

Chapter 2: Institutions

Introduction

- 2.1 The Commission's Terms of Reference require it to detail:
- The types of institutional settings (e.g. mother and baby homes, county homes, private nursing homes, homes for infants or children) where single women and their children, or other children, were accommodated;
 - The role and significance of different types of institution and their inter-relationships;
 - Organisational arrangements for the management and operation of these different types of institution;
 - The involvement of state authorities in legislating for, supporting, financing or regulating different types of institution.
- 2.2 Chapter 1 sets out the main legislation governing the different institutions. This chapter describes the various institutions. With the exception of three county homes, the Commission has not investigated any of these institutions so its information is not complete.

County Homes

- 2.3 The list at paragraph 2.5 were the county homes where unmarried mothers and children were resident. The practice of unmarried mothers being housed in county homes declined significantly from the early 1950s and ceased by about 1960. Children, mainly children with disabilities and including both 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' children, continued to reside in county homes until about the mid to late 1960s. The *Care of the Aged report* shows that there were 53 children in county homes on 31 March 1966.¹
- 2.4 The conditions for unmarried mothers in county homes are described in Chapter 10. The *Care of the Aged report* shows that by 1966, improvement schemes had not yet commenced on a number of county homes:
- A number of Homes have been rebuilt or reconstructed, wholly or in part, but many buildings are still of an unsatisfactory standard. The Homes cater for a

¹ Inter-departmental Committee on the Care of the Aged, *Report* (Dublin, 1968): <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/559466>

variety of patients-the sick, the infirm, the mentally handicapped and persons in need of shelter and maintenance because of social reasons.

- 2.5 County homes were originally known by their location only. There was at least one in every county except Louth. In the 1950s, they began to use religious names. This seems to have been an attempt to lose the stigma that attached to them. In practice, they continued to be known by location. The *Report of the Department of Health 1949/50* lists the county homes by location only. The *Care of the Aged Report 1968* lists them with their religious names. By the late 1960s/early 1970s, they were being used exclusively for the care of older people and they began to be described as 'welfare homes'. Later they began to be described as public or community nursing homes and many of them still operate as such. It appears that they are still described locally as county homes. Institutions which were not formerly workhouses also became welfare homes, for example, St Clare's, Glasnevin which had been opened as a specialist gastroenteritis hospital in 1944, became a welfare home in the 1960s and is still a public nursing home. These newer institutions never housed unmarried mothers and so are not included in the list below.²

Location	Other name
Carlow	Sacred Heart Home and Hospital, Carlow
Cavan	St Felim's County Home and Hospital, Cavan
Clare (Ennis)	St Joseph's Hospital, Ennis
Cork (City)	Officially designated Cork County Home and District hospital in the 1920s; started to be called St Finbarr's from 1950s
Cork (Midleton)	Our Lady of Lourdes Home, Midleton
Cork (Clonakilty)	Mount Carmel Home, Clonakilty
Cork (Fermoy)	St Patrick's Hospital, Fermoy
Donegal (Stranorlar)	St Joseph's Home, Stranorlar
Dublin (St Kevin's Institution)	Initially the Dublin Union; designated St Kevin's Institution in the 1920s (St Kevin's Hospital was on the same site); now St James's Hospital
Galway (Loughrea)	St Brendan's Home, Loughrea
Kerry (Killarney)	St Columbanus Home, Killarney

² A list can be found in the *Care of the Aged report*.

Kildare (Athy)	St Vincent's Hospital, Athy
Kilkenny (Thomastown)	St Columba's Hospital, Thomastown
Laois (Mountmellick)	St Vincent's Hospital, Mountmellick
Leitrim (Carrick-on-Shannon)	St Patrick's Home, Carrick-on-Shannon
Limerick (Newcastlewest)	St Ita's Home, Newcastlewest
Limerick (City Home and Hospital)	St Camillus Hospital, Limerick
Longford	St Joseph's Hospital, Longford
Mayo (Castlebar)	Sacred Heart Home, Castlebar
Meath (Trim)	St Joseph's Home, Trim
Monaghan (Castleblayney)	St Mary's Hospital, Castleblayney
Offaly (Tullamore)	St Vincent's Hospital, Tullamore
Roscommon	Sacred Heart Home, Roscommon
Sligo	St John's Hospital, Sligo
Tipperary North (Thurles)	Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles
Tipperary South (Cashel)	St Patrick's Hospital, Cashel
Waterford (Dungarvan)	St John's Hospital, Dungarvan
Westmeath (Mullingar)	St Mary's Hospital, Mullingar
Wexford (Enniscorthy)	St John's Hospital, Enniscorthy
Wicklow (Rathdrum)	St Colman's, Rathdrum

Magdalen laundries

- 2.6 The *Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries*, generally known as the McAleese Report, sets out, among other things, how women and girls entered the laundries and the degree of State involvement with the laundries.³ The report examined ten laundries which were operated by four religious orders. These were:

Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge:

St Mary's Refuge, High Park, Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin
 Monastery of Our Lady of Charity, Sean McDermott Street (formerly Gloucester Street), Dublin 1

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy:

Magdalen Asylum / Magdalen Home, No. 47 Forster Street, Galway
 St Patrick's Refuge, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Religious Sisters of Charity:

St Mary Magdalen's, Floraville Road, Donnybrook, Dublin

³ <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/MagdalenRpt2013>

St Vincent's, St Mary's Road, Peacock Lane, Cork

Sisters of the Good Shepherd:

St Mary's, Cork Road, Waterford

St Mary's, New Ross, Wexford

St Mary's, Pennywell Road, Limerick

St Mary's, Sunday's Well, Cork.

(There were industrial schools on the same grounds as the four Sisters of the Good Shepherd laundries and in High Park).

The Magdalen redress scheme

2.7 Subsequent to the publication of the McAleese Report, the Quirke report on the *Establishment of an ex gratia Scheme and related matters for the benefit of those women who were admitted to and worked in the Magdalen Laundries* was published in May 2013.⁴ It recommended the establishment of a Magdalen Restorative Justice Ex-Gratia Scheme. Initially, the *Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Act 2015* applied to the ten institutions investigated by McAleese and to two other institutions:

- The laundry operated by the Sisters of Charity in the Training School of St Mary's Training Centre, Stanhope Street, Dublin 7 and
- The laundry operated by the Sisters of Mercy in the Training School of the House of Mercy Training School, Summerhill, Wexford.

2.8 The Religious Sisters of Charity had argued that Stanhope Street was a training centre which provided domestic training (including in laundry work) to young girls. They said that it never operated as a refuge or home along the lines of the Magdalen Laundries which the Congregation operated at Donnybrook and Peacock Lane, Cork and that it was operated on a fee-paying basis for the girls admitted to it. The Sisters of Mercy had argued that Summerhill was one of approximately 16 Mercy Homes consisting of a vocational training school for girls.

2.9 In May 2018, the scheme was extended to women who worked in the laundries of the 12 institutions but who lived in one of the adjoining 14 institutions.⁵ These 14 are:

St Michael's Industrial School, Summerhill, Wexford

⁴ <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/THE%20Quirke%20report.pdf/Files/THE%20Quirke%20report.pdf>

⁵ <http://justice.ie/en/JELR/Ex-Gratia%20Scheme%20FINAL.pdf/Files/Ex-Gratia%20Scheme%20FINAL.pdf>

St Aidan's Industrial School, New Ross
 St Dominick's Industrial School, Waterford
 Gracepark Training Centre, Waterford
 Mayfield Training Centre, Waterford
 St Finbarr's Industrial School, Cork
 Marymount Training Centre, Cork
 St Georges's Industrial School, Limerick
 St Joseph's Reformatory School, Limerick
 Rosemount Training Centre, Limerick
 An Grianán Training Centre, High Park
 St Joseph's Industrial School, High Park
 Martanna House Hostel, High Park
 St Anne's Hostel, Sean McDermott Street

Maternity Homes

- 2.10 From 1934, maternity homes were required to be registered under the *Registration of Maternity Homes Act 1934* (see Chapter 1). There were a large number of private maternity homes in existence for most of the period covered by the Commission. Some were very small and tended to be run by a nurse sometimes in her own home. (There was one registered maternity home that converted to bed and breakfast accommodation during the summer months). Some have been described as private mother and baby homes but the evidence available suggests that most were simply maternity homes and mothers and babies left soon after the birth.
- 2.11 The Department of Local Government and Public Health/Department of Health inspected the registered private nursing homes quite frequently. Many inspection reports are available in the files discovered to the Commission by the Department of Health. The Commission has not seen any evidence that the records of the vast majority of private nursing homes are extant.
- 2.12 It is difficult to know how many maternity homes existed because the local health authorities were responsible for the registration and their records are not all extant. The following list is compiled from lists of registered maternity homes drawn up by the Department of Health in 1956 and 1957 and from references in the institutional

records analysed by the Commission. It includes the major maternity hospitals, local health authority and voluntary hospitals and private nursing homes.

