

FINE GAEL  
CONSTITUENCY  
ARCHIVES

P39/C



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**FINE GAEL CONSTITUENCY ARCHIVES:**

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## **INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

The Fine Gael constituency files which are the subject of this list, were transferred to UCD Archives in April 1978 as part of a larger accession of Party archives.

Other series within the collection previously listed and made available include minutes of the parliamentary party, 1929-49, and other bodies such as the Stranding Committee/Coiste Gnotha, 1922-25 and 1933-45 [**P39/MIN**]; general election records, 1932-73 [**P39/GE**]; and records of presidential elections and constitutional referenda, 1945-73 [**P39/PR**].

The constituency files are headquarters records which document the relationship between headquarters and individual constituencies over a period of twenty years from 1954; and reflect the state of party organisation at both local and national level. Material within the files varies from the recurrent and banal, such as much correspondence concerning affiliation fees, to comprehensive reports from constituency conventions submitted to headquarters by the senior party figure delegated to attend.

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- Material concerning the organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

On transfer this file series was organised by year, the files for each year arranged alphabetically, Carlow-Kilkenny to Wicklow. Since it appeared that the main focus from a research viewpoint would be on individual constituencies in the first instance, the files have been rearranged to provide a chronological series for each constituency. The one exception to this is Dublin, where the files for 1971-75 have been retained in an order primarily chronological, due mainly to the very large number of constituencies in the Dublin area, particularly after the revision of 1974.

The descriptive content for the files for each constituency is preceded by a short note on the effects on that constituency of successive constituency reorganisations. During the period covered by these files there have been three major revisions: 1961, 1969 and 1974. These notes are abstracted largely from the invaluable *The Magill Book of Irish Politics* (1981) which contains much additional and insightful comment on the history, development and character of individual constituencies.

Much of the initial reorganisation, description and numbering of the documents was carried out by students taking the Higher Diploma in Archival Studies in the session 1992-93. These were Mary Carr, Theresa Dearman, Aisling Dunne, Susan Em, Rachel Granville, John Kirwan, Teresa O'Donnell, and Rachel Scahill. Additional work in preparing the material for consultation has focused on consolidating their individual lists and preparing the files for microfilming. The opportunity has also been taken to eliminate very ephemeral material such as envelopes returned as undeliverable. This will account for gaps in the sub-numbering carried out in 1993.

Seamus Helferty  
May 2005

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## **CARLOW-KILKENNY CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>CARLOW COUNTY EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>KILKENNY COUNTY EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>6</b>

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Carlow-Kilkenny has been a single five seat constituency since 1923, with the exception of the period 1935–47 when it was divided into two, Carlow-Kildare and Kilkenny. Parts of neighbouring counties were added in successive constituency reorganisations; but more recently the constituency has consisted of just the two counties.

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## **CARLOW-KILKENNY CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
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- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### **I. CARLOW COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

<b>1</b>	1954	3 items
<b>2</b>	1955	4 items
<b>3</b>	1956	Includes the schema of organisation of the constituency at present (1-5), and in 1948 (13-16). 18 items
<b>4</b>	[1957]	Not present.

- |           |        |  |
|-----------|--------|--|
| <b>5</b>  | [1958] | Not present.   |
| <b>6</b>  | 1959   | Includes material on the forthcoming presidential election and constitutional referendum (11, 12); reports on constituency organisation and lists of members (1-9); letter from Patrick J. Crotty, Chairman, Ayrfield branch, to Col Dineen, general secretary, reporting on a meeting in Carlow with 'keymen and county councillors' (10). 12 items |
| <b>7</b>  | 1960   | Material concerning the forthcoming 1961 general election campaign in the constituency (18-22); and the Carlow-Kilkenny bye-election campaign, 1960 (15-17). 44 items  |
| <b>8</b>  | 1961   | 21 items   |
| <b>9</b>  | 1962   | 3 items  |
| <b>10</b> | 1963   | Includes material relating to the Bunclody branch including a report by the national organiser (8-12). 13 items  |
| <b>11</b> | 1964   | Includes a report on the schema of organisation in the county in 1959 and 1964 (6-12). 17 items  |
| <b>12</b> | 1965   | 20 items   |
| <b>13</b> | 1966   | Includes correspondence with headquarters concerning party policy on the Irish language (6-9); and suggestions for the establishment of district executives in the county (15). 17 items   |

<b>14</b>	1967		23 items
<b>15</b>	1968	Lists including: members of the Standing Committee of Fine Gael, 1967-68 (21, 22) and chairmen and secretaries of Carlow branches (8-16).	30 items
<b>16</b>	1969	Schema of organisation of the county in 1964 (28-35) and 1969 (7-16).	35 items
<b>17</b>	1970		28 items
<b>18</b>	1971	Includes lists of officers of the four district executives (11-13).	18 items
<b>19</b>	1972	Schema of organisation of the county as at 9 June 1970 (15-26); notice of special convention to discuss E.E.C. entry (7).	26 items
<b>20</b>	1973		15 items
<b>21</b>	1974		10 items
<b>22</b>	1975		5 items

## II. KILKENNY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

- |          |      |   |          |
|----------|------|---|----------|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 |   | 10 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Correspondence between Col Dineen, general secretary, and Seán McKenna, chair, Kilkenny county executive, concerning the 'rebellion' of the Piltown district executive; and correspondence concerning the controversial selection of Michael Kinsella as a candidate in Kilkenny (15-24). | 36 items |
| <b>3</b> | 1956 | Correspondence concerning local feeling towards the party and letter from Seán McKenna to Dineen concerning the eulogy given by the Taoiseach, John A. Costello, for the late Thomas Walsh, [local Fianna Fáil T.D. and Minister for Agriculture, 1951-54] (13-15).                       | 25 items |
| <b>4</b> | 1957 | Schemata of organisation of the county as at February 1953 (25-31), December 1956 (17-23), and September 1957 (10-16).  | 31 items |
| <b>5</b> | 1958 |   | 14 items |
| <b>6</b> | 1959 |   | 5 items  |
| <b>7</b> | 1960 |   | 7 items  |
| <b>8</b> | 1961 | Correspondence with party headquarters concerning the circumstances and controversy surrounding the selection of Francis O'Brien as an election candidate, including the calling of a special convention.   | 29 items |

<b>9</b>	1962	Lists of 'key men' in each district. 19 items
<b>10</b>	1963	10 items
<b>11</b>	1964	14 items
<b>12</b>	1965	Letter from Seán McKenna to Col Dineen giving an analysis of election results throughout the country but with particular reference to North and South Tipperary (8-13). 13 items
<b>13</b>	1966	15 items
<b>14</b>	1967	9 items
<b>15</b>	1968	Correspondence with Mrs Rosaleen Crotty, chair of the Kilkenny City Ladies Branch and wife of Deputy Crotty, concerning the work of the ladies' branches in the county and elsewhere, particularly during the East Limerick bye-election (3-20). 23 items
<b>16</b>	1969	11 items
<b>17</b>	1970	Schema of constituency organisation as at April 1961 (45-54) and July 1970 (2-10); letter of thanks from Liam Cosgrave on the work done by branches (39-40). 56 items
<b>18</b>	1971	26 items

- |           |      |   |          |
|-----------|------|---|----------|
| <b>19</b> | 1972 | Notice of the annual convention, on this occasion to discuss the E.E.C. (21-22); letter from John Lyons to Comdt Sanfey concerning tactics by party members when appearing on television (41-43). | 45 items |
| <b>20</b> | 1973 |   | 30 items |
| <b>21</b> | 1974 | Correspondence between Sanfey and Seán McKenna concerning the Kilkenny Youth Branch and the part played by the party's youth membership generally (3-15).   | 36 items |
| <b>22</b> | 1975 |   | 16 items |

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## **CAVAN CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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The constituency of Cavan was coterminous with the county from 1923 until 1969. It returned four T.D.s until 1961 when it became a three seat constituency.

