

# Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

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ACC/2010/2



Papers relating to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland (1896-1963) at Newcastle, County Wicklow. Collection contains the administrative and financial papers of the hospital, a complete set of patient registers, newspaper cuttings relating to the history of the hospital and tuberculosis, and some architectural plans and papers.

Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock  
July 2011

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**RNHC**  
**Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland**

**Collection**  
**1891-1967**

*Extent:*

12 boxes

*Creator:*

Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*

Papers relating to the Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland, including administrative, financial and patient records, as well as plans and documents relating to the building and maintenance of the hospital, and newspaper cuttings.

*Arrangement:*

Material has been divided into 6 sections by record type; Administrative Papers, Financial Papers, Building and Maintenance, Patient Records, Visitors' Book and Newspaper Cuttings. Within each section further subdivisions have been made as necessary and records have been arranged chronologically.

*Administrative History:*

In 1891, at the instigation of Miss Florence Wynn, a provisional committee meet in Dublin with the aim of founding a national sanatorium to treat tuberculosis. The first step in the founding of the hospital was the identification of possible sites. By July 1892 two sites had been identified, one at Ballycorus, near Shankill, and the other at Newcastle in County Wicklow. Although the medical committee favoured the Ballycorus site, Lady Zetland, the wife of the Lord Lieutenant, threatened to withdraw her support and influence if the Newcastle site was not chosen. Lady Zetland's influence held sway, the Newcastle site was chosen and Miss Wynne resigned in protest.

The hospital was opened by Lady Zetland in May 1896, with 24 beds, the numbers rising to 125 by the outbreak of World War One. X-ray facilities were added in 1935 and a modern operating block in 1936. In the early years of the hospital's existence there were strained relationships between the medical staff and the board of governors, with the medical staff feeling that the Board were interfering unnecessarily in the methods of treatment. This came to a head in 1912 when Dr Crofton was appointed visiting physician causing the rest of the medical staff to resign. When Crofton left in 1927, the former medical staff returned on condition they were given representation on the board of governors.

By the 1930s the narrow terms of the hospital's original aim, the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis only, was limiting the effectiveness of the hospital. In the 1932 the memorandum of association was changed to allow the hospital to treat all

forms of tuberculosis. In the 1950s as the treatment of tuberculosis changed, and fewer sanatorium beds were needed, the hospital again had to consider its aims, the name was changed to the Newcastle Hospital and the types of patients that could be accepted were reviewed. In 1963 the Newcastle Hospital closed.

*Custodial History:*

Since the closure of the Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland in the 1960s the records of the hospital had remained in the old hospital buildings, they were donated to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 2010.

*Access Conditions:*

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines

*Reproductions:*

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines

*Physical Condition:*

The material is generally in good condition, some of the bound volumes have damage to their spines.

*References:*

T Gillman Moorhead, 'Newcastle Sanatorium - Fifty Years' Work' in The Irish Journal of Medical Science (May, 1943)

**RNHC/1**  
**Administrative Papers**

**Series**  
**1891-1964**

*Extent:*

6 boxes

*Creator:*

Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*

Papers relating to the administration of the hospital including annual reports, minute books and papers relating to the memorandum and articles of association, the last contain details of changes made to the name and purpose of the hospital.

*Arrangement:*

Material had been divided by type and then arranged chronologically

**RNHC/1/1**  
**Executive Committee and Board of Governors**

**Series**  
**1891 – 1964**

*Extent:*  
10 volumes

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Minute books of the Executive Committee (1891-1893) and the Board of Governors (1893-1964). The Executive Committee were responsible for the establishment of the hospital, finding a site and raising funds. Once the hospital had opened the Board of Governors were responsible for the overall management of the hospital, receiving reports from various sub-committees who dealt with the day to day running of the hospital. The minute books contain minutes of the Annual General Meetings and monthly Board of Governors' meetings. The series also contains a register of governors covering the entire period of the hospitals existence.

*Arrangement:*  
Items are arranged chronologically

**RNHC/1/1/1 Record Book**

**November**  
**1891 - June**  
**1909**

*Extent:*  
60 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland  
Wynne, Florence Elizabeth Letitia Frances

*Description:*  
First minute book of the Hospital, containing details of the early meetings held to discuss Miss Wynne's proposal for a TB hospital, with copies of related documents. The last meeting recorded in the volume is the thirteenth meeting of the executive committee held 3 August 1892. The rest of the volume contains newspaper cuttings relating to the hospital.

