 pp

**C. Administration of the City Home and Hospital 1923-1970**

See also L/AH/PH/1/4/1-6

**(i) Committee of Management (1923-1924)**

5	24 July 1923-3 April 1924	Minute Book of the Committee of Management of Limerick City Home and Hospital. Topics discussed include management issues such as, staffing of home and hospital, annual expenditure, tenders received for supply of food, medicines, medical supplies and other services, reports from House steward and others regarding patients and conditions in the Home and Hospital, implementation of orders received from the Department of Local Government and Public Health and other matters. Members of the Committee included deputy mayor, city councillors and house steward and secretary. Includes also occasional reference to city dispensaries and public health schemes for Limerick City.
		c. 200 pp.

**(ii) Tender Books and Correspondence (1935-1939)**

Volumes consisting of tenders and estimates for various medical equipment, surgical equipment, food supplies, furniture, building repair and improvement work, coal, printing requirements, and other goods and services required by the City Home and Hospital. Estimates generally addressed to the Limerick City Manager, or the secretary of the Limerick City Home and Hospital. Includes also applications for position of stocktaker at the City Home and Hospital and completed General Forms of Tender whereby suppliers describes articles to be supplied, price per article, and quantities.

2 volumes

6/1	28 February 1935- 18 September 1936	c. 160 pp
6/2	22 September 1936- 9 March 1938	c. 160 pp

6/3	29 June 1938-13 December 1939	File consisting of letters received by various members of staff relating to treatment of patients and medical supplies for the City Home and Hospital. c. 15 items. <b>Restricted Access</b>
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### (iii) Laundry Construction (1950)

7	29 January 1950-26 September 1950	File relating to agreement between Limerick Corporation and C. Sheahan and Sons Limited (building contractors) to carry out the joinery work at new laundry, City Home. Includes drawing of details for new windows in the laundry, c. 15 items
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### (iv) Register of Persons entering and leaving hospital (1973-1974)

Registers recording the time officers and other persons entered, left and returned to the city home and hospital. Entries are arranged under columns titled 'date', 'name of Officer or other Person', 'Business', 'Time of Entering City Home and Hospital', 'Time of returning to City Home and Hospital', and 'Observations'. 'Business' generally refers to the occupation of the person with entries such as 'night staff', 'attendant', 'laundry' and 'sewing room'. 'Observations' occasionally refers to time off of the person such as '6 o'clock off Monday'

3 volumes

8/1	20 August 1973-27 November 1973	c. 160 pp
8/2	22 November 1973-1 March 1974	c. 160 pp
8/3	1 March 1974-12 June 1974	c. 160 pp

## D County Borough Health Schemes (1910-1970)

### (i) Tuberculosis Schemes 1910-1958

9/1	1909-1914	Circulars from the Local Government Board, Dublin enclosing copies of the Tuberculosis Prevention (Ireland) Act, Summary of Provisions of the Act, Order of the Board prescribing the forms and stages of Tuberculosis to which the Act shall apply, Regulations relating to the notification of Tuberculosis, Tuberculosis
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(Procedure of Committees) Order 1913 and 1914, Tuberculosis Accounts of Committees Order 1914.

9/2                      15 April 1941-26 September 1942                      10 pp  
File relating to provision of alternative accommodation for Public Health Staff located in the Authenaeum Buildings. Includes correspondence between City Manager and Department of Local Government and Public Health, and correspondence with Messrs G Spillanes and Co regarding rent of premises at William Street. Includes correspondence relating to recoupment of rent costs from the Department for premises used in connection with the School Medical Service, Tuberculosis Scheme, and School Meals Schemes.

27 pp.

9/3                      19 April 1943- 30 September 1943                      File relating to the reorganisation of the Limerick County Borough Tuberculosis Scheme. File consists of correspondence and reports between city manager, James McPolin (M.S.O.H), and Department of Health. Includes letter from McPolin to city manager commenting that 'Tuberlocosis scheme in its present state of organisation and methods is extremely unsatisfactory. It is not properly co-ordinated and it violates every principal of medical practice in relation to the family right to privacy' (19 April 1943). Includes drafts of reorganisation of scheme prepared by McPolin and an alternate scheme prepared by the city manger (10 June 1943). Includes also copy of reply sent to the Irish Red Cross following their enquiry regarding tuberculosis services in Limerick city (13 May 1943). Includes details of expenditure on the treatment of tuberculosis for half year ended 30 September 1943.  
c. 25 pp.