In 1969 the constituency was extended with the addition of a part of Meath, while remaining a three seater. Cavan ceased to exist as a separate constituency in the 1974 boundary revision which saw the county joined with Monaghan to form a five seater.

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**CAVAN CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions collections.

<b>1</b>	1954	27 items
<b>2</b>	1955	Includes a memorandum on organisation in the constituency; letter from Crosserlough branch refusing to participate in any further party activities in protest at the treatment of a branch member's widow. 43 items
<b>3</b>	1956	26 items
<b>4</b>	1957	10 items
<b>5</b>	1958	12 items

<b>6</b>	1959	Minutes of the constituency convention (5, 6).	6 items
<b>7</b>	1960	Report from Patrick Lindsay T.D. on a constituency executive meeting, and correspondence between Lindsay and Col Dineen, party general secretary, concerning the party's position in Cavan (1-6).	15 items
<b>8</b>	1961	Lists of members of the constituency executive.	26 items
<b>9</b>	1962		14 items
<b>10</b>	1963		6 items
<b>11</b>	1964	Includes a letter from Andrew O'Brien reporting on the activities of the Cavan constituency executive and on branch meetings (3-6).	6 items
<b>12</b>	1965		16 items
<b>13</b>	1966	Includes a short list of branches and secretaries.	5 items
<b>14</b>	1967	Includes a list of candidates for local government elections in the constituency.	33 items

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|-----------|------|--|----------|
| <b>15</b> | 1968 | Includes lists of officers; letter from Deputy Tom Fitzpatrick commenting on speeches relating to the referendum on proposals to amend the constitution in the context of representation and voting (24-26).         | 20 items |
| <b>16</b> | 1969 | Copy of a letter from the Dublin Islamic Society referring to a programme broadcast on RTÉ which contained 'abusive and unbecoming language' in relation to the Prophet Muhammed.                                    | 20 items |
| <b>17</b> | 1970 |  | 67 items |
| <b>18</b> | 1971 |  | 39 items |
| <b>19</b> | 1972 | List of branch secretaries; letter complaining about the Griffith/Collins memorial and criticising Fine Gael policy on law and order (14, 15); letters expressing concern about education services in Cavan (55-58). | 98 items |
| <b>20</b> | 1973 |  | 28 items |
| <b>21</b> | 1974 |  | 41 items |
| <b>22</b> | 1975 |  | 68 items |



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## **CLARE CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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In 1923 the administrative county of Clare formed one constituency with five seats. In 1935 a portion of County Galway was added. In 1947 the constituency was again made coterminous with the county boundaries and the number of seats reduced to four.

In 1969 part of North Clare with a population of almost 15,000 was joined to a part of County Galway to form the three seat constituency of Clare-South Galway (*q.v.*). The remaining part of Clare became a three seat constituency.

In 1974 part of north-west Clare with a population of almost 12,000 was joined to a part of County Galway to form the four seat constituency of West Galway and the remainder of County Clare stayed a three seat constituency.

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## CLARE CONSTITUENCY

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- ❑ Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- ❑ Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- ❑ Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- ❑ Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- ❑ Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- ❑ Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- ❑ Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- ❑ Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- ❑ The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Includes copies of the annual convention report, financial statement, and organisation report, submitted by Oliver J. Flanagan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, to General Richard Mulcahy, the convention report dealing in the main with the general election campaign in the constituency (3-9); letter from a constituent in Kilkee complaining that on the eve of the election, party 'big shots' were thin on the ground in West Clare (10); returns for the 1953 national collection and subscription list for the Bunratty Branch (22).<br><span style="float: right;">20 items</span> |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Includes a report submitted by the Kilkee Branch to General Richard Mulcahy, outlining the circumstances surrounding the election with Fianna Fáil support, of Michael Marrinan, a former member of their branch, as chairman of Kilkee Town Commissioners. They request that action be taken (3, 4).<br><span style="float: right;">20 items</span>  |





- 16 contd.** correspondence concerning the affiliation of the Michael Collins Youth Club, Doonbeg, the first club in the constituency, with copy letter outlining party policy on the National Youth Group of which John Bruton is the national secretary (59-65). 127 items
- 17** 1970 Includes a statement outlining the income and expenditure position for the current year (1); letter from a constituent to the party leadership advising that the writer has two sisters, both nuns resident in Dublin, who are not on the register of electors (9, 10); correspondence relating to the constituency convention held on 1 November (20-21); copy of a National Council directive concerning national collections (27); correspondence concerning the distribution of the old Tulla branch after constituency revision (40, 41). 62 items
- 18** 1971 Includes letter to Councillor Vincent McHugh concerning a directive of the National Executive that it will in future send a representative to meetings of constituency executives for the purpose of reviewing the organisational structure (14); correspondence with Donal Carey, secretary of the constituency executive, concerning problems in the collection of affiliation fees and strong local concerns on the need for industrial development and for an urgent capital injection into the fishing industry on the west coast prior to entry to the European Economic Community (23-25). 66 items
- 19** 1972 Includes letter notifying the constituency executive that Deputy Paddy Cooney would act as chairman at the annual convention (3, 5); correspondence concerning a proposed convention on entry to the E.E.C., reports that the executive had approved of the party decision to support the movement for entry despite the fact that no vote had been taken by the executive, and demands for a 'fearless exposé' of the difficult problems attendant upon entry. 47 items
- 20** 1973 Includes an invitation from the Clare branch of the Labour Party to participate in the mounting of a civic exhibition having as its theme the nature and functions of central and local government, trades unions, social, sports and cultural associations (15, 16); letter from a resident of Shannon town to Peter Barry, Minister for Transport and Power, outlining

- 20 contd.** Fine Gael negligence in the area (17-20); copy letter to An Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave forwarding a motion unanimously passed by the county executive concerning the proposed Constituency Revision Bill, that Clare be restored to the status of a four seat constituency ((30, 31) and letter from Michael Mulqueen, chairman of Ennis Urban District Council, arguing that the entire county is under-represented in the Oireachtas (41-43); resolution of the North Clare executive that Fine Gael not accept an agreed candidate for the presidency as the party can defeat any candidate put forward by Fianna Fáil (84). 103 items
- 21** 1974 Includes representations made on behalf of a commercial organisation concerning the proposed wealth tax (19, 24-28); letter from John Bruton on the subject of standard election brochures for local elections (38); and complaints lodged by the Moymore branch concerning the system of voting at a recent selection convention for county council candidates for the North Clare area (40-42). 89 items
- 22** 1975 Includes protests by the East Clare regional executive concerning the acceptance by members of the Oireachtas of the increase under the national pay agreement, while many employers were invoking Clause 6 of the agreement and pleading inability to pay (19). 96 items
- 23** 1975 Typescript lists of branches and branch officers. 36 items



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## **CLARE-SOUTH GALWAY CONSTITUENCY, 1969-74**

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The constituency of Clare-South Galway had a very brief existence beginning in 1969 when constituency revision saw part of North Clare with a population of almost 15,000 joined to a part of County Galway to form a three seat constituency. Further revision in 1974 saw the constituency redistributed, mainly into West Galway (*q.v.*).