Carlow:	Sacred Heart Home, Carlow St Brigid's Nursing Home, Carlow
Cavan:	St Phelim's Hospital, Cavan (County Hospital) St Joseph's Nursing Home, Portlurgan, Virginia
Clare:	St Gerard's Circular Road, Kilkee County Home, Ennis County Hospital, Ennistymon District Hospital, Kilrush District Hospital, Raheen, Tuamgraney
Cork:	District Hospital, Millstreet County Hospital, Fermoy District Hospital, Mallow District Hospital, Kanturk St Anne's Nursing Home, Fermoy St Patrick's Franciscan Hospital, Mallow St Finbarr's Hospital Cottage Hospital, Bandon Cottage Hospital, Kinsale Cottage Hospital, Macroom District Home, Middleton Cottage Hospital, Youghal Sacred Heart Home and Hospital, Bessborough Bandon Nursing Home, Millbrook, Bandon St Mary's Nursing Home, Avondale Home, Upper Strand, Youghal General Hospital, Cobh St Philomena's Nursing Home, 36 South Main Street Bandon Cottage Hospital, Middleton St Anne's Nursing Home, North Main Street, Youghal Cottage Hospital, Dunmanway Cottage Hospital, Clonakilty Cottage Hospital, Bantry District Hospital, Clonakilty County Hospital, Skibbereen

Cottage Hospital, Castletownbere
 Cottage Hospital, Schull
 Erinville Lying-in-Hospital, Western Road
 1, Lincoln Place, Grattan Hill
 Glenvera Hospital, 10 Sidney Place
 Miss Goulding's Home, 18 St Patrick's Place
 Marie Celine Home, 4/5 Summerhill Terrace
 Dunscombe Private nursing home
 St Kevin's Nursing Home, 29/30 South Terrace
 Victoria Hospital Inc., Infirmary Road.
 Yorkville Nursing Home, York Hill
 Bon Secour Home, Cobh
 Braemar House, Old Blackrock Road, Cork
 Glenvera Nursing Home, Wellington Road, Cork
 Lincoln Nursing Home, Grattan Hill, Cork
 Mrs Dorgan's Nursing Home, Anglesea Terrace, Cork
 Mrs Grant's Nursing Home, 81 South Mall, Cork
 St Philomena's Nursing Home, North Main Street, Bandon
 St Philomena's Nursing Home, Alexandra Place, Cork
 Stella Maris Nursing Home, Wellington Road, Cork

Donegal:

County Home
 District Hospital, Ballyshannon
 District Hospital, Donegal
 District Hospital, Lifford
 District Hospital, Letterkenny
 District Hospital, Glenties
 District Hospital, Carndonagh

Dublin:

St Patrick's Home, 381 Navan Road, Cabra (Pelletstown)
 Tivoli Nursing Home, 3 Tivoli Terrace. S. Dun Laoire
 Fatima Nursing Home, Tudor House, The Hill, Monkstown
 St Clare's Nursing Home, 8 Marine Terrace, Dun Laoire
 Mellifont Nursing Home, 9 Mellifont Avenue, Dun Laoire
 93 Lower Baggot Street
 7 Cabra Park
 103 North Circular Road
 81 North Circular Road
 450 North Circular Road

101 Connaught Street
 78 Drumcondra Road
 17 Earlsfort Terrace
 63 Eccles Street
 7 Greenmount Road
 7 Herbert Place
 15 Hatch Street
 23 Upper Leeson Street
 119 Upper Leeson Street
 107 Marlborough Road
 17 Lower Mount Street
 22 Ormond Road, Drumcondra
 Orwell Road, Rathgar (Bethany Home)
 13 Pembroke Street
 26/27 Pembroke Street.
 39 Percy Place (Nurse Dalton)
 28 Rathfarnham Road
 68 Sandford Road
 28 Vernon Avenue
 St Kevin's Hospital
 Rotunda Hospital
 National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street
 Coombe Hospital
 Portobello Nursing Home, Portobello Bridge
 Leinster Nursing Home
 78, St Laurence's Park, Stillorgan (Miss Craven)
 Prague Nursing Home
 8 Lansdowne Terrace, Ballsbridge (St Martin's)
 Stella Maris Nursing Home
 St Michael's Nursing Home, Dun Laoghaire
 Miss Hennessy's Home, 43 Leeson Street Upper, moved to
 119 Leeson Street Upper in the late 1940s (This seems to have
 been known as St. Philomena's at some stage).
 Mrs Hudson, 14 Holles Street
 12 Seville Place (Miss McAlpine)
 61 Lower Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh (Nurse Cadden)
 St Maelruin's, 183 Lower Rathmines Road (Nurse Cadden)

- Galway:** St Bride's Nursing Home, Sea Road, Galway
 Maternity Hospital, Galway
 Maternity Ward, Children's Home, Tuam
 St Theresa's Nursing Home, Upper Salthill, Galway
 Portiuncula Hospital, Mount Pleasant Avenue, Ballinasloe
 Bon Secour Nursing Home, The Grove, Tuam
 Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Clifden
 Calvary Hospital, Renmore, Galway
- Kerry:** County Home, Killarney
 County Hospital, Tralee
 District Hospital, Listowel
 District Hospital, Dingle
 District Hospital, Kenmare
 District Hospital, Caherciveen
 St Gabriel's Home, Church Street, Listowel
 Mrs Kings Nursing Home, 21 Ashe Street, Tralee
 St Don Bosco's Home, William Street, Listowel
 St Anne's Home, Beaufort, Killarney
 St Anne's Nursing Home, Strand Street, Tralee
 Greenlawn Nursing Home, Upper Church Street, Listowel
 Our Lady's Nursing Home, 72 New Street, Killarney
 Miss Cullety's Nursing Home, 12 Tralee Road, Castleisland
- Kildare:** St Vincent's Hospital, Athy
 St Teresa's Home, Rathangan
 Leinster Street, Rathangan
- Kilkenny:** County Hospital, Freshford Road, Kilkenny
 County Home, Thomastown
 Abbey Nursing Home, 42 Parliament Street, Kilkenny
 Mount Lacken Nursing Home, Dublin Road, Kilkenny
- Laois:** County Hospital, Portlaoise
 District Hospital, Abbeyleix
 County Home, Mountmellick
 District Mental Hospital, Portlaoise
- Leitrim:** Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton
 District Hospital, Mohill
- Limerick:** St Nessian's Hospital, Croom - Maternity Section
 Bedford Row Hospital, Bedford Row

