

THE IRISH CENTRE WELFARE OFFICE
50/52, CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON, N.W.1.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1st JANUARY - 31st DECEMBER 1967.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Irish Centre Welfare Office is to help young Irish men and women when they first arrive in London, and to help persons referred to the office by various organisations and welfare agents.

The office, in co-operation with the Marian Employment Agency offers good hostel and private accommodation, employment and other services. These services are effective, and those who avail of them start life in London on a good social and economic level. Yet these services are not used to the best advantage by emigrants. Perhaps the following are some of the reasons for this:-

1. Emigrants may leave Ireland without sufficient money - the minimum we suggest they should bring with them is £25.
2. Some may not be aware of the existence of the Irish Centre. They may spend whatever money and resources they have in a haphazard way and then arrive at the Irish Centre penniless.
3. The Welfare Office spends a considerable amount of time in trying to help people who would have been better advised not to emigrate in the first place. These fall principally into four categories:-
 - (i) Emigrants may suffer from a variety of mental and physical disabilities, and therefore it may be almost impossible to obtain accommodation and employment for them.
 - (ii) People who would in any case find difficulty in securing employment such as those approaching pensionable age.
 - (iii) Families for whom the difficulty of obtaining accommodation is often insoluble owing to the present housing shortage.
 - (iv) Persons under eighteen years of age. The wages paid to juveniles are inadequate to provide for young people who are living away from home, especially in the very expensive conditions of London.

Some who emigrate seem to suffer from a lot of wishful thinking and a lack of common sense. Those who have responsibly decided to emigrate, should, if they have properly prepared for this big and important step, reach worthy positions in Britain. Those who come on the off-chance of an easier life, or because they do not fit in at home, or merely because they are dissatisfied in their own country, should think again before leaving their familiar surroundings.

The Welfare Office helped 1568 applicants in 1967 as against 1966 during the previous year. This is a reduction of 398 persons - (317 male, 33 female, 45 families, and 3 non-Irish).

This decrease relates to some main factors occurring during the year:

1. Fewer job opportunities, particularly for the unskilled and semi-skilled in factories and the building trade, because of the economic situation in Britain.
2. Foot and mouth restrictions served to refrain many would-be emigrants from travelling.
3. During 1966 the Irish Bank strike added approximately 100/150 applicants to that year's total figure.

The total number of persons interviewed:

IRISH	New Emigrants	Others	Total
Male	715 (1007)	443 (468)	1158 (1475)
Female	199 (260)	137 (109)	336 (369)
Families	10 (30)	10 (35)	20 (65)
Total	940 (1297)	590 (612)	1514 (1909)
OTHER NATIONALITIES:			
Male - 34	Female - 20		54 (57)
GRAND TOTAL			1568 (1966)

N.B. The figures in parentheses represent 1966 totals

Others: These are enquiries made by persons who had returned to Ireland and have now come to Britain for the second time or persons who are permanently living in Britain.

Total Irish applicants classified by age group (excluding families)

Sex	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Grand Total
Male	90	404	330	173	84	77	1158
Female	34	110	95	51	25	21	336
Total	124	514	425	224	109	98	1494
1966 Total	(149)	(615)	(522)	(289)	(136)	(133)	(1844)

STATISTICAL TABLE - showing newly arrived and others classified according to welfare service provided

NEW EMIGRANTS M A L E

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total
Total persons	77	314	214	67	21	22	715
ACCOMMODATION	56	246	165	50	14	14	545
EMPLOYMENT	30	182	126	22	8	6	374
FINANCE	45	110	68	23	11	9	266
REPATRIATION	20	6	2	1	-	-	29
MEDICAL	1	1	5	1	1	1	10
ORPHANS	-	8	8	-	-	-	16
EX-OFFENDERS	3	6	7	2	-	-	18
MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	-	1	-	3	1	2	7
PSYCHIATRIC	2	1	11	7	4	-	25
GENERAL WELFARE	61	119	88	23	10	10	312

M A L E

GRAND TOTAL	1967	1966
	1153	1475
ACCOMMODATION	855	1025
EMPLOYMENT	577	904
FINANCE	429	483
REPATRIATION	41	59
MEDICAL	10	21
ORPHANS	22	20
EX-OFFENDERS	46	24
MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	26	10
PSYCHIATRIC	67	59
GENERAL WELFARE	521	-

OTHERS M A L E

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total
Total persons	13	90	116	106	63	55	443
ACCOMMODATION	7	63	82	81	39	38	310
EMPLOYMENT	9	53	63	41	18	19	203
FINANCE	7	30	39	40	32	15	163
REPATRIATION	-	3	2	4	2	1	12
MEDICAL	1	-	2	7	2	2	14
ORPHANS	-	3	3	-	-	-	6
EX-OFFENDERS	-	8	5	7	8	-	28
MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	-	-	2	8	7	2	19
PSYCHIATRIC	-	2	8	19	10	3	42
GENERAL WELFARE	11	37	43	56	39	23	209

N.B. The above column includes both new emigrants and others.

