
From: gardahistoricalociety@gmail.com
[gardahistoricalociety@gmail.com] On Behalf Of PoliceHistory.com
[info@policehistory.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1:14 PM
To: James Smith
Subject: Re: An Email from James M. Smith!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Smith** <james.smith.2@bc.edu>
Date: 2 April 2012 17:04
Subject: Email_1: Factories Inspectorate Memo to Government
To: "Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie" <Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie>
Cc: Maeve O'Rourke <maeveorourke@gmail.com>, Claire McGettrick <clairemcgettrick@gmail.com>, "katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie O'Donnell" <katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie>, Mari Steed <msteed@wacphila.org>, James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>

Dear Nuala,

The first in a long series of emails--apologies in advance.

In my letter of 16 February 2012, I included a series of "Tables" from Memos to the Government summarizing the activities of the Factories Inspectorate for a number of years. I now include copies of the originals for these documents from 1943 through 1953 (one year missing). I also include a memo from 1954 stipulating that the Factories Acts, 1955 would replace the earlier legislation and put new procedures in place. I will be working in the National Archives to determine what precisely those procedures were post-1955.

For the meantime, I think it is noteworthy that such a high percentage of all factories were visited each year (routinely between 45% and 60 %). If only operating on the law of averages one must assume that over the nine year period in question at least one of the 10 Magdalene Laundries should have been inspected?

You will also note the number of industrial accidents and ensuing prosecutions is brought to the attention of the Cabinet each year. The actual Reports (I can forward a sample copy in .pdf format if you would like) details these accidents by type and across the various industries, including "Laundries." Once again, given that survivor testimony speaks to a variety of industrial accidents (e.g., loss of limbs, hair caught in machines, burns, etc.), it would be important to ascertain whether the Laundries were inspected and whether accidents therein were reported?

Also noteworthy, is the numbers of Surgeons appointed to inspect young workers (boys and girls under the age of 18) entering the workplace for the first time. Again, this raises questions as to whether young girls in the Magdalene Laundries were inspected by these surgeons and passed fit to work on the Laundry floor?

I will continue to look for evidence of Inspections and forward related material as it appears,

Best

Jim

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