- RNHC/1/1/2 Executive Committee Minute Book** **24 February 1892 - 13 June 1893**
- Extent:*  
c.300 pages
- Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland
- Description:*  
Minute book of the executive committee responsible for the establishment of the hospital, following its reappointment in February 1892. There is some overlap between the minutes of the meetings recorded in this volume and in the Record Book (RNHC/1/1/1)
- RNHC/1/1/3 Register of Governors** **1893-1963**
- Extent:*  
c.160 folios
- Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland
- Description:*  
Yearly list of the hospital governors, giving names and address, and occasional observations such as when they retired or died.
- RNHC/1/1/4 Minute Book I** **18 July 1893 - 5 December 1903**
- Extent:*  
c.500 pages
- Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland
- Description:*  
First minute book of the board of governors.

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| <b>RNHC/1/1/5</b> | <b>Minute Book II</b>   | <b>12 January<br/>1904 - 11<br/>February<br/>1915</b> |
|                   | <i>Extent:</i><br>460 pages   |   |
|                   | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland    |   |
| <b>RNHC/1/1/6</b> | <b>Minute Book III</b>  | <b>11 March<br/>1915 - 20<br/>February<br/>1928</b>   |
|                   | <i>Extent:</i><br>476 pages   |   |
|                   | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for<br>Ireland |   |
| <b>RNHC/1/1/7</b> | <b>Minute Book IV</b>   | <b>8 March<br/>1928 - 17<br/>November<br/>1942</b>    |
|                   | <i>Extent:</i><br>c.500 pages   |   |
|                   | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland    |   |
| <b>RNHC/1/1/8</b> | <b>Minute Book V</b>  | <b>15 December<br/>1942 - 18<br/>October<br/>1951</b> |
|                   | <i>Extent:</i><br>c.500 pages   |   |
|                   | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland    |   |
| <b>RNHC/1/1/9</b> | <b>Minute Book VI</b>   | <b>2 October<br/>1951 - 7 May<br/>1957</b>            |
|                   | <i>Extent:</i><br>c.600 pages   |   |
|                   | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland    |   |



**RNHC/1/1/10 Minute Book VII**

**7 May 1957 -  
24 March  
1964**

*Extent:*  
c.400 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for  
Ireland

**RNHC/1/2  
Annual Reports**

**Series  
1893-1962**

*Extent:*  
6 files and items

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Series of bound and loose annual reports covering the entire period of the hospitals existence with the exception of the year 1914. The reports grow more detailed overtime, across the series the following information is contained; names of governors and staff, reports of the board of governors, accounts, details of subscriptions, donations and gifts, medical reports, patient numbers, meterological observations, TB statistics, hospital constitutions and rules for admissions and reports of the linen guild. Many of the reports also contain photographs of the hospital.

**RNHC/1/2/1 Bound Annual Reports 1893-1903**

*Extent:*  
c.500 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/1/2/2 Bound Annual Reports 1904-1913**

*Extent:*  
c.500 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/1/2/3 Bound Annual Reports 1915-1924**

*Extent:*  
c.500 pages

*Creator:*

Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/1/2/4 Bound Annual Reports 1925-1935**

*Extent:*  
c.400 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/1/2/5 Bound Annual Reports 1936-1953**

*Extent:*  
c.700 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/1/2/6 Annual Reports 1954-1962**

*Extent:*  
9 items

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/1/3 Memorandum and Articles of Association 1893-1959**

*Extent:*  
c.250 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Bound volume containing a sign copy of the memorandum and articles of association of the Hospital, with signed slips for all the additional members who joined between 1893 and 1959. There is an index at the back of the volume, arranged by members' surnames.

**RNHC/1/4 Addition of Royal to the Hospital's Name 1903**

*Extent:*  
4 items

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Papers relating to the addition of Royal to the name of the hospital. File contains copy petitions to King Edward VII and William Ward, 2nd Earl Dudley and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland that the name Royal should be added. Also the special resolution and Change of Name Certificate from the Board of Trade under the Companies Act, allowing the change of name.