N.B. General Welfare include applicants socially inadequate - slept rough, or helped by Ministry of Social Security, etc.

STATISTICAL TABLE - showin newly arrived and others classified according to welfare service provided

NEW EMIGRANTS F E M A L E

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total
Total persons	29	84	52	19	7	8	199
ACCOMMODATION	25	70	41	13	7	8	164
EMPLOYMENT	19	44	32	9	4	6	114
FINANCE	17	25	11	5	1	4	63
REPATRIATION	12	4	4	4	-	-	24
UNMARRIED MOTHERS	3	8	7	2	-	-	20
MEDICAL	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
ORPHANS	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	-	-	4	1	4	-	9
EX-OFFENDERS	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
PSYCHIATRIC	-	-	3	3	1	-	7
GENERAL WELFARE	18	23	13	7	3	5	69

F E M A L E

GRAND TOTAL	1967	1966
	336	369
ACCOMMODATION	278	241
EMPLOYMENT	186	214
FINANCE	98	65
REPATRIATION	28	21
UNMARRIED MOTHERS	38	42
MEDICAL	7	4
ORPHANS	3	5
MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	22	10
EX-OFFENDERS	6	4
PSYCHIATRIC	32	23
GENERAL WELFARE	138	-

OTHERS F E M A L E

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total
Total persons	5	26	43	32	18	13	137
ACCOMMODATION	1	26	41	32	15	12	114
EMPLOYMENT	1	15	28	12	11	5	72
FINANCE	1	8	11	5	6	4	35
REPATRIATION	1	-	3	-	-	-	4
UNMARRIED MOTHERS	-	8	4	4	2	-	18
MEDICAL	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
ORPHANS	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	-	-	3	4	2	4	13
EX-OFFENDERS	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
PSYCHIATRIC	-	1	8	9	5	2	25
GENERAL WELFARE	1	11	12	19	13	13	69

N.B. The above column includes both new emigrants and others

Comments on the Welfare tables:

Although the total number of individuals interviewed in the Welfare Office has decreased in 1967, the amount of work undertaken by the office has increased as a great many of the problems presented were more severe and more complicated.

The number of girls seeking accommodation and financial help has increased whereas the number of men in these categories have decreased.

It is pleasant to note a small decrease of emigrants under 18 years. Nevertheless these figures are still far too high and perhaps more responsibility on the part of parents is indicated.

It is also gratifying to note a decrease in the number of families who came to the Welfare Office. Although we managed to deal with all those who sought help, we still strongly recommend that if circumstances force families to come to Britain, one parent should come over first to obtain employment and find accommodation and prepare the ground for the rest of the family.

Non-Irish: During the year 54 applicants from countries other than Ireland were also interviewed. There were two psychiatric cases among the male and two among the female.

Male: 2 - America: 19 - ^{England} ~~United Kingdom~~: 12 - Scotland: 1 - Spain.

Female: 1 - America: 14 - ^{England} ~~United Kingdom~~: 2 - Nigeria: 1 - Scotland:
2 - Welsh

Education and Employment

Applicants classified by educational background

Sex	Illiterate	National	Primary	Tech.	Group	Inter	Leaving	Uni.	Total
Male	2	621	249	28	31	67	150	10	1158
Female	5	187	66	13	9	16	36	4	336
Total	7	808	315	41	40	83	186	14	1494
1966 Total	(6)	(1043)	(380)	(52)	(17)	(61)	(289)	(2)	(1844)

From the above table it can be noted that a high percentage of those interviewed at the Welfare Office are still of a low academic achievement. As pointed out last year, there is a great need to encourage young boys and girls in Ireland to obtain full benefit from the education provided, and as far as possible to learn a trade or skill.

There is a greater need still for a career guidance advice at school level to enable young people to appreciate how best they may play a useful role in society and not, as so often happens, deteriorate into welfare cases with social and personality problems. Far too many still arrive with no idea of what type of work they want.

Special thanks is due to the branch office of the Marian Employment Agency. The early placement of newly arrived emigrants is essential.

