

D.70/10.

A Chara,

I am directed by the Minister for Supplies to state that a delivery of ration books will shortly be made to you under the Emergency Powers (General Rationing Provisions) Order, 1942, in respect of every person entered on the Register of Population as being resident in your institution on Registration Night, i.e. the 16th November, 1941. The following arrangements for dealing with the books on receipt have been made in consultation with the Minister for Local Government and Public Health:-

1. The space for the address on the books will be left blank.
2. Books for inmates should be retained by you as long as they are resident in the institution. When an inmate is leaving, the address to which he is going should be inserted on his book which should then be handed to him.
3. Books for members of the resident staff may be either given to them or retained by you as found convenient. Where a book is handed out, the address of the institution should be inserted on the cover beforehand.
4. Where a member of the staff or an inmate has left the institution since the 17th November, 1941, and his present address is known, that address should be inserted on the cover of his book, and the book forwarded to him. It will not be necessary to enclose the book in any wrapper and no postage will be required. If his present address is not known, the book should be returned to the Secretary, Department of Supplies (General Rationing Section), Ballsbridge, Dublin, with an explanatory note.
5. If a person dies in the institution, his book should be handed to the local Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages when the death is being registered. Where a book is delivered in respect of a person who was resident in the institution on the 16th November, 1941, and has since died, it should be returned to the Secretary, Department of Supplies (General Rationing Section), Ballsbridge, Dublin, with an explanatory note.
6. The ration books of all persons who have entered the institution in the interval between Registration Night and the date of the general delivery of ration books are being forwarded by this Department to their home addresses as shown in the Register of Population. In some of these cases the postman may know where the parties have gone and the books will be forwarded to the institution. In the other cases the books will be retained at the Post Office serving the inmate's home district for some time, to enable them to be claimed and enquiry should be made there, accordingly.
7. Where a person enters the institution after the date of the general delivery of ration books, his book should be handed to the head of the institution for custody as long as he remains an inmate there.

The general issue of ration books to every individual in the State is intended to provide the machinery for rationing, if and when, it was deemed necessary in the national interest to ration certain commodities. The Minister would therefore greatly appreciate your co-operation in carrying out the foregoing arrangements.

Mise, le meas,

To Heads of District Mental Hospitals,  
County Homes, etc.

KRM