**RNHC/1/5 Loss of Certificate of Incorporation 1925**

*Extent:*  
11 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland  
Companies Registration Office, Ireland

*Description:*



**RNHC/1/8 Licence to Hold Lands**

**4 March  
1950**

*Extent:*  
2 item

*Creator:*  
Department of Industry and Commerce

*Description:*  
Licence to hold lands not exceeding 200 acres granted to the Hospital by the Department of Industry and Commerce, with a covering letter

**RNHC/1/9 Report on New Facilities Required**

**4 January  
1953**

*Extent:*  
11 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Drafts of a report prepared by Dr Brown [on behalf on the medical board] on the need for new facilities at the hospital, including new laboratory, increased theatre accommodation and a new treatment room.

**RNHC/1/10 Change of Name and Objectives of Hospital**

**22 January  
1953 - 15  
January 1962**

*Extent:*  
c.200 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
During the 1950s it became increasingly clear that the number of TB patients in Ireland was declining, but the hospital was prevented from taking in other types of cases by its articles and memorandum of association. This file contains letters and other documents, including the new articles and memorandum of association, relating to the change of the objectives of the hospital, also the change of

its name to the Newcastle Hospital, which occurred at the same time.

**RNHC/2  
Financial Papers**

**Section  
1895-1964**

*Extent:*  
6 files and items

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Small collection of financial papers, the early papers mainly relate to donations to the hospital, there are also some papers relating to the day-to-day finances of the hospital during the last decade of its existence.

*Arrangement:*  
Items are arranged chronologically

**RNHC/2/1 Register of Legacies 1895-1943**

*Extent:*  
306 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Bound volume containing details of legacies to the hospital, volume contains newspaper cuttings, letters and manuscript notes. There is an index to the volume by doner's surname.

**RNHC/2/2 Fundraising Flyer c.1903**

*Extent:*  
16 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Fundraising flyer entitled 'It is curable' for the Christmas appeal for funds from the hospital. Flyer



contains details of the hospital work, how much money is needed and for what, as well as details of what has already been given. There are also a number of photographs of the interior and exterior of the hospital.

- |                 |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>RNHC/2/3</b> | <b>Register of Subscriber and Donors</b>   | <b>1915-1963</b>                                |
|                 | <i>Extent:</i><br>c.150 folios   |   |
|                 | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland   |   |
|                 | <i>Description:</i><br>Register giving details of subscribers to the hospital funds, folios gives names and addresses of donors with details of how they subscribed each year. There is an alphabetically index by donor at the front. |   |
|                 | <i>Closed Until:</i><br>01/01/2064   |   |
|                 |  |   |
| <b>RNHC/2/4</b> | <b>Payments Recommended by Finance Committee</b>   | <b>14 December<br/>1951 - 20<br/>March 1964</b> |
|                 | <i>Extent:</i><br>454 pages  |   |
|                 | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland   |   |
|                 | <i>Description:</i><br>Bound volume containing a record of all payments made by the hospital, pages are divided into Name, No. of Cheque, Total and Bank, Amount Vouched by, Receipt compared by and Particulars                       |   |
|                 |  |   |
| <b>RNHC/2/5</b> | <b>Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses</b>  | <b>1953-1964</b>                                |
|                 | <i>Extent:</i><br>.50 pages  |   |
|                 | <i>Creator:</i><br>Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland   |   |

The Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses  
and Hospital Officers

*Description:*

File of letters relating to the hospitals participation in  
the superannuation scheme

*Closed Until:*

01/01/2064

**RNHC/2/6 Register of Receipts**

**May 1955 -  
March 1964**

*Extent:*

260 folios

*Creator:*

Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*

Register of cash received and lodged in bank, folios  
are divided into the following sections; From whom  
received, Details, Patients' Fees, Dripping Money,  
Subscriptions and donations, Breakage Deposits,  
Dividends and Interest, Out-Patients X-rays etc, Other  
Receipts, Lodged in Bank, Date Lodged, Details.

**RNHC/3**  
**Building and Maintenance**

**Section**  
**1893-1953**

*Extent:*

4 files and items

*Creator:*

Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*

Architectural plans and documents relating to the building of the hospital in 1893, and additions to the hospital buildings and facilities in the mid-

*Arrangement:*

Papers are grouped by building project and arranged chronologically.