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**CLARE-SOUTH GALWAY, 1969-74**

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- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 1969 | Letter from Tom Fitzpatrick T.D., Shadow Minister for Justice, concerning a complaint received from the Dublin Islamic Society concerning RTÉ. The complaint is passed to the Shadow Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (1, 2).<br>4 items   |
| <b>2</b> | 1971 | Copy letter to the North Clare executive acknowledging their contributions towards bye-election expenses (2-8); copy of the party <i>Constitution and Rules</i> (11); copy of <i>Fine Gael Four</i> 1, 4 (12); letter from the Ballinasloe branch congratulating the party leader on a successful Ard Fheis (25, 25).<br>51 items |
| <b>3</b> | 1971 | 23 items  |



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## **CORK CONSTITUENCIES**

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### **I. CORK CITY**

<b>A.</b>	<b>CORK CITY, 1954-69</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>CORK CITY NORTH-WEST, 1969-74</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>CORK CITY SOUTH-EAST, 1969-74</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>D.</b>	<b>CORK CITY, 1975</b>	<b>35</b>

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### **II. CORK NORTH, CORK SOUTH, MID-CORK**

<b>A.</b>	<b>CORK NORTH, 1954-61</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>CORK SOUTH, 1954-61</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>MID-CORK, 1962-75</b>	<b>37</b>

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### **III. CORK EAST, CORK NORTH-EAST**

<b>A.</b>	<b>CORK EAST, 1954-61</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>CORK NORTH-EAST, 1962-75</b>	<b>41</b>

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### **IV. CORK WEST, CORK SOUTH-WEST**

<b>A.</b>	<b>CORK WEST, 1954-61</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>CORK SOUTH-WEST, 1962-75</b>	<b>44</b>

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During the period 1947-61 the Cork area was divided into five constituencies: Cork City, Cork North, Cork South, Cork East, and Cork West.

Major reorganisation in 1961 saw the number of constituencies reduced to four: Cork City, Mid-Cork, Cork North-East and Cork South-West.

In 1969 the Cork City area was divided into two three seat constituencies, Cork North-West and Cork South-East; reverting to a single five seat constituency in 1974.

Cork North and Cork South had existed as constituencies since 1923 and 1947 respectively. They both ceased to exist in 1961 with the formation of the four seat constituency of Mid-Cork

The constituency of Cork East, a three seater since 1947, was enlarged to a five seat constituency in 1961 and became Cork North-East. It dropped a seat in 1969.

The Cork West constituency which had existed since 1923 became Cork South-West in the 1961 revision.

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## **CORK CONSTITUENCIES**

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- ❑ Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- ❑ The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### **I. CORK CITY**

#### **A. CORK CITY, 1954-69**

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Includes material concerning arrangements for the constituencies of Cork North, South, East and West to assist in the bye-election campaign in the city constituency (33-36); minutes and reports of city executive meetings (4,30); statement by Dr T.F. O'Higgins, Minister for Health, entitled 'Health Act and Rates', on the cost of the Health Act brought in by the previous Fianna Fáil government (1-3).<br>36 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Minutes and reports of executive meetings.<br>67 items  |



- 10** 1963 Material concerning IRA propaganda sent to the secretary of the only Fine Gael branch in Britain, in wrappers used by the Society of African Missions, Cork (19-24); circular letter giving details of the Cork city executive annual dinner and social and of a study weekend sponsored by the Cork Youth branch (7, 8). 28 items
- 11** 1964 Letters from a young supporter posing questions on the Fine Gael party and current issues, with copy replies (5-16); circular on special gathering at Béal na mBláth in protest at the omission of the names of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith from the Government distributed handbook *Facts about Ireland* (94). 20 items
- 12** 1965 Report of the Reorganisation Committee on the Cork City executive (16, 17); letter from Stephen D. Barrett T.D. to Liam Cosgrave T.D., party leader, giving precise details of the organisation in Cork City in the context of recent elections, in response to the categorisation of the organisation in Cork city as 'poor', and Mid-Cork as 'improving' by the Reorganisation Committee (7-12); consideration of getting branches to send minutes of meetings to party headquarters, enclosing minutes of two meetings of the Michael Collins branch (1-4). 23 items
- 13** 1966 Minutes of a Cork City executive meeting (December 1965) and the annual general meeting of January 1966 (32-37); note of change of address of the Cork City executive offices to 24 Marlboro Street (3). 39 items
- 14** 1967 Annual report of the secretary of the city executive for 1966 (22-25); newspaper cutting on the retirement of the secretary (9); arrangements for fund-raising in aid of the annual Collins commemoration at Béal na mBláth (5-6). 30 items
- 15** 1968 Election of Cork City executive delegates to the National Council (28); resolution submitted by Cork City executive and the North-East branch protesting at the proposed increases in Dáil Deputies and Senators salaries (19, 20); copy letter to

- 15 contd.** Alderman John Bermingham, conveying the congratulations of the party standing committee on his appointment as Lord Mayor in 1968 (9); motion passed by the Cork City executive and the North-East branch criticising the Fine Gael front bench for its inactivity in supporting the Civil Rights Movement in Northern Ireland (1-2). 31 items
- 16** 1969 Material concerning attempts by an individual to join a branch in Cork, and her difficulties due to insufficient effort of Cork branches to attract new members (17-20); material relating to the removal of two banners belonging to Richie Ryan T.D. during a Fine Gael Trade Union conference, taken by members of the organisation in Cork (7-10). 31 items

### **B. CORK CITY NORTH-WEST, 1969-74**

- 17** 1969 Proposal from the North-East branch that the name of the party be changed to 'Fine Gael – The Democratic Party' (7); attempts by a Dublin supporter to gather support from Fine Gael branches and other political parties throughout Ireland for an increase in the pension of those who fought in Easter 1916 (2-5). 12 items
- 18** 1970 41 items
- 19** 1971 Displeasure shown by the Bishopstown branch at 'the weak image being presented by Fine Gael during the recent coalition debates' (23-25); arrangements for the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deaths of Griffith and Collins (1-3,7). 26 items
- 20** 1972 Query on the attendance of Fine Gael members at a civil rights march in Newry (57, 58); circular letter giving notice about local branches and the availability of party representatives (3-6) 73 items

