

E.R.

I N C O N F I D E N C E

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND DEVELOPMENT

Annexes A and B outline the functions of  
these two Departments.

19 November 1973



FUNCTIONS AND ORGANISATION OF  
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The Ministry is divided into 3 main Divisions, each under a Deputy Secretary reporting to the Permanent Secretary, as follows:-

1. Social Security, Finance and Services

(a) Social Security services are run on direct drive through the Ministry's Headquarters Branches and 36 Local Offices. Total expenditure is not far short of £170 million a year, most of which is funded (eg through the National Insurance Fund) and the remainder voted annually.

(b) This Division is also responsible for the centralised services on which the whole Department depends, like Establishment, Finance and Legal Services.

Under the Deputy Secretary there are 5 Assistant Secretaries, two of whom deal with Social Security and the remaining three with centralised Personnel, Finance and Audit Services respectively for the whole Department.

2. Health and Personal Social Services

These are run on indirect drive through 4 Area Health and Social Services Boards, which are agents of the Ministry. The total annual budget of these services is some £100 million and about 40,000 staff are employed by the Boards.

Under the Deputy Secretary there are 5 Assistant Secretaries dealing with Planning and Legislation, Central Advisory Machinery, Operations, Personnel of Area Boards, and Works Services respectively. This Division also includes a large component of medical, dental, nursing, pharmaceutical, architectural, engineering and other professional staff.

3. Labour Affairs

These include Employment, Training, Industrial Relations, and Industrial Health and Welfare Services, which like



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Social Security are run mainly on direct drive. (The main exception is Enterprise Ulster, which is run on indirect drive through a statutory board.) Annual expenditure on this group of services is much smaller than for the other two main Divisions, amounting to some £15 million.

Under the Deputy Secretary there are 4 Assistant Secretaries dealing with Employment, Training, Industrial Relations, Industrial Health and Welfare etc respectively. (A fifth Assistant Secretary has been seconded as Chief Executive of Enterprise Ulster.) The Factory Inspectorate is attached to this Division, as are certain specialist staff engaged in Occupational Guidance etc.



## Ministry of Development Functions

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT. The basic task of looking after local government law, steering the administration of the District Councils, their staffing, premises, etc. As a result of recent changes there is growing up a bigger representational role; providing elected Councillors for other public bodies; and above all the new consultative role (statutory and two-way) in relation to all the Ministry's functions.
  2. PLANNING. The regional physical development strategy over 20-30 years; Area Plans; Local Action Plans. Control of development applications (every one of which is publicly advertised and also referred to the District Council). Preservation of the Countryside and of Nature Reserves; also of Trees and Historic Buildings. Development Advice Centre for advising Belfast people about jobs, houses and opportunities in the Growth Towns. Promotion of Growth and Key Centres. Residual work on New Towns. Urban Renewal and Town Centre Development embracing roads, transport, shopping, offices, housing etc.
  3. HOUSING. Three-fourths of the work lies with the Housing Executive. About one-fourth rests with Ministry: policy, legislation, finance and regional strategy, land use etc.
  4. ROADS. Planning, design, construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Traffic Management. Control of building along certain roads. But not Road Safety nor licensing, breathalysers or similar "police" functions.
  5. TRANSPORT. Publicly owned or controlled: Rail, Bus, Freight Company, Airport; also licensing of private freight carriers. Not harbours (Commerce); and of course not shipping or airlines (UK).
- 4-5. These services are rapidly converging and future progress will lie in their inter-action.
6. CONSERVATION. Water, sewerage, anti-pollution, clean air, noise, industrial effluent, public health sanitation.

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COMBINED SERVICES

7. DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS. One in each of the 26 Districts; general-purpose men to co-ordinate our services, link up with Councils, give a local service to



Assemblymen, Councillors and others; the six senior men have an added duty of promoting the many-sided Urban Renewal work.

- 8. Legal: a team of specialists serving all functions
- Architecture: "
- Quantity Surveying: "
- Landscape: "
- Public Health: "



Problems.

1. Security

2. Housing.

3. Welfare.

4.

1. Inter Parity.