**RNHC/3/1 Bills of Quantities and Omissions & Additions 1893-1895**

*Extent:*

5 items

*Creator:*

Patterson & Kempster; 1872-; Surveyors  
Messers Collen Bros. of Dublin and Portadown,  
Builders  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*

Four bills of quantities laying out the details for the construction of the administrative block, patient block and conservatory as well as the general items, underground works and heating (1893). File also contains a bill of omission and additions detailing extra work to be carried out, with a signed agreement with the builders.

**RNHC/3/2 Hospital Plans c.1896**

*Extent:*

5 sheets

*Creator:*

Sir Thomas N Deane & Son, Architects

*Description:*

Ground and first floor plans for the hospital, showing the building as built and any changes from original proposal, plans also show locations of facilities

**RNHC/3/3 Sewer and Contingent Works 1946**

*Extent:*

2 files

*Creator:*

Delap & Waller, Consulting Engineers

*Description:*

General conditions of contract, specification, bill of quantities and schedule of prices for works to sewers, with a file of related plans

**RNHC/3/4 Laundry, Boilerhouse & Turf Store April 1951**

*Extent:*

1 rolled plan

*Creator:*

Delap & Waller, Consulting Engineers

*Description:*

Isometric view and site plan of proposed laundry, boiler house and turf store on the hospital site.

**RNHC/3/5 New Nurses' Home c.1953**

*Extent:*

14 plans

*Creator:*

Alfred Phillips, b.1913

*Description:*

Series of designs, plans and elevations for a new nurses' home to be built at the hospital.

## **RNHC/4 Patient Registers**

**Series  
2 June 1896 - 3 September 1963**

*Extent:*  
3 volumes

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Complete set of Patient Registers covering the hospital's entire period of existence. The registers' folios are divided into the following columns; Reg. No, Patient's Name, Residence, Recommended By, Age, Sex, Religion, Trade or Occupation, Date of Admission, Date of Discharge, Observations. Observations contain notes on patient's condition on leaving the hospital, notes on follow up research on who they were following discharge. In the second and third volume the following additional columns are added Sputum on Admission, Sputum on Discharge, Condition on Admission, Condition on Discharge and History (this contains similar information on the patient's life after discharge as the Observations column in the first register).

*Arrangement:*  
Volumes are arranged chronologically

### **RNHC/4/1 Register of Intern Patients**

**2 June 1896 -  
30 December  
1919**

*Extent:*  
c.300 folios

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Closed Until:*  
01/01/2020

### **RNHC/4/2 Register of Patients**

**2 January  
1920 - 2 April  
1940**

*Extent:*  
c.300 folios

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Closed Until:*  
01/01/2041

**RNHC/4/3 Register of Patients**

**9 April 1940 -  
3 September  
1963**

*Extent:*  
c.300 folios

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Closed Until:*  
01/01/2064

**RNHC/5  
Visitors' Book**

**Item**

**24 April 1951 - 18 November 1967**

*Extent:*

c.200 pages

*Creator:*

Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*

Hospital visitors' book, with pages divided into date, name, address and remarks columns.

**RNHC/6  
Newspaper Cuttings**

**Series  
1909-1963**

*Extent:*  
5 volumes

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Series of volumes containing newspaper cuttings relating to the hospital and to tuberculosis in Ireland more generally, one volume deals specifically with a dispute between the hospital governors and medical staff. See also RNHC/1/1/1 for newspaper cuttings from 1891-1909.

*Arrangement:*  
Volumes are arranged chronologically

**RNHC/6/1 Newspaper Cuttings**

**July 1909 -  
October 1949**

*Extent:*  
153 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/6/2 Dispute With Medical Staff**

**March 1913**

*Extent:*  
100 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

*Description:*  
Newspaper cuttings relating to the dispute between the hospital governors and the medical staff over the appointment of staff and treatment of patients. See also RCPI/2/3/3/12



**RNHC/6/3 Newspaper Cuttings**

**April 1941 -  
1947**

*Extent:*  
c.150 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/6/4 Newspaper Cuttings**

**May 1951 -  
May 1955**

*Extent:*  
c.250 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland

**RNHC/6/5 Newspaper Cuttings**

**June 1955 -  
May 1963**

*Extent:*  
c.350 pages

*Creator:*  
Royal National Hospital for Consumption for Ireland