- 21** 1973 9 items
- 22** 1974 Circular letter from Liam Burke T.D. canvassing for support in the forthcoming local government elections (13-15).  
44 items

### C. CORK CITY SOUTH-EAST, 1969-74

- 23** 1969 Material concerning the provision of premises for the constituency executive, and an enquiry as to the possibility of financial assistance from headquarters (9-11); resolutions submitted by the constituency executive on the issue of communication with headquarters, having a full-time paid organiser in the South, and attendance of members of the front bench and the party leader at functions in Cork (7, 8); the appointment of a full-time national director of organisation (5-6)  
35 items
- 24** 1970 Nomination for the position of director of organisation (42-44); material relating to a 'serious credibility gap' and disagreements between the Ballinlough branch and Cork City South-East constituency executive (12-34); offering of congratulations to Alderman Peter Barry T.D. on his appointment as Lord Mayor of Cork (11) 81 items
- 25** 1971 Material relating to the organisation of youth groups in Cork city (76-86); motions submitted by the UCC branch for the Ard Fheis (50-52); material relating to the position of the UCC branch within the party organisation (30, 31, 38, 39); resolution submitted by the constituency executive on an amendment to the constitution and rules (29); motion submitted to the Ard Fheis calling for the treatment of state pensioners in Ireland to be made equal to those in a similar position in Northern Ireland (17, 18); purchase of No.16 Oliver Plunkett St., to be used as headquarters for Fine Gael in Cork City, with one floor for the use of the North-West constituency executive (10, 11). 86 items

- 26** 1972 Criticism by St. Finbarr's branch of the recent performance of some Fine Gael front bench spokesmen (29); copy of a letter from the editor of the *Irish Independent* newspaper agreeing to publicise an essay competition to be run by the Ard Fheis and Commemoration Committee (17); review of procedures and conduct for the forthcoming Ard Fheis (9, 10).  
39 items
- 27** 1973 Material concerning the co-option of James A. Corr to fill the vacancy in the Corporation caused by the resignation of Peter Barry (29, 30); arrangements for the dissemination of information to executives on the background to government legislation so that members may be better informed of party proposals (24, 25); arrangements for a symposium on education by the South-West district executive (1-4) 49 items
- 28** 1974 Co-option of Alderman Samuel Allen, former independent, as a Fine Gael councillor, the resignation of Alderman Stephen D. Barrett from the Corporation and his replacement by Councillor Stephen Ryan (30-44); proposal for a special conference for youth group members (36-44); extension of sympathy from the Turners Cross branch over the death of Senator Billy Fox and a call for a review of areas of co-operation between the Departments of Justice and Defence (31, 32); arrangements for payment of the debt of the constituency executive for the premises at 16 Oliver Plunkett St. (26-30); material relating to the first meeting of the re-organised Cork City executive, including a memorandum on the strength of the party within Cork Corporation, and a transcript of a speech made by Senator James Sanfey at the inaugural meeting (5-22).  
51 items









- 57** 1973 Circular from Donal Creed to voters relating to the forthcoming senate elections (88); planning for the Ard Fheis in the context of the forthcoming presidential campaign (63,64); letter from a member of the Charleville district executive to Liam Cosgrave, Taoiseach, on his wishes and aims for the party locally and nationally (41-45); resolutions submitted by Mid-Cork constituency executive expressing concern over 'the lax manner in which the government was dealing with the constituencies bill' (36-40); expressions of concern over the Fine Gael organisation in the Douglas area (25-35).  
131 items
- 58** 1974 Questions relating to the appointment of peace commissioners and the revision of the constituencies raised by the Kanturk district executive (67-73); material relating to a disagreement involving the Charleville district executive including a report submitted by the chairman of the constituency executive (13-15); complaint made by the Macroom district executive at the failure to be notified of visits of government ministers (8-10).  
98 items
- 59** 1975 Constituency executive reports, 1970-74 (53-58); incident of the disruption of a constituency executive meeting and consideration of action to be taken (23-26); expression of opposition to a forthcoming women's conference to be held in Athlone (21, 22).  
117 items

### III. CORK EAST, CORK NORTH-EAST

#### A. CORK EAST, 1954-61

- 60** 1954 Arrangement for the reorganisation of the constituency of East Cork (7-9); arrangements for a convention for the purpose of setting up a constituency executive'(2-6).  
15 items

- |           |      |   |
|-----------|------|---|
| <b>61</b> | 1955 | Arrangements for an investigation into the lack of organisation in the Mitchelstown area (1-3).<br>11 items   |
| <b>62</b> | 1956 | Particulars of constituency executive organisation (11-17).<br>19 items   |
| <b>63</b> | 1957 | 12 items  |
| <b>64</b> | 1958 | Arrangements for the national collection (12, 13; 15); memorandum by Patrick Dineen on the Midleton district executive area and on the South Cork constituency (3-8).<br>19 items   |
| <b>65</b> | 1959 | 1 item  |
| <b>66</b> | 1960 | Amalgamation of Castlemartyr, Ladysbridge and Mogeely branches (12); resolution submitted by the Midleton branch opposing the proposed increase in ministerial salaries and in the allowances paid to deputies and senators (8-11); arrangements for the reorganisation of the southern part of the constituency, from Youghal to Cobh (6, 7). 16 items |
| <b>67</b> | 1961 | Reports on a convention held in Cashel attended by General Seán MacEoin (25, 26); material relating to the candidacy of Dan Casey P.C. in the forthcoming general election (6-8); material relating to an accident involving a party personating agent on general election day (1-3).<br>34 items   |



- |           |      |  |           |
|-----------|------|--|-----------|
| <b>75</b> | 1969 |  | 73 items  |
| <b>76</b> | 1970 |  | 56 items  |
| <b>77</b> | 1971 | Letter from Mallow district executive expressing regret at the lack of support given to the party at the recent Ard Fheis (19, 20); resolution submitted by the Mallow district executive expressing concern over the 'present chaotic state of law and order in the country' (10, 11).                                | 62 items  |
| <b>78</b> | 1972 | Enquiry into a current dispute between the Department of Health and the Dentists' Association (82-84); arrangements for the publication of a <i>Newsheet</i> by Mallow branch (47-49); points of concern raised by the mallow district executive on the recent Devlin Report, and on the Mallow hospital issue (1, 2). | 84 items  |
| <b>79</b> | 1973 | Brief outline of canvassing procedures adopted by the Lisgoold branch in the previous general presidential election campaigns (10, 11).  | 106 items |
| <b>80</b> | 1974 | Points raised by a supporter on the public image of the party, with suggestions for the forthcoming elections (139-141).   | 185 items |
| <b>81</b> | 1975 | Comments on the Ard Fheis (88-90); motion submitted by the Mallow district executive calling for the issue of a Michael Collins commemorative stamp (47, 48); arrangements made by the Midleton district executive for a Youth Seminar (25-27).  | 116 items |

