

Dear Nuala,

In the process of looking through some of the early (1920-1930s) files for the Factories Inspectorate, I noted two things.

(i) while the annual report was submitted to the government every year as required by the legislation, it was not until the mid 1940s that there was a "Memo to Government" summarizing the report (see previous email).

(ii) For a brief number of years in the mid-1930s the annual reports were much more substantial because they produced the actual details for each and every prosecution under the legislation for the preceding year. As I looked through the reports for 1936-38 I began to notice a number of instances where Laundries were prosecuted for various breaches of the governing rules and regulations.

I am attaching five .pdfs with details for 3 prosecutions in 1936 and 2 prosecutions in 1938. I hasten to add that while nearly every Annual Report until 1954 signals accidents and/or prosecutions in "Laundries," the relevant details are not given in later years. Consequently, I felt this information would be instructive as to the kinds of breaches that were involved in terms of (i) non-compliance with health & safety regulations, (ii) failure to report accidents, and (iii) failure to register young workers and ensure medical inspections for such workers.

All three issues are pertinent to the ongoing government investigation in that a question remains as to whether the Magdalene Laundries were inspected and regulated as commercial factories?

Best,

Jim

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