- City Home and Hospital
 Mrs Margt. M O'Malley, 19 Barrington Street, Limerick
 Alexandra Nursing Home, 5 Alexandra Terrace, O'Connell Avenue
 St Anthony's Nursing Home, 21 Barrington Street, Limerick
 St Gerard's Nursing Home, 15 Rhebogue Avenue, Corbally
 Tranquilla Nursing Home, Fort Mary Park, North Circular Road
 The Marian Nursing Home, 14 Davis Street
- Longford:** St Joseph's Hospital, Longford
 St Gerard's Nursing Home, Longford
 Sancta Maria Nursing Home, Longford
 Minard Nursing Home, Longford
 Our Lady's Nursing Home, Edgeworthstown
- Louth:** St Joseph's Hospital, Ardee
 Blessed Oliver Plunkett Hospital, Dundalk
 Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda
 Cottage Hospital, Drogheda
- Mayo:** County Hospital, Castlebar
 District Hospital, Ballina
 District Hospital, Belmullet
 St Philomena's Nursing Home, Claremorris
- Meath:** Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Trim
- Monaghan:** Maternity Department, County Hospital, Monaghan
 Maternity Department, St Mary's, Castleblayney
 Marie Celine Nursing Home, Newtownbutler Road, Clones
 Mrs McElroy's Nursing Home, Station View, Clones
 St Camillus Nursing Home, Castleblayney
 St Anne's Nursing Home, Hall Street, Ballybay
 St Mary's Nursing Home Beech Hill Convent, Monaghan
 Mrs Reid's Nursing Home, North Road, Monaghan
- Offaly:** Offaly County Home, Tullamore
 Offaly County Hospital, Tullamore
- Roscommon:** St Teresa's, 2 Carrick Road, Boyle
 Boyle District Hospital
 County Hospital, Roscommon
 County Home, Roscommon
- Sligo:** St Joseph's Gardenhill Nursing Home, Sligo

- County Hospital, Sligo
 County Home, Sligo
 St John of God Nursing Home, Ballymote
- Tipperary:** County Hospital, Nenagh
 Thurles District Hospital
 St Anne's Nursing Home, Thurles
 Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles
 Roscrea District Hospital
 Garrdha Cronáin, Roscrea
 Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea
 St Joseph's Nursing Home, Tipperary
 Abbey View Nursing Home, Tipperary
 St Philomena's Nursing Home, Tipperary
 St Teresa's Nursing Home, Cashel
 St Anne's Nursing Home, Cashel
 St Anne's Nursing Home, Clonmel
- Waterford:** Mrs Fitzgerald's Nursing Home, 6 Emmet Terrace, Dungarvan
 Heatherview Nursing Home, Portlaoigh
 St Anthony's Nursing Home, O'Connell Street, Dungarvan
 St Martha's Nursing Home, 1 Lyon Terrace, Tramore
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Maternity Home, Airmount
 Maternity Section, County Hospital, John's Hill
 Belleville Nursing Home, Newtown
- Westmeath:** St Teresa's Maternity Home, 16 Upper Irishtown, Athlone
 (St Anne's) Carbury House, Chapel Street, Athlone
 County Hospital, Mullingar
 Manor House, Castlepollard
 St Mary's Private Nursing Home, 3 Newtown Terrace, Athlone
 District Hospital, Athlone
 Stella Maris Maternity Home, Baylough, Athlone
- Wexford:** County Hospital, Wexford
 St John's Hospital, Enniscorthy
 District Hospital, New Ross
 District Hospital, Gorey
 Dr S A Furlong's Private Nursing Home, Hill Street, Wexford
 Dr Cuddigan's Private Nursing Home, Wafer Street, Enniscorthy

Parkton Private Nursing Home, Enniscorthy
 Nurse Alicia Garland's Home, Courttown Harbour, Gorey
Wicklow: Knockrath Nursing Home, Greystones
 District Hospital, Baltinglass
 Prague Nursing Home, Dunbur Road, Wicklow
 St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum

Industrial schools

- 2.13 Industrial schools were established in the 19th century to cater for neglected, orphaned and abandoned children. Most were run by religious orders. They were certified and financed by the Department of Education. They were regulated by the Department of Education under the *Children Act 1908* (the relevant sections were amended in a minor way by the *Children Act 1941* and the *Children (Amendment) Act 1957*). From 1970/71 (following the publication of the Kennedy Report, officially titled *Reformatory and Industrial Schools Systems Report 1970*) they were described as 'residential schools' but the legal term 'industrial school' remained in place until 2007 and the relevant sections of the *Children Act 1908* remained in place until then. Around 1982/3, they started to be described as 'residential homes' but they were still legally industrial schools. The Department of Health took over responsibility for them on 1 January 1984.
- 2.14 The Kennedy Report stated that there were 61 such schools in 1898 (71 in total on the island of Ireland). The Statistical Report of the Department of Education stated that there were 52 industrial schools in the school year 1924/25 but it does not list them. Subsequent statistical reports show that there were 52 in 1940 and 50 in 1950. A reply to a parliamentary question listed 42 industrial schools which existed in 1966.⁶ The Kennedy Report listed 31 industrial schools and three reformatories as being in existence in 1969 but notes that the number had reduced to 29 by publication date. The number had reduced to 25 in 1977; 25 were still in operation in 1981. By 1988, there were 24 residential homes for children which were former industrial schools and there were 17 homes approved under the *Health Act 1953*. At that stage the residential homes were subject to certain limited controls under the *Children Act 1908* and the 17 approved homes were not subject to specific statutory regulations.⁷

⁶ Dáil Questions Nos 75 and 76; 26 January 1966.

⁷ Minister for Health, 2nd stage speech on Child Care Bill 1988, Dáil Reports, 14 June 1988 :

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/takes/dail1988061400020?opendocum>

- 2.15 From the early 1980s, the industrial schools were gradually changed from large institutions into group home structures. In some cases, the names were changed. So, some industrial schools also appear on the list of children's residential homes under their new names (see below). In 1992, there were 22 industrial schools listed in the *Child Care Act 1991 (Children's Residential Centres) (Children's Residential Centres) (Superannuation) (No 2) Order 1992* (SI 125/1992). Some of these are what might be regarded as separate group homes.

Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (CICA)

- 2.16 The Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse (CICA) was established by the *Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse Act 2000*. Its main functions were to report on the abuse of children in certain types of institutions and to give those who suffered this abuse an opportunity to describe what happened to them. The types of institution covered included 'a school, an industrial school, a reformatory school, an orphanage, a hospital, a children's home and any other place where children are cared for other than as members of their families'. CICA reported in 2009; its report is generally known as the Ryan Report.
- 2.17 The Ryan Report reported on 17 industrial schools, three schools for deaf children, an institution for intellectually disabled children and a remand centre.⁸ Many children, including some as young as two, were transferred to industrial schools from mother and baby homes. The industrial schools investigated by the Ryan Commission were mainly those about which serious abuse allegations had been made and the majority were the schools for older boys. Very young children from mother and baby homes tended to be sent to the industrial schools for girls and junior boys, sometimes called the 'convent' industrial schools. Little is known about the living conditions and treatment of children in these schools.

Reformatories

- 2.18 Reformatories were intended for young offenders and children were sent to them by the courts. Initially, there were ten reformatories but only three by 1944 (St Joseph's Limerick for girls, Daingean for boys (which had replaced Glencree in 1940) and St Anne's Kilmacud which was opened in 1944 for 'girls with marked tendencies to sexual immorality'; it became an industrial school as well as a reformatory in 1949 so is sometimes double counted). Subsequently, Ferryhouse

^{ent}
⁸ <http://www.childabusecommission.ie/rpt/pdfs/>

Industrial School was designated a reformatory; St Laurence's Industrial School, Finglas, Dublin 11 was established in 1972 and was also a reformatory - it subsequently was subsumed into the Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre and two new reformatories were established - Scoil Ard Mhuire, Lusk, Co. Dublin (which replaced Daingean in 1973 and itself closed in 1985) and Trinity House, Lusk, County Dublin (opened 1983). By the 1980s all of these were described as 'special residential schools'.⁹

- 2.19 Children under the age of 12 could not be committed to reformatories and court proceedings were always necessary for such committals so children were not sent from mother and baby homes to reformatories. Young mothers could have been sent to them by the courts after they left mother and baby homes but the Commission has not seen any concrete evidence of this.
- 2.20 The Residential Institutions Redress Scheme (RIRS) applied to all the industrial schools and a number of children's homes - there are 59 industrial schools (including the older reformatories) on the RIRS list.