## IV. CORK, CORK SOUTH-WEST

### A. CORK WEST, 1954-61

- |           |      |  |
|-----------|------|--|
| <b>82</b> | 1954 | Arrangements for the selection of candidates for the forthcoming general election, and queries on affiliation fees (32-36); nomination of John L. O'Sullivan M.C.C. to the Senate (24); report on the proceedings of a National Council meeting (9-13).<br>39 items  |
| <b>83</b> | 1955 | Material relating to a disagreement over the distribution of monies collected on behalf of party candidates in the forthcoming county council elections (9-12); letter from the Cork West constituency executive secretary to General Richard Mulcahy T.D., Minister for Education, on 'internal disorder' in the constituency (7-8).<br>64 items            |
| <b>84</b> | 1956 | 18 items   |
| <b>85</b> | 1957 | 21 items   |
| <b>86</b> | 1958 | 6 items  |
| <b>87</b> | 1959 | 6 items  |
| <b>88</b> | 1960 | Report of a meeting of deputies and senators to make arrangements for the selection of candidates for the county council elections in the Cork region (35, 36); material relating to the reorganisation of the constituency by Gerard Sweetman T.D., including a memorandum by Patrick Dineen on the state of the constituency executive (6-12).<br>43 items |







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## DONEGAL CONSTITUENCIES

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<b>I. EAST DONEGAL, 1954-60</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>II. NORTH-EAST DONEGAL, 1961-74</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>III. WEST DONEGAL, 1954-60</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>IV. SOUTH-WEST DONEGAL, 1961-69</b>	<b>55</b>

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In the period 1923–35 County Donegal formed a single constituency with eight seats. In 1935 the county was divided into two separate constituencies, East and West Donegal, both returning three T.D.s.

In 1961 the county was again re-organised into North-East and South-West Donegal, both three seat constituencies. In the 1969 revision of constituencies, South-West Donegal was amalgamated with a substantial portion of County Leitrim to form Donegal-Leitrim [see **Donegal-Leitrim Constituency, P39/C/DLL**]. North-East Donegal continued as an enlarged three seat constituency with parts of the former South-West Donegal added.

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## DONEGAL CONSTITUENCIES

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- ❑ Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- ❑ Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- ❑ Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- ❑ Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- ❑ Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- ❑ Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- ❑ Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- ❑ Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- ❑ The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. EAST DONEGAL, 1954-69

- |          |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Includes letter from Col Dineen, General Secretary, to Hugh McKendrick concerning the constituency secretaryship as the incumbent, General ward, was no longer available (38); list of constituency councillors and their party allegiance (18-19); letter from Col Dineen to Neil J. Gill, constituency director of elections, advising that work done between elections matters most on election day, that 'unceasing vigilance and activity is the only recipe for success in politics' (15); letter from a party supporter concerning the decline in the unionist vote in the constituency, their representative Mr Sheldon being convinced that the unionist vote will disappear 'when their birth control methods over the past few years begin to take effect' (1).<br>30 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Includes reference to grievances in the constituency as a result of the increase in licences for drift net fisherman. Circular from Neil J. Gill, director of elections, to each branch secretary, including news of renewed public confidence and the devolution of greater   |

- 2 contd.** powers to local bodies (48); letter from Dineen to Gill congratulating him on the newsletter and suggesting he investigate matters in the Inishowen electoral area since he has 'heard a lot of depressing accounts of that area' (47); report from Gill that activity in the area is non-existent due to bad organisation and lack of transport and funds (18).  
52 items
- 3** 1956 Includes letter from Gill, constituency secretary and director of elections, concerning the organisation of the constituency convention which should be an impressive event attended by members of the Cabinet to give a fillip to the East Donegal organisation (16-17); and report by Gill on the annual general meeting of the Michael Collins Branch, Letterkenny, saying it was well attended and referring to the fact that 'our sole representative Deputy Dan McMenamin has not been amongst us for six months' (21, 22).  
47 items
- 4** 1957 Material relating to the difficulty of finding a replacement county councillor for someone who had resigned (15, 16); cutting from *The People's Press* entitled 'Period of Fianna Fáil rule was the wasted years' (32); material concerning Neil Gill's unannounced departure from the constituency (9-13).  
32 items
- 5** 1958 12 items
- 6** 1959 13 items
- 7** 1969 Includes a report from Michael Lynch, National Organiser, on progress in the reorganisation of the constituency and increased levels of activity; letter from Col Dineen to Senator Paddy Donegan concerning the situation in East Donegal, requesting that he preside at a constituency convention, describing the lack of organisation and funding which had resulted in the loss of a seat on the county council, and referring to the two young and energetic Fine Gael deputies, 'resourceful in political intrigue' (76). Letter from Donal Madden praising Michael Lynch's presence and activity in the constituency and condemning Fianna Fail's refusal to countenance the hanging of Surgeon McGinley's portrait in the new hospital [McGinley being chair of the Fine Gael constituency executive]. 'If [Neil] Blaney

- 7 contd.** was blight they'd vote for it' (21). Material relating to the proceedings of a convention at which the party was strongly criticised and headquarters 'roundly condemned' (95-98, 101).  
107 items

## II. NORTH EAST DONEGAL, 1961-74

- 8** 1961 Material relating to the selection of general election candidates including correspondence between Col Dineen and Surgeon J.P. McGinley, constituency secretary, in which headquarters request that at least two candidates be selected, one coming from the Inishowen peninsula (25); McGinley informs Dineen of the withdrawal of K.M. McGinley, the candidate selected from Inishowen and says that Blaney and Cunningham, the Fianna Fáil candidates, are anxious to have an agreed election, 'giving us one seat' (17, 18). Material relating to Fianna Fail gerrymandering (23, 24). 47 items
- 9** 1962 Material relating to a tribute to Dan McMenamin, former T.D., on his retirement (7, 8). 36 items
- 10** 1963 Parliamentary question tabled by Deputy Paddy Harte, asking the Minister for Finance what he proposes to do concerning the drainage of the River Lennon at Kilmacrenan, together with the Minister's reply (47-49). Letter from Patrick Friel, branch secretary, concerning a statement by a party member recognising the Northern Ireland government, which 'does the Fine Gael Party no good in border counties ... whoever issued the statement should be severely reprimanded'. Friel feels that Harte's election gave new life to the constituency (31). 49 items
- 11** 1964 90 items
- 12** 1965 Includes lists of branch members invited to the constituency convention (78-86); circular from Paddy Harte T.D., conveying the wish of the party leadership that all branches hold their