During the past year we have received numerous requests for help from social workers seeking permanent accommodation for young men who have been brought up in Irish orphanages or have spent a number of years in Irish industrial schools. Our Hostels and most others in London supply temporary accommodation only, and therefore are unsuitable.

Conclusion:

During the Summer we had a Social Studies Student from Trinity College, Dublin, doing field work for six weeks. This has now become an annual arrangement with the various Universities in Ireland. Clerical students from colleges in Ireland and Rome also spent some weeks working with us.

We also had numerous distinguished visitors during the year. We were honoured to have among them:-

Most Rev. Dr. J.P. Fitzgerald, O.M.I., Archbishop of Bloomfontein.

Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Morris, Archbishop of Cashel

Most Rev. Dr. Anthony McFeely, Bishop of Raphoe and Eunan.

Most Rev. Peter Birch, Bishop of Ossary.

Most Rev. Cornelius Lucey, Bishop of Cork and Ross.

Most Rev. Cathal Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise.

Dr. Liam Ryan, from Cork University, who was conducting a survey on emigrant welfare in London.

Brendan Corish, T.D., Leader of the Irish Labour Party.

The Mayor of Islington.

The Mayor of Camden, P. O'Connor, who visited us on several occasions.

The Irish Centre held two open evenings for members of the Camden Borough Council, during which the whole Centre, including Welfare Offices, were visited.

We acknowledge with thanks the assistance received from the Press in England. From Radio-Telifis Eireann and the National and Provincial Press in Ireland in making known the responsibility needed towards planned and prepared emigration. Also in making known the financial assistance and support needed by the Irish Centres in Britain.

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to priests in various parishes both in Britain and Ireland, to the Irish Emigrant Chaplaincy, to those chaplains who returned during the year, to the Irish Embassy, to the Welfare Services of the London Borough of Camden, to the Minister of Social Security, and the Ministry of Labour, the Marian Employment Agency, the Crusade of Rescue, and to the Legion of Mary.

Lastly our sincere thanks to the Chaplains at the Irish Centre, Rev. P. Hackett, O.M.I., Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I., and Rev. C. Malone, O.M.I.

Miona Hanly, Welfare Officer

Sister Anne Marie, Assistant Welfare Officer

ANNUAL STATISTICAL TABLE - showing applicants classified by age group, whether married or single, new emigrant or others.

M A L E

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total	GRAND TOTAL
	S. M	S. M.	S. M	S. M	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	
New emigrants	77 -	311 3	202 12	55 12	10 11	8 14	663 52	715
Others	13 -	89 1	94 22	82 24	41 22	29 26	348 95	443
GRAND TOTAL	90 -	400 4	296 34	137 36	51 33	37 40	1011 147	1158
	90	404	330	173	84	77	1158	
Grand Total 1966	111	504	426	233	106	95	1475	1475

F E M A L E

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total	GRAND TOTAL
	S. M	S. M.	S. M	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	
New emigrants	29 -	77 7	45 7	16 3	2 5	4 4	173 26	199
Others	5 -	25 1	39 4	21 11	12 6	6 7	108 29	137
GRAND TOTAL	34 -	102 8	84 11	37 14	14 11	10 11	281 55	336
	34	110	95	51	25	21	336	
Grand Total 1966	38	111	96	56	30	38	369	369

STATISTICAL CHART - showing applicant emigrating classified by county
 origin, age group and whether married or single