9/4                      1 July 1946-30 December 1947                      File relating to the provision of tuberculosis services in Limerick city.  
Includes correspondence between Department of Local Government and Public Health, the City Manager, Dr. J. Mc Polin (Medical Superintendent Officer of Health) and Dr. M. Hanrahan (tuberculosis officer, Public Health, Limerick Corporation. Topics discussed include medical equipment needed for tuberculosis service at City Home and City Sanatorium; arrangements for visiting thoracic surgeon; scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis in the county borough approved by Minister for Health and establishment of tuberculosis clinics at city home and hospital, and city dispensary, Gerald Griffin Street;  
c. 50 pp

9/5                      23 September 1948-9 May 1950                      File relating to provision of mass radiography unit

for Limerick City.

Includes correspondence, reports, quotations for medical equipment, and extracts from minutes of city council. Includes letters from Limerick county manager and medical officer regarding sharing of radiography unit facilities and thoracic surgeon; includes preliminary report on County Cork Mobile X-Ray unit.

c. 35 pp.

9/6

24 June 1948-17 December 1955

File consisting of  
correspondence between  
Limerick County

Borough and Department of Health relating to tuberculosis in Limerick City. Includes circulars from Department of Health, and reports submitted by the city medical officer to the Department. Includes letters relating to the approval of St. Raphael's Preventorium, Montenotte Cork for reception and treatment under the Limerick County Borough T. B Scheme of children suffering from T.B (1948); vacant beds in City Home and Hospital (December, 1949); publicising of facilities available under the tuberculosis services (1949-1950); rejection of proposal to purchase County Club in Foynes as Sanatorium (1948); Limerick County Council acquisition of Foynes Hostel for use as an institution for treatment of children with T.B under age of 16 (1950); diagnostic facilities available to medical practitioners (1949); allocation of tuberculosis block grant; occupational therapy work in city sanatorium by Irish Red Cross volunteers (1950) ; arrangements for the provision of treatment for tuberculosis for ex-members of the British forces; Includes Government White Paper on Tuberculosis.

c. 70 pp

9/7

9 March 1948-14 April 1953

File relating to  
maintenances and  
allowances

granted to Tuberculosis patients and their families. File includes correspondence between city manager, Dr. R. Hayes (medical officer), Department of Health, and patients or organisations or individuals representing their case. Includes applications for contributions towards maintenance and treatment in private institutions; applications for new clothes under TB scheme; TB allowance; Infectious Diseases Maintenance Allowance; application for transfer to other hospitals; application for free diagnostic facilities available under TB schemes for staff of Francis Spaight and Sons Limited.

c. 50 pp.

**Restricted Access**

9/8

29 January 1955-18 August 1958

File relating Limerick  
Regional Committee for  
Rehabilitation of

Tuberculosis and the use of corporation premises at 37 William street as

Rehabilitation Centre in Limerick. Includes correspondence between the Honorary Secretary of Committee and City Manager; includes Memorandum of Agreement between City Council and Committee for provision of premises; includes notice to quit by 1 July 1958.

c. 25 pp

## **(ii) Diphtheria Scheme (1922-1947)**

10

13 July 1922-7 June 1947

File relating to the  
implementation of the  
Diphtheria Immunisation

Scheme in Limerick City. File includes correspondence between Department of Local Government and Public Health, Medical Superintendent of Health, town clerk and others. Topics discussed include temporary appointment of nurses, attendants and Dr. J.C. Troy to facilitate the implementation of the scheme; statistics regarding the number of children treated in Limerick City; statistics regarding number of reported cases of Diphtheria; descriptions of the Scheme in Limerick as approved by the Department of Local Government and Public Health; use of St. John's hospital as a public health clinic.

c. 150 pp.

