

HNG/NMC

29th April 1941.

Dear Sir,

Watts Charity.
The Almshouses.

I understand that you have been expecting to hear from me in confirmation of the opinion which I expressed when you called on me with Mr. West and Canon Mackean last week, and I am sorry that there was a misunderstanding about this.

As I pointed out at the interview Clause 44 of the Charity Commissioners Scheme states:-

"The Almshouse buildings belonging to the Charity and the appurtenances heretofore occupied therewith shall be appropriated and used for the residence of the Almspeople to be appointed from time to time by the Trustees in conformity with the provisions of this and Supplemental Scheme and for the residence of nurses as hereinafter provided."

As I stated my opinion from the legal stand point is that the Trustees cannot voluntarily (i.e. unless requisitioned) alienate the Almshouses from the purposes for which they were provided without the approval of the Charity Commissioners. It may take some time to get the Commissioners decision and I suggest that the matter can easily be put in order by making the permission which is being given to the County Council to use the Almshouses as a Rest Centre subject to the condition is contingent on the consent of the Charity Commissioners being obtained, and in the meantime shall be determinable by the Trustees

in the unlikely event of the Almshouses being required for the residence of the almspeople or the nurses as provided in the Scheme.

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I read your draft letter to the Commissioners and have made a few small pencil alterations therein, and it seems to me that it will meet the case and in any event will get the matter moving.

Yours faithfully,

Robert J. Bell Esq.,

P.s. I notice that your letter to the Charity Commissioners does not say anything about rates. If a concession can be obtained if the premises are used as a Rest Centre would it not be well to stress this point.