List of industrial schools

- 2.21 The industrial schools and reformatories are listed alphabetically by location (alternative location names are also in bold where that arises; where they were changed to a group home structure and renamed, the new name is also given). At least up to the 1980s they were generally known by location rather than saint's name. The vast majority were established before 1922; the establishment date is given where this occurred after 1922. The closing date or range of dates is given. If 1992 is stated, that means it was still in existence in 1992. The order which ran the school is mentioned where it is known (almost all cases). From the 1950s, industrial schools for girls almost all took small boys ('boys of tender years' was the expression used) as well - up to about age seven. From the 1960s some of them also took older boys.

Athlone: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls, **Summerhill**, Athlone, Co. Westmeath (Sisters of Mercy) closed in 1960s

Artane Industrial School for Senior Boys, Dublin 5 (Christian Brothers, closed 1969; Ryan Report Volume 1)

⁹ For example, in SI 182/1984.

Ballaghaderreen: St Francis Xavier's Industrial School for Girls and Junior Boys, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon (closed 1966; Sisters of Charity)

Ballinasloe: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls and Junior Boys, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway (closed 1968; Sisters of Mercy)

Baltimore Fishery School for Senior Boys, Baltimore, Co. Cork (closed in 1950; a number of witnesses to the Laffoy Commission (later the Ryan Commission) were transferred to here from children's homes in Dublin where they were being maintained by the Dublin Union under the Public Assistance Acts; most were non-marital children; there was no religious order involved; the management board included the local bishop, priests and others). Laffoy Third Interim Report December 2003.¹⁰

Benada Abbey Industrial School for Girls, Ballymote, Co. Sligo (closed late 1980s; Sisters of Charity)

Birr: St John's Industrial School for Girls, Birr, Co. Offaly (closed 1963; Sisters of Mercy)

Boosterstown: St Anne's Industrial School for Girls, Boosterstown, Co. Dublin (Sisters of Mercy; closed 1981/82)

Bundoran: St Martha's Industrial School for Girls, Bundoran, Co. Donegal (Sisters of St Louis) (opened in 1958, closed 1965/6)

Cappoquin: St Michael's Industrial School for Junior boys, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford (closed 1999, Sisters of Mercy, Ryan Report Volume 11)

Carriglea Park Industrial School for Senior Boys, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (closed 1954, Christian Brothers; Ryan Report Volume 1)

Cashel: St Francis' Industrial School for Girls, Cashel, Co. Tipperary (closed 1969; Presentation Sisters)

Cavan: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls, Cavan (closed 1967; Sisters of St Clare (the Poor Clares))

Clifden: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls and Junior Boys, Clifden, Co. Galway (Sisters of Mercy; closed 1983; Ryan Report Volume 11)

Clonakilty: St Aloysius' Industrial School for Girls, Clonakilty, Co. Cork (closed 1967; Sisters of Mercy)

Daingean: St Conleth's Reformatory School for Boys, Daingean, Co. Offaly (Oblates, closed 1973; Ryan Report Volume 1)

¹⁰ http://www.childabusecommission.ie/publications/documents/abuse.htm#LinkTarget_53218

Drogheda: St Vincent's (House of Charity) Industrial School for Junior Boys, Drogheda, Co. Louth (Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, now generally known as the Daughters of Charity; they ran Pelletstown; 1992)

Dundalk: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls, Dundalk, Co. Louth (Sisters of Mercy; closed 1983; Ryan Report Volume 11)

Dundrum: St Bernard's Industrial School for Girls, **Fethard**, Dundrum, Co. Tipperary (1992; Presentation Sisters)

Ennis Industrial School: Our Lady's Industrial School for Girls, Ennis, Co. Clare (closed 1964; Sisters of Mercy)

Ferryhouse: St Joseph's Industrial School for Senior Boys, Ferryhouse, **Clonmel**, Co. Tipperary (Order of Charity (Rosminians), Ryan Report Volume 11)

Finglas: St Laurence's Industrial School, Finglas, Dublin 11 (opened in 1972 and was also a reformatory; was later subsumed into Finglas Child and Adolescent centre)

Glencree: St Kevin's Reformatory, Glencree, Co. Wicklow (closed 1940; transferred to Daingean, Oblates)

Glin: St Joseph's Industrial School for Senior Boys, Glin, Co. Limerick (closed 1966; Christian Brothers; Ryan Report Volume 1)

Goldenbridge: St Vincent's Industrial School, Goldenbridge, Inchicore, Dublin 8 (closed 1983, Sisters of Mercy, Ryan Report Volume 11)

Greenmount: St Joseph's Industrial School for Senior Boys, Greenmount, Cork (closed 1959, Presentation Brothers; Ryan Report Volume 11)

Kilkenny: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls, Kilkenny (closed 1999, Sisters of Charity, Ryan Report Volume 11)

Kilkenny: St Patrick's Industrial School for Junior Boys, Kilkenny (closed 1966; Sisters of Charity, Ryan Report Volume 11)

Killarney: St. Joseph's Industrial School for Girls and Junior Boys, Liosomoine, Killarney, Co. Kerry (Sisters of Mercy; 1991; later called **Liosomoine Group Home**)

Killybegs: St Columba's Industrial School, Killybegs, Co. Donegal (closed 1950; Order of Charity)

Kilmacud: St Anne's Reformatory School for Girls, Kilmacud, Co. Dublin (opened 1944; also an industrial school from 1949; 1991 (ceased to be a reformatory 1984), Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge)

Kinsale Industrial School: Our Lady of Mercy Industrial School for Girls, Kinsale, Co. Cork (Sisters of Mercy; closed between 1960 and 1965)

Lakelands: St Mary's Industrial School, Lakelands, Sandymount, Dublin 4 (Sisters of Charity; 1991; later called **St Mary's Residential Homes**, 26 and 28 Park Ave., Sandymount)

Lenaboy: St Ann's Industrial School for Girls and Junior Boys, **Renmore**, Lenaboy, Co. Galway (Sisters of Mercy; 1991, later called **Aisling and Loyola, Renmore**)

Letterfrack: St Joseph's Industrial School for Senior Boys, Letterfrack, Co. Galway (closed 1974; Christian Brothers; Ryan Report Volume 1)

Limerick: St George's Industrial School for Girls, Limerick and St Joseph's Reformatory School for Girls, Limerick were on the same site (Good Shepherds; they also had a Magdalene laundry on the same site called St Mary's; 1992; later called **Shalom**)

Limerick: St Joseph's Reformatory School for Girls, Limerick (see note re St George's above; closed 1976)

Limerick: St Vincent's Industrial School for Girls, Limerick (Sisters of Mercy; 1992; later called **Mount St Vincent**)

Loughrea: St Bridgid's Industrial School for Girls, Loughrea, Co. Galway (closed 1967; Sisters of Mercy)

Mallow: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls, Mallow, Co. Cork (Sisters of Mercy; 1992)

Merrion: St Martha's Industrial School, Merrion, Dublin 4 (closed before 1940)

Moate Industrial School: Mount Carmel Industrial School for Girls, Moate, Co. Westmeath (Sisters of Mercy; 1992; later called **Mount Carmel Residential Home**)

Monaghan: St Martha's Industrial School, Monaghan (Sisters of St Louis; moved to Bundoran in 1958)

New Ross: St Aidan's Industrial School for Girls, Newross, Co. Wexford (1966, closed 1968; Good Shepherd Sisters; they also had a Magdalen laundry on the same site, called St Mary's)

Newtownforbes Industrial School: Our Lady of Succour Industrial School, Newtownforbes, Co. Longford (closed 1970; Sisters of Mercy; Ryan Report Volume 11)

Passage West: St Joseph's Industrial School for Boys, Passage West, Co. Cork (Sisters of Mercy; 1992)

Rathdrum: St Kyran's Industrial School for Junior Boys, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow (Sisters of Mercy; 1992)

Roscommon: St Monica's (closed 1929; this is not on the redress list)

Rushbrook: St Colman's Industrial School for Girls, **Cobh**/Rushbrook, Co. Cork (Sisters of Mercy; 1992)

Salthill: St Joseph's Industrial School for Senior Boys, Salthill, Co. Galway (Christian Brothers, closed 1995; Ryan Report Volume 1)