## **(iii) Venereal Disease (1934-1954)**

11/1

1934-1954

File relating to Scheme  
for Diagnosis and  
Treatment of Venereal

Diseases in County Borough of Limerick. Includes correspondence and agreements mainly between city medical officer, city manager, Department of Local Government and Public Health, and various medical institutions relating to treatment of patients from Limerick County Borough. Includes Agreements for Treatment of Patients Suffering from Venereal Disease between county borough of Limerick and Dr. Stevens Hospital (31 October 1934, 15 April 1946 and 1 October 1947); includes agreement with the Departments of Pathology, Bacteriology and Public Health, University College Dublin (25 September 1934 and 15 April 1946); includes draft agreement with the Hospital of St. Margaret of Cortona (1949) Includes circulars and letters from the Department of Local Government and Public Health discussing topics such as the gratuitous treatment of all seamen irrespective of nationality; establishment of Venereal Disease Clinic Skin Department of Limerick City Home and Hospital; and extension of the Venereal Disease Scheme.

c. 100 pp

11/2     31 March 1934- 27 September 1951     File relating to the  
recoupment of  
expenditure under the Scheme for Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases in  
county borough of Limerick under the Venereal Disease Act 1917. Includes  
correspondence mainly between City Manager and Department of Local Government  
and Public Health. Topics include approval of the Scheme by the Minister of Health  
and payment of annual Venereal Disease Grant to the County Borough of Limerick.  
Includes annual statements of expenditure under the scheme which notes expenditure  
on 'treatment centres', 'pathological laboratories', 'remuneration of Medical Officer',  
'medicine and drugs', 'clerical services' and 'any other expenditure'. Includes also  
various circulars from the Department, such as requests for returns of patients treated  
and details of charges for patients attending at the Treatment Centre, Dr. Steven's  
Hospital, Dublin.     c. 100 pp

**(iv) School Meals Scheme (1929-1942)**

12/1             1 March 1929-12 April 1929     Account book of Schools  
Meals Accounts  
consisting of bills for  
school meals supplied to St. John's Convent, St. Mary's Convent, Presentation  
Convent and St. Vincent de Paul's. The bills generally include references to the total  
number of meals supplied and the amount of money spent on milk, buns, and  
equipment. Accounts are certified as correct by the city surveyor.     c. 50 pp.

12/2             1941-1942     File relating to Schools  
Meals grants.  
**Closed for conservation,**     10 pp

**(v)     Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme**

13             18 February 1941-19 March 1949     File relating to the  
Maternity and Child  
Welfare Scheme  
administered by County Borough of Limerick. Includes correspondence between the  
city manager and Department of Local Government and Public Health. Topics;  
submission of statistical information in relation to operation of scheme; annual  
financial returns of Limerick Corporation of expenditure under the National Maternity  
and Child Welfare Grant; supply of food and medical supplies required for the Child  
Welfare Department from City Dispensary; memoranda issued by Department  
regarding the benefits of cod liver oil; drafting of revised Maternity and Child  
Welfare Scheme (1944); accounts of St Joseph's Nursing Society in Galway.     c. 70 pp



**(vi) Home Assistance Scheme (1948)**

- 14                      13 January 1948-6 December 1948                      File relating to Home Assistance recipients. Includes letters received by the Home Assistance Officer from mayor, city manager and other Corporation officials with representations on behalf of individuals and families outlining their impoverished positions and the reasons they are deserving of assistance; includes letters from the city manager to various individuals regarding their failure to support their wives and children and threatening to prosecute them under the Public Assistance and Children's Acts; includes circulars from the Department of Social Welfare regarding the administration of the scheme.

c. 60 pp

**Restricted Access**

**(vii) Food and Drugs Acts (1908-1950)**

- 15                      25 February 1908-31 January 1950                      File relating to the Registration of premises in Limerick as wholesale dealers in margarine and margarine cheese under the terms of Butter and Margarine Act 1907. File includes correspondence regarding wholesalers applications for registration between town clerk and city manger, various wholesalers, Public Health Committee of Limerick Corporation and the Department of Agriculture, (previously Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland). Includes also a copy of the 1907 Act and memoranda and circulars relating to terms of the act. Includes also plans of Messrs Pearson and Rutters premises, Mulgrave Street and Messrs W and C McDonnell's premises, Thomas Street.

75 pp.

- 16/1    30 July 1909- 20 June 1935                      File consisting of copies of Local Government Board General Orders, statutory rules and legislation relating to the regulation and inspection of fresh meat produces. Includes Sanitary (Veterinary Inspectors) Order 1909; the Public Health (Veterinary Inspection) Order 1929; Agriculture Produce (Fresh Meat) Bill 1929; Agriculture Produce (Fresh Meat) Act 1930; Disease of Animals (Disinfection) Order of 1931; Pigs and Bacon Act 1935

7 items

16/2                      9 September 1931- 15 April 1936                      File relating to inspection of meat prior to export to United States of America and to Holland. Includes correspondence between town clerk of Limerick, Department of Local Government and Public Health, J.J. Dundon, chief veterinary inspector for Limerick County Borough and Limerick meat exporters such as J.Matteson and Sons Limited, W.J Shaw and Sons and Messrs O'Mara's Limited. Topics discussed include appointment of Dundon as certifying officer, returns of carcasses examined and fees payable by exporters.