- 12 contd.** annual meetings before the party Ard Fheis to facilitate a full report on the constituency being presented. 89 items
- 13** 1966 Includes letter from Andrew McGinley, secretary of the Bunrana branch, on behalf of the Inishowen electoral area, requesting the presence of Liam Cosgrave, Tom O'Higgins or Declan Costello at a social function for the area, to encourage key personnel in advance of the 1967 general election. 'We have a tough battle here and we need something like this to bring out our supporters in strength' (37-39). Material concerning difficulties in the ratification of a candidate from the Bundoran branch for co-option to the county council (17-19).  
76 items
- 14** 1967 Circular from Paddy Harte Y.D. to each local election candidate inviting them to a meeting to exchange ideas and develop uniformity of approach for the elections (62). Notice of the convention to select general election candidates for the electoral areas of Bunrana, Letterkenny and Milford (104). Lists of branch secretaries in Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan, provided by party headquarters to assist in a local fundraising campaign to assist the travelling community (81-90). 113 items
- 15** 1968 Includes material concerning insurance cover for an accident to Paddy Harte's car on election day (73-74). 99 items
- 16** 1969 Notice of a reception to honour the services of Surgeon J.P. McGinley and Doctor M. McMenamin to the constituency (58). Circular to each key worker in charge of polling booths, marked 'Information to be treated confidentially' (49). 66 items
- 17** 1970 Notice of a meeting of the Donegal North-East constituency to discuss ways of helping with the Donegal-Leitrim bye-election campaign (8). Copy of an open letter from Paddy Harte T.D. to Neil Blaney T.D. concerning policy on Northern Ireland and Blaney's comments on the use of force (18-21); and text of a speech by harte enunciating the role of the Opposition in Dáil Éireann and criticising Government policy on a wide range of issues (25-28).  
56 items



- 23** 1955 Material concerning the application by Donegal Town branch that party headquarters assume ownership of Tullyloskin Hall (111-112). Report by Michael Lynch, national organiser, on the Killybegs branch (97-99). Material concerning the withdrawal of support from the party by the *Donegal Vindicator*, the oldest newspaper in the county and subsequent correspondence between Col Dineen and P.A. O'Donnell T.D. concerning the editor, J. Ward. 'I do not know exactly what he is grouching over but I presume it is the fact that he does not get ads from government departments' (9-38). 152 items
- 24** 1956 36 items
- 25** 1957 Lists of active and inactive branches in the constituency and reports by Michael Lynch on inadequate organisation, particularly in Dunkineely and Donegal Town. Subsequent correspondence between Col Dineen and P.A. O'Donnell T.D. in which Dineen recommends active co-operation with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, 'an organisation parallel to ours, [which] has shown sympathy and encouragement to our supporters and has often been instrumental in keeping our organisation alive' (14-24). 32 items
- 26** 1958 Includes letter from Col Dineen to P.A. O'Donnell T.D., recommending the sale of Tullyloskin Hall to clear accumulated band debts (6, 7). 9 items
- 27** 1959 4 items
- 28** 1960 Includes letter from Col Dineen to P.A. O'Donnell informing him that Michael Lynch would be visiting the constituency to discuss ways of securing a good attendance at the constituency convention (23). Reports by Lynch on organisation in the constituency (14-15). 39 items

**SOUTH-WEST DONEGAL, 1961-69**

- |           |      |   |
|-----------|------|---|
| <b>29</b> | 1961 | Includes a letter from Col Dineen to Patrick Brearty, responding positively to a suggestion from Brearty concerning the formation of a district executive based in Dunkineely, and recommending a constituency organisation based on five districts: Dunkineely, Glenties, Gweedore, Ballyshannon and Ballybofey (6, 7).<br>12 items  |
| <b>30</b> | 1962 | Material concerning the possibility of fielding two candidates in North-West Donegal (4-7). 25 items  |
| <b>31</b> | 1963 | Includes a letter from W.J. Molloy, Killybegs branch secretary, expressing hopes that Fine Gael can win the next general election without assistance from any other party and referring to the Taoiseach's recent performance in the Dáil which reminded him of a 'circus act' (29); and from Patrick Brearty, secretary, Bruckless and Dunkineely branch, stressing the need for a strong non-Catholic candidate to run with P.A. O'Donnell, 'to break the hold Fianna Fáil has obtained on the Orange vote' (28).<br>31 items |
| <b>32</b> | 1964 | 14 items  |
| <b>33</b> | 1965 | Letter from P.A. O'Donnell T.D. concerning James White, 'a very good young man and a Protestant', who will be his running mate at the next general election (66).<br>74 items   |
| <b>34</b> | 1966 | 34 items  |
| <b>35</b> | 1067 | 44 items  |



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## **DONEGAL-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY, 1970-75**

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The constituency of Donegal-Leitrim was formed in 1969 from an amalgamation of the existing South-West Donegal constituency with part of County Leitrim. It returned three T.D.s. In 1974 the constituency was again the subject of major revision when most of Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo were amalgamated to form a five seat constituency.

The constituency file series for Sligo-Leitrim, 1954-75 [**P39/C/SL/**] and for Roscommon-Leitrim, 1961-75 [**P39/C/RL/**] are also of obvious relevance to constituency politics in the area.

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**DONEGAL-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY, 1970-75**

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

- |          |      |   |           |
|----------|------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | 1970 | Includes notice of the organisation of the constituency party into four district executives (83); correspondence concerning Fine Gael bye-election victories and electoral co-operation with the Labour Party (90). Letter from P.A. O'Donnell T.D. concerning East Donegal which he describes as lacking organisation; he suggests a reduction in the number of branches to relieve the 'chronic problem' that exists (92).  | 114 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1971 | Letter from F.S. O'Kelly, chairman of the Donegal district executive, to Comdt Sanfey, general secretary, requesting material on the party's policy on lands (45). Material relating to the proposal by the Donegal executive to host a seminar on 'Ireland and the E.E.C.' (30). Request from F.S. O'Kelly for Oliver J. Flanagan T.D. to address a debate hosted by the Bundoran branch on the motion that 'Irish women are not in need of liberation' (31). Notice of a decision by the constituency executive that branches could retain 90% of the national collection (25). | 78 items  |



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# **DUBLIN CONSTITUENCIES, 1952-70**

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## **I. DUBLIN CITY CONSTITUENCIES**

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<b>A. CENTRAL BRANCH, 1952-70</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>B. DUBLIN CENTRAL, 1969-70</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>C. NORTH-CENTRAL, 1953-70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>D. NORTH-EAST, 1954-70</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>E. NORTH-WEST, 1954-70</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>F. SOUTH-CENTRAL, 1953-70</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>G. SOUTH-EAST, 1954-70</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>H. SOUTH-WEST, 1954-70</b>	<b>89</b>

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## **II. COUNTY DUBLIN CONSTITUENCIES**

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<b>A. DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN, 1953-70</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>B. DUBLIN COUNTY, 1954-69</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>C. DUBLIN COUNTY, 1969-70</b>	
<b>i. DUBLIN NORTH COUNTY</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>ii. DUBLIN SOUTH COUNTY</b>	<b>101</b>

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There have been major constituency boundary changes in the Dublin region on five occasions: 1935, 1947, 1969, 1974, and 1980.

In 1923 Dublin city and county had three constituencies returning a total of 23 members: Dublin North (8), Dublin South (7) and Dublin County (8).

In 1935 the Dublin region was again allocated 23 representatives but there were now 5 constituencies: North-East (3), North-West (5), South (7), Dublin Townships (3), and Dublin County (5).