Sligo: St Laurence's Industrial School for Girls, Sligo (closed 1958; Sisters of Mercy)

Sunday's Well: St Finbarr's Industrial School for Girls, Sunday's Well, Marymount, Cork (Good Shepherd Sisters; they had a Magdalen laundry on the same site called St Mary's; 1992)

Templemore: St Augustine's Industrial School for Girls, Templemore, Co. Tipperary (Sisters of Mercy; closed between 1960 and 1965)

Tralee Industrial School: **Pembroke Alms** Industrial School for Girls, Tralee, Co. Kerry (Sisters of Mercy, 1992; later Nazareth House)

Tralee: St Joseph's Industrial School for Boys, Tralee, Co. Kerry (closed 1970; Christian Brothers; Ryan Report Volume 1)

Upton: St Patrick's Industrial School for Boys, Upton, Cork (closed 1966; Rosminians; Ryan Report Volume 11)

Waterford: St Dominick's Industrial School for Girls, Waterford (Good Shepherd Sisters; the Good Shepherds also had a Magdalen laundry on the same site called St Mary's; 1992; later called **Prospect House** and **Gracepark Training Centre**)

Westport: St Columba's Industrial School for Girls, Westport, Co. Mayo (Sisters of Mercy; closed 1973/4)

Wexford: St Michael's Industrial School for Girls, Wexford (Sisters of Mercy; closed 1982/3)

Whitehall/Drumcondra: St Joseph's Industrial School for Girls, Whitehall, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 (Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge; sometimes called **High Park** as it was on the same site as the High Park Magdalen laundry; 1992; in 1978, developed into two group homes **Blaithin** and **Cuan Mhuire**); An Grianán was also established on this site in 1971; **Martanna House** was a hostel for teenage girls on the same site - opened 1966.

Residential Children's Homes

- 2.22 The exact status of some of the residential children's homes is difficult to establish. Most (possibly all at some stage) received some form of state funding. This sometimes came directly from the Department of Local Government and Public Health/Department of Health and sometimes from the local health authorities. Some homes were certified under the *Pauper Children (Ireland) Act 1898* or the *Public Assistance Act 1939* for the reception of poor children (see Chapter 1). Some were approved under Section 55 of the *Health Act 1953* for the boarding out of children. When an institution was certified or approved, it was usual to specify the total number of children who could be maintained there. There were no regulations about the ratio of staff to children.
- 2.23 Some homes were included in the RIRS scheme even though it is not clear that they were approved under the relevant legislation. In general, those in the RIRS scheme are likely to have received some form of state funding for at least part of their existence but it is not clear if this was accompanied by any inspection or regulation.
- 2.24 The Commission has not seen full lists of approvals under the relevant legislation. The only official lists seen by the Commission are a list compiled in 1982 for the Inter-Departmental Committee on the operation and financing of children's residential homes and a list from 1992. The 1982 list shows a capacity of 376 in the approved homes. (The 23 certified industrial schools on the list had a capacity of about 800 at that time). The 1992 list has 21 homes which are described as 'approved (or deemed to be approved)' for the purposes of Section 55 of the *Health Act 1953* and 22 industrial schools. It is contained in SI 125/1992: *Child*

*Care Act 1991 (Children's Residential Centres) (Superannuation) (No 2) Order 1992.*¹¹ The following appear on one or both lists:

Ballymun Residential Project, 163/164 Balcurris Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11
 Bartres, 1 Pottery Road, Kill-O-The Grange, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (the Grange)
 Catholic Social Service Conference Hostel, 64 Eccles Street, Dublin 7
 Corunum, Drumcondra
 Derralossary House, Roundwood, County Wicklow
 Don Bosco Houses, 57 Lower Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9 and 12 Clontarf Road, Dublin 3
 Family Group Home, Letterkenny
 Family Group Home, Geevagh, Sligo
 Family Group Home, Wexford
 Grianan Training Centre, 369 Collins Avenue, Dublin 9.
 Homeless Girls Society Ltd., Sherrard House, 19 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1
 Kirwan House, Ranelagh
 La Verna, Kenilworth Road, Dublin 6
 Los Angeles Society Homes for Homeless Boys, 4 Conyngham Road, Dublin 8 and 22 Newtown Avenue, Blackrock, County Dublin.
 Madonna House, Grove Avenue, Blackrock, County Dublin.
 Miss Carr's Home, 5 Northbrook Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6
 Nazareth House, Church Hill, Sligo
 Sacred Heart Home, 5 The Avenue, Royal Oak, Santry, Dublin 9 (formerly Drumcondra)
 Smyly's Homes, Glensilva, 95 Monkstown Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, and Racefield House, 3 Lower Mounttown Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
 Society of St Vincent de Paul, Child Care Centre, 69 Amiens Street, Dublin 1
 St Anne's Hostel, 72 Lower Seán McDermott Street, Dublin 1
 St Helena's, Finglas
 St Mura's Nursery, Fahan, Lifford, Co. Donegal
 St Vincent's, North William Street, Dublin 1
 Tabor House, Seville Place, Dublin 1
 The Cottage Home, Tivoli Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

¹¹ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1992/si/125/made/en/print>

Trudder House, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.

- 2.25 The following is a list of the children's residential homes that the Commission has discovered from its various sources. It does not include any institutions which the Commission knows ceased to exist before 1922. There may be some duplication because some were known by location and also by a religious name and some changed their names over time. It is quite likely that there were other such institutions.

Cork

Holy Family School for Moderate Learning Disability, Charleville, Co. Cork

Lota: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lota, Glanmire, Co. Cork (For children with intellectual disabilities; Brothers of Charity; 1939-99; Ryan Report Volume 11)

School of the Divine Child, Lavanagh, Ballintemple, Cork

Scoil Eanna, School of the Angels, Montenotte, Cork

Scoil Triest, Lota, Glanmire, Co. Cork

St Bernadette's, Bonnington, Montenotte, Cork

St David's, Lota, Glanmire, Co. Cork

St Gabriel's School, Curraheen Road, Cork

St Marie of the Isle, Sharman Crawford Street, Cork

St Mary's, Rochestown, Cork

St Paul's, Montenotte, Cork

Donegal

Family Group Home, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

St Joseph's Orphanage, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

St Mura's Orphanage, Fahan, Co. Donegal

Dublin

An Grianán Training Centre, Grace Park Road, Dublin 9 (this is on the same grounds as the Whitehall/High Park Industrial School)

Ballymun Residential Project, 163/164 Balcurris Road, Dublin 11

Bartres Children Home, Kill O' the Grange, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (originally known as The Grange)

Blaithin and Cuan Mhuire, Drumcondra: these were the group homes which were established in place of Whitehall/St Joseph's/High Park Industrial School

Cheeverstown House, Templeogue, Dublin 6

Coombe Ragged Schools and Boys Home (a Smyly home)
 Cottage Home, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
 Catholic Social Service Conference Hostel, 64 Eccles Street, Dublin 7
 Chester Lodge, Moate, Co. Westmeath (Mount Carmel - this is probably the former industrial school)
 Cloonamahon, Collooney, Co. Sligo
 Cor Unum, Drumcondra, Dublin 9
 CPI Marino Special School, Bray, Co. Wicklow
 Cregg House: St Cecilia's, Cregg House, Sligo
 Don Bosco Houses, Gardiner Street, Dublin 1
 Elliot Home (for Waifs and Strays/for Little Children), 7/8 Charlemont Street, also in Townsend Street and Bray
 Emmanuel Home - opened adjacent to Bethany in the 1930s, later transferred to Tipperary but house was burnt down - arson - not clear whether children had yet moved there; relocated to Avoca in Wicklow
 Finglas Child and Adolescent Centre, Dublin 11
 Glensilva, 95 Monkstown Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (This has also been described as Our Boy's Home; a Smyly home)
 Homeless Girls Society, Sherrard House, 19 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1
 Kirwan House, Ranelagh, Dublin 6; also North Circular Road, Dublin 7
 La Verna, Kenilworth Road, Dublin 6
 Linden Convalescent Home, Blackrock, Co. Dublin (this, in spite of its name, is listed as a school for physically handicapped children in Department of Education Statistical Tables 1966/67)
 Los Angeles Society Home for Homeless Boys, 4 Conyngham Road, Dublin 8 and
 22 Newtown Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
 Madonna House, Blackrock, Co. Dublin (This was initially on Merrion Road and then moved to Blackrock)
 Martanna House Hostel, Grace Park Road, Dublin 9
 Mary Immaculate School for the Deaf, Beechpark, Co. Dublin (Ryan Report Volume 11)
 Miss Carr's Children's Home, 5 Northbrook Road, Dublin 6 (this is separate from the Miss Carr's Mother and Baby Home - see Chapter 25).
 Northcote Home, Dun Laoghaire

Philomena House, Dundrum (this is an exit pathway for many children from the Dublin Union in the 1920s; the Commission has not been able to find any reference to it in any other official document.