40 pp.

16/3                      22 July 1935-19 August 1935                      File relating to granting of curing and slaughtering licences under Pigs and Bacon Act 1935. Includes correspondence between the Department of Agriculture, J.J Dundon, and Limerick Corporation City Manager and Town Clerk.

6 pp.

16/4                      29 August 1931-20 January 1938                      General file relating to veterinary inspections of meat produce. Includes letter from O'Mara Limited complaining that their factory has been unfairly singled out by unfavourable comments at public meetings (29 August 1931); includes correspondence with Drogheda Corporation regarding the practices of the veterinary inspectors (1936); bye-laws made by Dundalk Urban Council regarding sale of meat for human consumption; includes letters from the Pigs Marketing Board regarding returns of condemnations in bacon factories in Limerick (1937-8).

13 pp.

**E.        Other Medical Institutions funded by Limerick County Borough**

**(i) Grants to Barrington's Hospital, Bedford Row, St. John's Hospital (1929-1956)**

17/1                      27 February 1929-18 August 1949                      File of correspondence between the city manager, Barrington's Hospital, Bedford Row Hospital and St. John's Hospitals relating to payment of annual Limerick Corporation grants to the hospitals, annual accounts of the hospitals, and the appointment of councillors and the city mayor to the Board of Governors or Managing Committee of the three hospitals to represent the City Council. Includes certificate of application for grant of St. John's Hospital stating number of patients relieved in previous year and Accounts of Income and Expenditure for said year

(1934-1948) and printed annual report for 1929, 1938, 1940, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1947 and 1948. Includes printed Annual Accounts of Bedford Row Hospital for 1927, 1928, 1943, 1947, 1948. Includes printed Annual Report for Barrington's Hospital and City of Limerick Infirmary (1944); Includes letter from Honorary Medical Secretary of Barrington's Hospital appealing for their annual grant to be 'substantially increased' (26 February 1943). Includes correspondence regarding appeal to the Electricity Supply Board to strike a reduced rate for charitable institutions (1947)  
c. 150 items

17/2                      15 July 1949-31 December 1957              File of correspondence between the city manager, Barrington's Hospital, Bedford Row Hospital and St. John's Hospitals relating to payment of annual Corporation Grants to the hospitals and to the appointment of councillors and the city mayor to the Board of Governors or Managing Committee of the three hospitals to represent the City Council. Includes also copies of manager's orders appointing councillors to the Boards. Includes correspondence regarding the delay in payment of St. John's Hospital and Barrington's Hospital due to the refusal of the Boards to pay rates on the hospital (1952). Includes certificate of application for grant of St. John's Hospital stating number of patients relieved in previous year and Accounts of Income and Expenditure for said year (1949-1950) and printed annual report for 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955-1957). Includes printed Annual Accounts of Bedford Row Hospital (1950, 1953, 1955 and 1956). Includes printed Annual Report for Barrington's Hospital and City of Limerick Infirmary (1957);  
c. 40 pp

17/3                      (1811-) 19 October 1932-21 March 1952              File relating to payment by Limerick Corporation of the rent of site of Barrington's Hospital. Includes copy of lease dated 21 September 1811 between John Meade Thomas and Limerick Corporation regarding premises then known as The New Guard House. This site was then demised to Barrington's Hospital by the Corporation who continued to pay rent on the site. Includes also extracts from the Act 11. Geo. IV. Cap entitled 'An act for the management and direction of the Hospital founded by Joseph Barrington and his sons in the city of Limerick (19 May 1930)  
c. 30 items

## **(ii) Limerick District Mental Hospital (1943-1944)**

Limerick District Mental Hospital Abstract of Accounts for various years ended 31 March. Abstract list of receipts such as 'paying patients' and 'sales of offal and old stores' and expenditure such as 'salaries and wages' and 'clothing and bedding'. Also included is details of apportionment of expenses to the county borough of Limerick

and to the County Council; statement of receipt and expenditure on capital moneys; statement of indebtedness on foot of loans; statement of capital debt; statement of balances at close of year; statement of cash assets and liabilities; and statement of average costs of the institution.