In 1947 Dublin was allocated 30 seats in 8 constituencies: North-Central (3), North-East (5), North-West (3), South-East (3), South-Central (5), South-West (5), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, (3) and Dublin County (3). In 1961 representation was increased to 34 seats within the same constituency structure. The files in this present list correspond exactly to this structure with the obvious addition of the Central Branch within the party organisation.

In 1969 Dublin was given 38 seats arranged in 10 constituencies. Dublin County was divided into South and North County, and a Central Constituency was added to the metropolitan area.

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## DUBLIN CONSTITUENCIES, 1952-70

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. DUBLIN CITY CONSTITUENCIES

#### A. CENTRAL BRANCH, 1952-70

<b>1</b>	1952	3 items
<b>2</b>	1953	6 items
<b>3</b>	1954	3 items
<b>4</b>	1955	Includes the text of an address to the branch by Patrick Lindsay S.C., T.D. on international relations (6); correspondence relating to an address by Professor Quinlan, a member of the National Farmers' Association and lecturer in Agricultural Science in

- 4 contd.** University College Cork (9-10); and a circular letter announcing a presentation to Patrick F. Power, a member who is to take up an appointment in South Africa. 29 items
- 5** [1956] File not present.
- 6** 1957 Includes secretary's report for the year (1, 2); circular letter announcing a branch address by General Richard Mulcahy T.D. on 'The political situation – past, present and future' (42); circular letter requesting intensified campaigning for the forthcoming general election (50). 53 items
- 7** 1957 Includes material relating to a residential study weekend entitled 'Planning Ahead' (7-17); an address by General Seán MacEoin, Minister for Defence, on proportional representation (34, 36); circular letters announcing a debate between Central and Terenure branches, 'That Ireland is suffering an excess of state interference' (45) and a Citizens' Forum entitled 'What's the answer' (58); letter from Patrick F. Dineen, general secretary, Fine Gael, to James McGarry, concerning the Standing Committee's desire that the Scheme of Organisation of the party should form the framework inside which rules of procedure for branches and executives should be devised (62). 84 items
- 8** 1959 Includes correspondence between Jim Deegan, Central Branch honorary secretary, and Bill Craig, chairman of the Ulster Young Unionist Council, concerning an invitation to a debate between the two bodies, declined by the Unionists on the grounds of the Irish Government's stance on Northern Ireland (9-13); statement of branch accounts for the year (20); proposals for a residential weekend study session on 'The road ahead' (14-18) including correspondence and a draft programme; circular letter announcing an address to the branch by Proinsias MacAonghúsa entitled 'The press in politics' (37); correspondence concerning canvassing for the forthcoming Dublin South-West bye-election (43); circular letters concerning the need for a special effort in the forthcoming presidential election and referendum on proportional representation (56), and the rally in support of the Fine Gael presidential candidate, General Seán MacEoin, jointly organised by the Central and Terenure branches. 63 items

- 9** 1960 Includes an invitation from Michael O'Flanagan, chairman of the Social Study Conference, for a group to attend their August sessions (6); circular letter announcing a branch meeting at which sub-committees will be formed to examine the working of television in Ireland and to draw up a constitution for Central Branch (10); letter from Colonel Dineen to Paul Murray, acting honorary secretary, Central Branch, requesting that Central look into the possibility of setting up a branch in U.C.D. (20); circular letters announcing debates with Tuairim on the motion 'That the existing system of post-primary education is unsuited to the needs of Irish children (52) and with the Blackrock Literary and Debating Society on the motion 'That this generation can solve emigration' (54). 62 items
- 10** 1961 Includes material relating to the newly established National Youth Council of Fine Gael (21-23); correspondence concerning the possibility of setting up central branches in Waterford, Galway and Clonmel, following the success of the Dublin model (24, 25); material relating to a return symposium with Fine Gael entitled 'The state and private enterprise' (27); circulars on forthcoming events including debates and discussion on Irish television (41), a symposium on 'Finance, Industry and Emigration in the 1960s' (34, 35), and an address by J.M. Dillon T.D. on Fine Gael policy (48); material relating to a proposed debate with Fianna Fáil on the motion 'That the outgoing government should be re-elected' (51-53); material relating to proposals for a Social Study Conference in connection with the Social Study Week being organised on the subject of 'The challenge of television' (72-97). 107 items
- 11** 1962 Circular letter announcing a branch discussion entitled 'What is Ireland's economic future in the political framework of the new Europe' at which Senator E.A. McGuire will speak (8); circular letter announcing a branch discussion on 'Ireland and the Common Market' (12); circular letter announcing an address by Senator Victor Carton P.C. on 'The Army in Ireland' (16); correspondence between John Kerrigan, Central Branch secretary, and Dineen, relating to the possibility of a symposium to be held in Galway entitled 'As Connacht prospers, so will the nation' (31-32); circular letter announcing a branch meeting which will discuss the possibility of a Central Branch periodical, and a debate with Queen's University Belfast on the motion 'That the responsibility for partition to-day lies south of the border' (33); copy of a letter from Dineen to Kerrigan relating to the newly formed Michael Collins Youth branch in Galway which would welcome an exchange of views

- 11 contd.** with young men from Central Branch and requesting that Central Branch send representatives to a Dublin social and cultural club – Club Metro (59-60); material relating to a branch residential study week-end under the patronage of James M.Dillon T.D. (61-65). 72 items
- 12** 1963 Correspondence between John Kerrigan and Dineen relating to a residential study week-end being planned by Central Branch on the theme of ‘The Programme of the Alternative Government’. As part of this conference it is intended to hold a Brains Trust Panel on the subject of ‘Thirty years in opposition – where have we failed’ (12, 13); circular letter relating to an address to the branch by General Seán MacEoin T.D. on Michael Collins (14); correspondence relating to the rules of Central Branch and possible amendments (18-25); circular letter relating to arrangements for a Michael Collins/Arthur Griffith commemoration (54); circular letter announcing a branch discussion on ‘That Wage Restraint is a Dangerous Expedient in National Policy’ (58); copy of letter from Dineen to Kerrigan suggesting some talks on the tactics and techniques of political procedure at elections (59); suggestions regarding organisation made at the residential study week-end (62); material relating to the February Residential Study Session to be held in Malahide, including a letter from D.J. Murray, press relations officer of Central Branch, to the news editor of Radio Éireann/Telefís Éireann asking that R.T.E. cover the event (63); circular letter announcing an extraordinary general meeting to consider the draft set of rules drawn up by a sub-committee (64); memorandum relating to negotiations which were begun in 1961 between Central Branch and the Council of Young Unionists on the possibility of a meeting. Controversy arose over the recognition of the constitutional validity of the Northern Ireland government (73-81). 98 items
- 13** 1964 Circular letter announcing an address by James Dillon T.D. on ‘The Role of Government’ (19); circular letter announcing a branch meeting to discuss a study week-end organised by the Cork City Youth branch on ‘Politics – The Field of Youth’ and ‘Politics – The Fruit of Experience’ (43); circular letter relating to a Collins/Griffith Commemorative Mass (54); circular letter announcing an address by Declan Costello T.D. on ‘Economic Planning’ and the foundation of a branch fund-raising sub-committee (63); circular letter announcing a branch address by Richie Ryan T.D. on ‘The Role of the Central Branch in Irish Politics’ (69); material relating to a planned residential study week-end in Malahide (98-105); two draft papers by John J. Kerrigan, chairman, Central Branch, entitled ‘Fine Gael Election Campaign Guide’ and ‘How to Achieve Effective