The Protestant Home for Orphan and Destitute Girls/Harold's Cross Orphanage, transferred to Mayil Children's Home Bray in the late 1940s and then moved to Westbank - Greystones (Miss Mather's)

Racefield, Upper Mounttown Road, Dún Laoghaire (a Smyly home)

Sacred Heart Home, Drumcondra, Dublin 9; later in Santry

Scoil Ard Mhuire, Lusk, Co. Dublin (reformatory)

Society of St Vincent de Paul, Child Care Centre, 69 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

Smyly Homes: Mrs Smyly's Homes for Necessitous Children (and Ragged Schools) - there seem to have been a total of 13 Smyly Homes at some stage; some specific ones are mentioned on this list; one was called the "Home for Big Lads" - it is unlikely anyone was sent from a mother and baby home to it

St Anne's Hostel, 72 Lower Sean McDermott St, Dublin 1

St Augustine's, Obelisk Park, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

St Clare's Orphanage, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6

St Joseph's School for Hearing Impaired Boys, Cabra, Dublin 7 (Ryan Report Volume 1)

St Joseph's School for the Visually Handicapped, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

St Joseph's Orphanage, Tivoli Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

St Mary's School for Visually Impaired Girls, Merrion, Dublin

St Vincent's Orphanage, North William St, Dublin 9

St Mary's School for Hearing Impaired Girls, Cabra, Dublin 7 (Dominican Sisters; Ryan Report, Volume 11)

St Michael's, Glenmaroon, Chapelizod, Dublin 20

St Paul's Hospital, Beaumont, Dublin 9

St Philomena's, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin (this was established in 1932 specifically to cater for children who were in Pelletstown and could not be adopted or fostered)

St Saviour's Orphanage, Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1 (also known as Dominican Boys' Home)

St Teresa's, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

St Vincent's Orphanage, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

St Vincent's, Navan Road, Dublin 7

Stewart's Hospital, Palmerstown, Dublin 20

Sunshine Home (Children's Sunshine Home), Stillorgan/Leopardstown, Co. Dublin (this was a residential children's home with no religious involvement; the St Vincent de Paul also had Sunshine Homes which were places where they brought poor children on holidays - they are not residential children's homes in the sense being used here)

Tabor House, Dublin

The Bird's Nest Home, 19 York Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (a Smyly home)

The Boley, Monkstown

The Boys Home, Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2

The Children's Fold. The Coombe

The Los Angeles Homes, Dublin

The O'Brien Institute, Malahide Road, Dublin

Warrenstown House, Corduff Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Galway

Aasleagh, Leenane (Irish Church Missions); later Lurgan Street Dublin

Holy Family School, Renmore, Co. Galway

Kilcornan Centre, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway

Kerry

St Francis' & St Mary of the Angels, Beaufort, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Kilkenny

School of the Holy Spirit, Seville Lodge, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

Limerick

St Vincent's Centre for Persons with Intellectual Disability, Lisnagry, Limerick

Louth

St Mary's, Drumcar, Dunleer, Co. Louth

Meath

Orphanage Schools, Convent of Mercy, Kells, Co. Meath (also known as Sacred Heart Orphanage)

St Joseph's Babies Home, Stamullen (associated with St Clare's Adoption Society)

Sligo

Family Group Home, Geevagh, Co. Sligo
Nazareth House, Sligo

Tipperary

St Anne's, Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary (this is **not** the Sean Ross mother and baby home; it is a home for children with intellectual disabilities on the same grounds as the former mother and baby home)

Waterford

St Martin's Orphanage, Waterford

Westmeath

St Mary's, Delvin, Co. Westmeath

Wexford

Family Group Home, Wexford
Marfield House Gorey (The Children's Fold)

Wicklow

Deralossery House, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow (mainly for Traveller children)
Elliot Home, Bray
Sheeana, Wicklow (Irish Church Missions)
Sunbeam House, Bray
Trudder House, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow (Traveller children)

Specific institutions

- 2.26 As already stated, the Commission has not investigated any of the institutions mentioned in this chapter. It has received information about some of them. In particular, the Daughters of Charity (see Chapter 13) provided information about a number of its institutions and the interaction between them.

Daughters of Charity institutions

- 2.27 The Daughters of Charity ran Pelletstown and they also had a significant involvement in children's homes including homes for children with disabilities. The

interaction between Pelletstown and St Vincent's Cabra is described in Chapter 13. Both were originally part of the Dublin Union but Cabra was designated as a home for children with disabilities in the mid-1920s, ceased to be an integral part of the Dublin Union and was financed on a capitation basis from then on.

- 2.28 St Philomena's, Stillorgan was established by the Daughters of Charity in 1932 to take some of the older children from Pelletstown who were not being boarded out. Many of the children were 'mentally defective' but others were there because their mothers would not agree to have them boarded out. In some of these cases, the mothers visited the children.
- 2.29 St Philomena's was certified by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health for the reception of 208 children under Section 3 of the *Pauper Children (Ireland) Act 1898*. Problems arose when it sought certification under Section 47 of the *Public Assistance Act 1939* because it had become a recognised national school and, as such, could not be a 'certified' school (see Chapter 1).
- 2.30 While St Philomena's was not an integral part of the Dublin Union, it was almost treated as such by the Dublin board of assistance and its successors. It was inspected by the board and arrangements were made to have children resident there boarded out. The children were all the responsibility of the board.
- 2.31 It was financed by capitation rates and was also inspected by departmental officials (such inspections seem to have stopped in 1957 - see Chapter 1). A 1943 inspection by Miss Litster found the physical conditions to be good and the children were 'excellently provided with clothing and boots'. There were good bathroom and lavatory provisions. The food was plain but adequate. The milk was supplied from their own herd of 14 cows which were tuberculin tested. (A further report of an inspection by Miss Litster in 1949 was similarly positive). The facilities had recently been enlarged and were generally bright and airy.
- 2.32 The children were almost all sent by Pelletstown; they were a charge on the Dublin Union and the capitation rate was 12s 6d a week. Miss Litster noted that there seemed to be no rules about moving children from one institution to another. She had been informed by the superior in Pelletstown that the former Dublin board of assistance had a rule that children who had reached the age of three and whose mothers were either visiting them or making contributions to their maintenance

should be transferred to St Philomena's. In practice, only a small number of visits were paid by mothers and these visits were possible only for mothers who had got employment around Dublin. Contributions by mothers were irregular and seldom amounted to more than a couple of pounds a year. The current board of assistance was now ignoring this rule and trying to board out as many children as possible.