18/1	31 March 1943	9 pp
18/2	31 March 1944	9 pp

**F. Joint Committees with Limerick County Board of Health and Public Assistance (1936-1956)**

**(i) Limerick Hospitalisation Scheme (1936-1939)**

19/1	1 May 1936	Copies of report from the Hospitals Commission on the Hospital situation in Limerick city and county. The recommendations outlined in the report include the erection of a new general hospital to serve Limerick city and county and to be a Regional Hospital Centre for Clare, Tipperary and North Kerry.
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4 items

19/2	29 October 1937-23 August 1939	Copies of Minutes from the Hospitalization Scheme, Limerick City and County Joint Committee of Limerick Board of Health and Public Assistance and representatives of Limerick Corporation. Meetings held several times per annum. Includes also notices of meetings and meeting agenda's.
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c. 20 items

19/3	1936-1939	File relating to hospitalisation in Limerick Area and the establishment of Limerick Regional Hospital. Includes correspondence between the city manager, the Office of the Taoiseach, Department of Local Government and Public Health, Limerick County Council Manager, Medical Superintendent Officer of Health for Limerick City and Limerick County, Limerick County Board of Health and Public Assistance and others. Topics discussed include recommendations of the Hospital Commission for Limerick area; funding from Hospitals Trust Fund for proposed new Regional Hospital; site for hospital; proposed closure of voluntary hospitals, and submissions from parties such as Limerick Men's Benevolent and Social Association, New York (9 June 1939). Also included are submissions from parties such as Limerick Men's Benevolent and Social Association, New York (9 June 1939).
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c.40 items

**(ii) Joint Authority for Limerick City and County (1947-1950)**

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|------|---------------------------|--|
| 20/1 | June 1947                 | File relating to proposals by Limerick City Council to establish a joint public assistance authority for the county borough of Limerick, county of Limerick and county of Clare contiguous to the city of Limerick. Includes letter to the Minister for Health from M. O'Maicin (city manager) regarding the development of public health services in Limerick since 1921, existing services, and the benefits of a joint public assistance authority (4 July 1947). Includes also notes relating to drafting of letter; table showing summary of Mental Hospital Committee demands (1935-1947); letters from the District Mental Hospital, Limerick regarding stoppage of pension and health insurance payments to inmates. |
|      |                           | 30 pp  |
| 20/2 | 1947-1950                 | File relating to the Health Act 1947 and proposals to establish a mother and child health service under the act. File consists of circulars from the Department of Health outlining the proposals.   |
|      |                           | 3 items.   |
| 21/1 | 1952-1953                 | File relating to White Paper issued by the Department of Health for improved and extended Health Services. Includes copy of White Paper; copy of report of conference of Local Authorities to consider paper; Health Bill 1952; correspondence from the Catholic Societies Vocational Organisation commenting that 'the scheme of Public Health Services proposed in the White Paper is contrary to the principles of Social Justice, and, if implemented, will constitute a grave encroachment on the rights of the individual...' (19 January 1953)  |
|      |                           | c. 10 items  |
| 21/2 | 13 March 1954-15 May 1956 | File relating to various meetings between Limerick City Council and the Minister for Health to discuss matters such as the Health Act 1953, the administration of public assistance in Limerick, and the establishment of a joint authority to administer public health in Limerick city and county. Includes letters to city councillors regards travelling arrangements to Dublin, correspondence between the Department of Health and Limerick City Council, reports prepared outlining   |

outcomes of city council deputations to the Minister on on 1 April 1954, 27 January 1955, 15 May 1956 and report of conference between Limerick City Council and Minister for Health, 1 October 1954. Includes also draft notes and statements circulated to city council deputies prior to meetings with the minister. Includes comments such as 'it was felt that if a joint district was formed, the Health Services of the county would be very much improved...' (Report on Deputation which waited on Minister for Health, 27 January 1955).

c. 60 pp

21/3

16 February 1956-13 April 1956

File relating to Irish  
Hospitals Study Tour  
1956 and visit to

Limerick Regional Hospital, organised by the International Hospitals' Federation. Includes memorandum from Eamonn de Barra (organising secretary, Irish Hospital Study Tour); program of Hospital Visits; letter from D. F. Donovan (Limerick County secretary); draft of Mayor's address to the members of the International Hospitals' Federation.

13 pp.