M A L E

COUNTY	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45	Total	Total	Total
	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	1967	1966	1965
ANTRIM	8 -	14 -	10 1	2 -	- 2	- 2	39	40	38
ARMACH	- -	1 -	2 -	2. 1	- -	1 3	10	8	16
CARLOW	1 -	1 -	2 1	2 -	- -	- 2	9	14	13
CAVAN	2 -	1 -	5 -	- 1	4 1	1 2	17	21	9
CLARE	- -	10 -	5 1	8 3	1 -	- -	28	33	15
COEK	9 -	39 -	31 3	18 4	5 4	3 3	199	173	122
DEERY	1 -	9 -	10 3	1 1	- -	- -	25	23	15
DONEGAL	2 -	5 -	3 -	1 -	1 -	1 1	14	26	26
DOWN	1 -	6 -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	9	15	9
DUBLIN	26-	139 2	89 12	32 5	12 9	5 11	342	517	327
FERMANAGH	- -	2 -	1 -	3 -	2 2	1 -	11	8	5
GALWAY	6 -	18 -	17 1	12 2	3 2	3 3	67	60	48
KERRY	5 -	22 -	6 1	5 1	- 1	5 -	46	57	47
KILDARE	- -	6 -	4 1	2 1	1 -	1 -	16	28	16
KILKENNY	2 -	8 -	10 -	4 -	- -	- 1	25	23	12
LAOIS	- -	10 1	3 1	1 -	- -	1 -	17	11	9
LEITRIM	- -	4 -	3 -	1 -	- 1	1 -	10	18	12
LIMERICK	5 -	19 1	20 -	3 5	2 4	2 3	64	98	69
LONGFORD	2 -	3 -	3 -	2 -	1 1	- 1	13	24	12
LOUTH	4 -	5 -	2 -	5 1	- -	- -	17	16	11
MAYO	2 -	2 -	13 1	7 1	6 -	2 1	35	48	37
MEATH	- -	12 -	5 2	1 -	- -	1 -	21	17	24
MONAGHAN	- -	2 -	1 -	1 -	- -	1 -	5	8	10
OFFALY	3 -	10 -	4 -	1 1	2 -	- -	21	15	11
ROSCOMMON	- -	4 -	4 -	2 -	- -	1 1	12	13	12
SLIGO	4 -	12 -	3 2	1 2	1 1	2 -	28	18	15
TEMPERARY	4 -	17 -	19 2	10 3	4 -	1 3	63	96	42
TYRONE	2 -	3 -	1 -	- 3	1 -	- 1	11	18	11
WATERFORD	- -	6 -	5 1	5 -	2 3	1 2	25	31	26
WESTMIDATH	- -	4 -	2 1	- -	- 1	1 -	9	21	10
WEXFORD	- -	3 -	6 -	4 1	2 -	1 1	18	26	13
WICKLOW	1 -	3 -	6 -	- -	1 1	- -	12	20	15
Total	90 -	400 4	296 34	137 36	51 33	36 41	1158	1475	1059

STATISTICAL TABLE - showing applicant emigrating classified by county
origin, age and whether married or single

F E M A L E

COUNTY	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Over 45		Total	Total	Total
	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S. M.	S.	M.	1967	1966	1965
ANTRIM	4 -	5 -	4 -	- 2	- 2	1	1	19	8	7
ARMACH	- -	3 -	1 -	1 -	1 -	-	-	6	8	2
CARLOW	1 -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	-	-	3	2	-
CAVAN	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	-	1	3	7	6
CLARE	1 -	1 1	2 -	- -	- -	1	-	6	10	12
CORK	6 -	16 -	4 -	5 1	- 1	-	1	35	47	31
DERRY	- -	- -	1 1	1 -	- -	-	1	4	3	1
DONEGAL	1 -	3 -	7 1	- -	- -	-	-	12	9	12
DOWN	- -	3 -	- -	- -	- -	1	-	4	2	-
DUBLIN	8 -	27 2	25 4	4 8	4 4	2	3	91	104	90
FERMANAGH	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	-	-	1	-	-
GALWAY	- -	10 1	7 -	2 -	- -	-	-	20	23	11
KERRY	2 -	5 -	5 1	1 1	1 2	1	-	19	18	11
KILDARE	- -	3 -	3 -	- -	- -	-	-	6	3	3
KILKENNY	- -	2 -	- -	2 -	1 -	-	-	5	3	7
LAOIS	- -	1 1	- -	1 -	- -	-	1	4	2	4
LEITRIM	- -	- -	2 -	- -	1 -	-	1	4	5	1
LIMERICK	3 -	9 -	4 2	4 -	1 1	-	1	25	27	15
LONGFORD	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 1	-	-	3	6	1
LOUTH	- -	- -	2 -	1 1	- -	1	-	5	2	3
MAYO	3 -	2 1	3 -	1 -	- -	2	-	12	12	10
MEATH	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	-	-	2	7	7
MONAGHAN	- -	1 -	2 -	1 -	- -	-	-	4	2	2
OFFALY	- -	- 1	1 -	1 -	- -	-	-	3	4	10
ROSCOMMON	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	-	-	2	2	4
SLIGO	1 -	4 -	2 -	4 1	- -	-	-	12	8	10
TIPPERARY	1 -	- 1	4 -	3 -	1 -	1	1	12	19	10
TYRONE	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	-	-	3	3	2
WATERFORD	- -	1 -	1 -	2 -	- -	-	-	4	11	6
WESTMEATH	1 -	- -	- 1	- -	- -	-	-	2	4	6
WEXFORD	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	-	-	3	2	5
WICKLOW	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	-	-	2	1	2
Total	34 -	102 8	84 11	37 14	14 11	10	11	336	369	291