- 2.33 In February 1947, the minister consented provisionally to the reception of public assistance children from Balrothery and Rathdown boards of assistance under Section 35 of the *Public Assistance Act 1939* (see Chapter 1). This consent was subject to the condition that the provisions of the *Public Assistance Act* and associated regulations would apply as if it were approved under Section 47. This arrangement was legally dubious but it seems to have been applied to other schools as well.
- 2.34 Rathdown asked for approval for an increase in maintenance to 15s a week. This was approved. Other boards of assistance had to apply for specific approval if they wanted to send children to St Philomena's. The capitation rate was increased to 17s 6d from 1 January 1948 and to 19s from 1 April 1948.
- 2.35 A medical inspector visited in 1949 and recommended that approval be for a maximum of 190 children. The Daughters of Charity had asked for an increase in the approval number to 220. The figure of 208 was retained as the officials were concerned that there were no other places for the children concerned even though they were aware that they were going against medical opinion. The children were all sent by the three Dublin boards of assistance other than one child from Laois.
- 2.36 In 1958, the Daughters of Charity asked to have some of the children who were applying for entry to an overcrowded Cabra (the residential school for 'mentally deficient' children - see above) sent to St Philomena's. The Inspector of Mental Hospitals was asked for his views. It was approved for the admission of 38 such children.
- 2.37 There were discussions about not sending any Dublin board of assistance children to St Philomena's (the number going there was declining because of greater use of boarding out) and using St Philomena's as a home for 'mentally defective' children only. This was proposed in April 1959 by the Dublin assistant city manager. The

Department of Health official who discussed this with him suggested that 'the problem of the unmarried mother and her child was decreasing steadily in size' and it looked like a smaller institution than Pelletstown would be adequate. The question of exchanging St Philomena's for Pelletstown was mentioned. In June 1959, the director of the Daughters of Charity, Fr Sheehy, told the department that Archbishop McQuaid had asked that the Daughters of Charity establish a home for 'mentally deficient' girls on the south side of the city. The proposal was that the children in St Teresa's Home, Blackrock would move to St Philomena's and a new home for girls would be established in St Teresa's. Fr Sheehy was not in favour of the Pelletstown/St Philomena's swop for a number of reasons including that the postulatum was in St Philomena's and it would be undesirable to move the Pelletstown residents there. There were further discussions about the various proposals including consideration of sending some 'mentally deficient' children to Pelletstown. After discussions between all the relevant parties - the Daughters of Charity, the Department of Health and the Dublin board of assistance, it was decided to use St Teresa's exclusively for children with intellectual disabilities¹² and move existing residents to St Philomena's with no change at Pelletstown.

St Mura's, Fahan

2.38 St Mura's Orphanage, Fahan, Co. Donegal was approved for the boarding out of children. In 1986, when the Department of Health was trying to rationalise the mother and baby homes and infant nursing homes, it was suggested that St Mura's would be phased out. In the Department of Health memorandum on the subject, St Mura's was described as catering mainly for pre-adoption placements arranged by St Mura's Adoption Society and by CURA (see Chapter 26 for its role in relation to the Castle). The memorandum said that it had a capacity for 20 and that the babies came from various parts of Ireland. However, the suggestion that it be phased out was rejected by the Secretary of the Department of Health who pointed out that:

I do not think that we should at this time take any action in the case of the infant nursing home facility at Fahan, Co Donegal. It provides a facility which spares out national blushes in the area of adoption of 'legitimate but unwanted children'. The resource involved at £13,600 is trivial. I will elaborate when you have had an opportunity to read the submissions.¹³

¹² This decision seems to have been largely driven by Archbishop McQuaid.

¹³ Department of Health, RM/INA/0/505362.

- 2.39 It would appear that this is a reference to the placement for adoption in Northern Ireland of extra-marital children who were not eligible for adoption in Ireland because they were regarded as 'legitimate'.

St Clare's Hospital

- 2.40 In 1943, the DLGPH decided to open a hospital to deal with gastro-enteritis after one of the worst epidemics that had struck the city for years. Bacteriological and clinical investigators found that the disease affected children independently of the economic circumstances of their families and of the type of milk supplied to them, whether highest grade, pasteurised or ordinary milk. This epidemic had been responsible for a significant rise in the infant mortality rate in the years 1942-44.¹⁴ The number of diarrhoea and enteritis cases reported in Dublin during 1943 was 2,013. The Medical Officer for the City of Dublin reported that 609 deaths due to diarrhoea and enteritis were notified in the city during 1943. All such deaths occurred in infants and children under two years old.¹⁵

- 2.41 The Claremont Institution for Protestant Orphans at Glasnevin¹⁶ and its 28 acres were taken over by the Dublin board of assistance. It cost £3,700 and, after renovation costing £70,000, was officially opened in October 1944. It had accommodation for 106 cots.¹⁷ There were 50 medical staff. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health was quoted as saying that he thought he would be correct in saying that, notwithstanding the prevalence of a deadly form of this disease throughout Europe, Ireland was the only country that had provided a specially designed, specially equipped and specially staffed hospital for its treatment.¹⁸

- 2.42 The Parliamentary Secretary also said the most serious public health problem in the country was infant mortality, particularly in Dublin. He said that the evidence pointed to unhygienic handling of milk and of feeding utensils as a causative factor.

Temple Hill

- 2.43 St Patrick's Infant Hospital, Temple Hill (sometimes called Temple Hill Dietetic Hospital), Blackrock, is frequently wrongly described as a mother and baby home.

¹⁴ *Irish Press*, 22 August 1944.

¹⁵ Matthew J. Russell, *Report on the state of public health in the city of Dublin for the year 1944* (Dublin, 1945).

¹⁶ It was also known as the Claremount Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.

¹⁷ *Evening Herald*, 19 October 1944.

¹⁸ *Irish Press*, 20 October 1944.

It was an infants' nursery and mothers were not resident there. As a hospital, it received funding from the Hospitals Commission (see Chapter 27).

Hospitals

- 2.44 Children sometimes spent significant periods of time in hospitals, particularly children who had physical disabilities. Children's hospitals had national schools within them. The following hospitals were included in the RIRS:

Cork University Hospital School
 Harcourt Street Hospital, Dublin 2
 St Joseph's Orthopaedic Hospital for Children, Coole, Co. Westmeath
 Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin 12
 St Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh, Dublin 11
 St Mary's Orthopaedic Hospital, Baldoyle, Dublin 13
 St Paul's Hospital, Beaumont, Dublin 9
 Temple Street Hospital, Dublin 1

Institutions for people with disabilities

- 2.45 For much of the period covered by the Commission there was a severe shortage of residential services for adults and children with disabilities. Initially they were mainly housed in workhouses which were renamed county homes after 1922. Adults with disabilities who were unable to work were not eligible for specific income supports until the Disabled Person's Maintenance Allowance was introduced in 1954.¹⁹ This was not payable to people living in residential institutions until 1996 when it was renamed Disability Allowance.
- 2.46 In the workhouse/county home system, people with disabilities were classified as 'lunatics' but this seems to have covered people with mental illness and people with intellectual and possibly even physical disabilities. One of the reasons why children remained in Pelletstown for lengthy periods was because they had disabilities and there were not enough suitable places for them to go. Children remained in county homes for similar reasons.

¹⁹ SI 207/1954 - *Disabled Persons (Maintenance Allowances) Regulations 1954*.

Physical disability

- 2.47 There were a number of residential schools for children with physical disabilities. The following were included in the RIRS:

CPI Marino Special School, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Mary Immaculate School for the Deaf, Beechpark, Co. Dublin.

St Joseph's School for Hearing Impaired Boys, Cabra, Dublin 7

St Joseph's School for the Visually Handicapped, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

St Mary's School for Visually Impaired Girls, Merrion, Dublin

St Mary's School for Hearing Impaired Girls, Cabra, Dublin 7

The three schools for deaf children were investigated by the Ryan Commission.

Intellectual disability

- 2.48 The Stewart Institution for Imbeciles²⁰ which opened in 1869 and was initially supported entirely by charitable donations was the only residential institution for the mentally handicapped in Ireland in 1922. There were 125 places available. In 1926, St Vincent's, Cabra became a home for mentally handicapped children (see Chapter 13). Subsequently a number of other institutions were established. They were all voluntary institutions; there were no State residential facilities for children with disabilities. They were mainly run by religious orders but, in the 1950s, associations of 'parents and friends of the mentally handicapped' began to get involved. The Hospitals Trust Fund did provide capital funding for some of the new institutions. There was very little regulation; in fact regulation did not become the norm until the 2000s. The State and the local health authorities paid a capitation rate for residents in broadly the same way as was done in mother and baby homes.

- 2.49 A White Paper on *The Problem of the Mentally Handicapped* was published by the Department of Health in 1960.²¹ It stated that the number of residential places for people with intellectual disabilities needed to be doubled from the 3,200 then available to about 7,000. The report of the Commission of Inquiry into Mental Handicap was published in 1965. It also recognised the need for more residential places for 'mentally handicapped' children. It is clear from this report that district mental hospitals and county homes were still being used to house children with intellectual disabilities. The White Paper recorded that there were 2,000 people in mental hospitals and 450 people in county homes who were described as mentally

²⁰ Now known as Stewart's Care: <https://www.stewartscare.ie/about/history/>

²¹ <https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/593379>

handicapped. The White Paper and the report outlined the development of services for children with intellectual disabilities including residential services.

- 2.50 They show that, in 1932, there were three special institutions with a total of 500 places; by 1939, there were 800 places and 1,030 by 1947 in six institutions; five additional institutions were established by 1953; this amounted to a total of 1,460 places. By 1960 there were 14 institutions with 2,620 places. At the time, there were plans for 600 new beds. The institutions had received £1.6 million in capital funding from the Hospitals Trust Fund. By December 1964, there were 3,130 places available. As well as the inadequacy of existing places, the White Paper recognised that there were other problems including finding suitable staff; the religious orders were having difficulties in this area. The existing institutions (except one) were designed mainly for children but nearly half of the residents were over the school leaving age (14 at the time) - clearly because there was nowhere for the residents to go.

Institutions listed in White Paper (1960)

St Augustine's (Colony for Mental Defectives), Blackrock had 30 places in 1932 and 220 by 1960; all male

St Raphael's, Celbridge had 32 places in 1953 and 200 in 1960; all male

St Mary's, Drumcar had 115 places in 1953 and 340 in 1960; all male

St Teresa's, Stamullen had 60 places in 1947; ceased to exist in 1955; all male

House of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lota, Glanmire, Cork had 90 places in 1947 and 260 in 1960; all male

St Joseph's, Kilcornan House, Clarenbridge had 27 places in 1953 and 100 in 1960; all male

St Vincent's, Cabra had 360 places in 1932 and 480 in 1960; males aged 3-9 and females

House of the Holy Angels, Glenmaroon, had 110 in 1953 and 235 in 1960; all female

St Joseph's, Clonsilla, had 42 places in 1947 and 270 in 1960; all female

St Vincent's Lisnagry had 35 places in 1960; all female

St Philomena's, Stillorgan had 100 places in 1960; all male

St Teresa's, Blackrock had 100 places in 1960; all female

St Mary's Delvin had 40 places in 1960; all female

Cregg House, Sligo had 25 places in 1960; all female

Stewart's Hospital had 120 places in 1932 and 280 in 1960; male and female.

Inspection and conditions

- 2.51 The Commission has not seen evidence that the institutions for children with intellectual disabilities were inspected. Little is known about the conditions within them.

Transfers from Pelletstown

- 2.52 The main institutions to which children with a disability were transferred from Pelletstown were:

The Stewart Institution

St Vincent's, Navan Road, Cabra

St Augustine's Colony for Mental Defectives, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Our Lady of Good Counsel Residential Special School and Training Centre, Lota, Glanmire, Co. Cork

St Raphael's Residential Special School, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

St Mary's Convent, South Hill, Delvin, Co. Westmeath

St Michael's Mentally Deficient Home and School, Holy Angels, Glenmaroon, Chapelizod

St Mary's of the Angels, Whitefield, Beaufort, Co. Kerry, founded in 1968

St Mary's School for Hearing Impaired Children, Dominican Convent, Cabra

St Mary's Auxiliary Hospital, Baldoyle (orthopaedic hospital).

People with mental illness

- 2.53 People suffering from mental illness were also housed in workhouses/county homes as well as in mental hospitals (which, in the case of some district mental hospitals, were former workhouses). As already stated, children with intellectual disabilities were often housed in mental hospitals. The Commission of Inquiry on Mental Illness was established 1961 and it reported in 1966.²² This reported that there were approximately 1,000 beds in 13 private hospitals and about 18,000 beds in district mental hospitals:

One of the first tasks to which the Commission addressed itself was to consider the exceptional rates of residence in the psychiatric hospitals in Ireland. No clear explanation has emerged. There are indications that mental

²² <https://www.lenus.ie/bitstream/handle/10147/45690/8634.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

illness may be more prevalent in Ireland than any other countries; however, there are many factors involved, and in the absence of more detailed research, the evidence to this effect cannot be said to be conclusive. Special demographic features, such as the high emigration rate, the low marriage rate and problems of employment, may be relevant to the unusually high rate of hospitalisation. In a largely rural country with few large centres of population, social and geographic isolations may affect both the mental health of individuals and the effectiveness of the mental health services. The public attitude towards mental illness may not be helpful to the discharge of patients and their reintegration in the community. On all these points, the Commission could do little more than ask questions.

- 2.54 The commission reported that, in the year ended 31 March 1965, the average number of patients resident in district, branch and auxiliary mental hospitals was 17,949:

In Ireland, approximately 7.3 psychiatric beds were provided in 1961 per 1,000 of the population; this rate appears to be the highest in the world and compared with 4.5 in Northern Ireland, 4.6 in England and Wales, 4.3 in Scotland, 2.1 in France and 4.3 in U.S.A. At any given time, about one in every seventy of our people above the age of 24 years is in a mental hospital.

- 2.55 There were 18 mental hospital districts each of which had a district mental hospital. The private mental hospitals had been established mainly before 1922; the first was St Patrick's hospital which was founded in 1745. The majority of the public mental hospitals also predated the State. St Brendan's, Grangegorman opened in 1814 as the Richmond Lunatic Asylum. St Ita's, Portrane was built to cater for the overflow from St Brendan's. The report lists all of the mental hospitals which existed at the time.

- 2.56 The report found that some buildings were new, or comparatively new, but most were erected between 1820 and 1900 and were:

clearly a legacy of the days when the emphasis was on security measures and on custodial care. In many cases praiseworthy efforts have been made to improve old buildings and some have been brought up to a good, or reasonably good, standard; others have been sadly neglected. In the Commission's view a large number are unsuitable in design and lack the facilities necessary for the proper treatment of patients.

2.57 It went on to state:

Unfortunately, the carrying out of improvements has not been uniform and some hospitals, or parts of hospitals, have a standard of accommodation which varies from poor to bad. Some have adequate catering, heating and sanitary arrangements, but most need considerable improvements in regard to these facilities. Furniture and furnishings are inadequate in most cases. Facilities for occupational, recreational and industrial therapy and for proper medical treatment, are poor in most hospitals. In addition, a custodial approach still persists in some hospitals.

... there are still too many barrack-like structures characterised by large wards, gloomy corridors and stone stairways. Too many also have inadequate facilities and services and lack the purposeful activity and therapeutic atmosphere that are necessary in a modern mental hospital.

2.58 The report pointed out that health authorities had the power to send patients to private hospitals and homes and to pay for them at approved rates (varying from £5 10s a week to £11 11s) but this power was not much used. However, considerable use was made of a provision in the *Health Act 1953*, under which a person who was entitled to receive treatment free, or at a reduced rate, in a district mental hospital, could get a contribution towards the cost of treatment in a private hospital or home. The contribution rates at the time varied from £6 6s to £8 1s a week. The period of payment was limited to 13 weeks.

2.59 The Commission of Inquiry on Mental Illness did consider the mental health difficulties faced by children in industrial schools. It adverted to children who were deprived of a normal family life and recognised them as being vulnerable and possibly emotionally disturbed. They were children 'for whom psychiatric and psychological services are particularly necessary. The provisions made for these services are very often most inadequate'. It does not seem to have specifically addressed the question of residents of mother and baby homes.

2.60 Mental hospitals were subject to inspection since the passing of the *Mental Treatment Act 1945*. This provided for, among other things, an Inspector of Mental Hospitals. It also set out the rules for admission to mental hospitals.