- 13 contd.** Political Publicity' (106-109); extract from a statement by James M. Dillon T.D. at the National Council, relating to the controversy which arose with regard to the Young Unionist group (144); circular letter announcing a branch discussion on 'Effective Political Propaganda and Publicity' (139).  
152 items
- 14** 1965 Circular letter announcing postponement of a branch meeting owing to death of W.T. Cosgrave T.D. (8); letter from a Paddy Byrne to Dineen regarding a newly formed party branch in Coolock (22); circular letter announcing a branch meeting to consider the proposals concerning a free trade area between Ireland and Britain. The meeting will be addressed by Senator Garret FitzGerald and M.W. Murphy, President of the Irish Exporters' Association, and Patrick Donegan T.D., Fine Gael spokesperson on Industry and Commerce (23); drafts of three papers to be given at a Central Branch seminar being organised for all branch secretaries in Dublin city and county on 30 May – 'The secretary and the branch' by Jack O'Farrell, 'The branch secretary and Public Relations' by James Smyth and 'The secretary and Constituency and National Headquarters' by Denis A. Whooley (48-54); circular letter announcing a branch discussion on how far the budget goes towards implementing the Fine Gael policy of bringing about a Just Society, T.F. O'Higgins S.C., T.D. and Senator Garret FitzGerald to speak (58); material relating to the Mid-Cork bye-election and the need for the Central Branch to get involved (97-100); circular letter relating to the annual residential study week-end of the Central Branch, the theme being 'The Local Elections – 1965' (104-110).  
126 items
- 15** 1966 Secretary's report for 1965 (1-3); circular letter calling for support for the Waterford and South Kerry bye-elections (11); circular letter announcing branch address by Declan Costello T.D., spokesperson on External Affairs, on 'That Irish Nationhood cannot survive membership of the European Economic Community' (21); circular letter announcing a branch meeting which will discuss the presidential election, address given by T.F. O'Higgins, Fine Gael presidential candidate, and G. Sweetman T.D. (79).  
138 items

- 16** 1967 Circular letter announcing postponement of the branch a.g.m. 'because of precaution recommended by the Party to protect the community from the effects of a Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic' (9); circular letter announcing branch discussion entitled 'Naisuintacht - Deire an sceil' (19); circular letter announcing branch meeting at which Senator Garret FitzGerald will speak on 'Employment in the Common Market' (22); circular letter announcing launch of the campaign for the June local elections (39); circular letter announcing two addresses to the branch by Liam Cosgrave T.D. on industrial relations and on integrity in government (45); circular letter announcing meeting of branch at which Moore McDowell will speak on 'Life Without Income Tax' (55); letter from Vincent O'Neill, Central Branch secretary, to Dineen requesting names and addresses of officers of Dublin city and county branches in order to try to build up a mailing list (58); circular letter announcing a teach-in on 'Education in Ireland' at which Senator Garret FitzGerald and Fr Colman O hUllachain are to speak (66); circular letter announcing an address by Senator Garret FitzGerald and An Bráthair Ó Suilleabháin of Maynooth on 'Fine Gael and Education' (80). 103 items
- 17** 1968 Circular letter announcing an address by Declan Costello T.D. and Patrick Belton T.D. entitled 'How quickly can we achieve participation in industry' (7); circular letter announcing branch discussion on 'Ireland - The Dishonest Society' (15); circular letter relating to a branch symposium entitled 'Fine Gael and Labour - an alliance for reform' (19); circular letter relating to the forthcoming visit of a party of Scottish Nationalists and requesting a large turn-out for the dinner being arranged in their honour (23); material relating to a planned teach-in on 'Planning - Hopes and Fears' (36-44). 66 items
- 18** 1969 Correspondence between Comdt. J.W. Sanfey, general secretary, Fine Gael) and Donal Flynn, Central Branch secretary, relating to an unpaid bill at Jury's Hotel (1); circular letter announcing a branch training seminar to discuss a new programme of organisation (4-6); circular letter announcing a public meeting entitled 'The twentieth Dáil' at which Peter Barry (Cork City South East) and Dick Burke (Dublin South County) are to speak (10). 33 items

- 19** 1970 Circular letter announcing Central Branch's intention of organising a course in political action for newer party members in U.C.D. and the colleges of technology (3); material relating to the branch training seminar held in April on 'Constituency Organisation' (24-31); circular letter emphasising the need for branch organisation (51); typed report entitled 'The Structure of Fine Gael' (65-70). 79 items

## **B. DUBLIN CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY, 1969-70**

- 20** 1969 Material relating to the newly formed James' Street branch (3-10); circular letter announcing a meeting to discuss the organisation of Dublin city centre branch to be addressed by Deputy Garret FitzGerald and Senator John Kelly (11); letter of congratulations from a Peter McGrory to Liam Cosgrave on his personal triumph in the general election, that 'were it not for the deliberate manipulation of constituency boundaries, the result would have been much more favourable to Fine Gael' (24-25); circular letter from the Kevin Barry branch appealing for funds (31); circular letter announcing a meeting which is to be held for the purpose of setting up an executive for the new constituency of Dublin Central (50); letter and map from David J. Clarke, branch vice-chairman, to Sanfey, discussing the new areas of branch responsibility in Dublin Central (55-56); copy of Fine Gael newsletter relating to the forty sixth Ard Fheis (59-60); letter from George McLoughlin, honorary secretary, to Sanfey informing him of the following newly formed branches – Castle branch, Donore Avenue branch, Maryland branch and James' Street branch (46); notice that the Clanbrassil Street branch received the approval of the Executive (58). 60 items
- 21** 1970 Letter from Ann Stack, executive secretary, to Sanfey giving him the names of delegates to the National Council (13, 14); correspondence between Sanfey and Nicholas Tynan, Phibsboro' branch treasurer, regarding the Phibsboro branch which terminated its membership of the Fine Gael Party because it 'could see no future in the Party with members going against one another' (41-44); correspondence between Sanfey and Cherry Carter, Liberties branch honorary secretary, regarding the validation of this branch (49-54). 80 items

**C. DUBLIN NORTH-CENTRAL, 1953-70**

- 22** 1954 Letter from Patrick Keegan, Chairman of Inns Quay branch, to Dineen regarding reorganisation within this branch (1); circular letter from A.T. Woods, director of elections, to all 'canvassers and personation agents regarding what remains to be done (4); circular letter from Dineen announcing a convention of Dublin North-Central to launch the general election campaign (14); typed list of the polling stations in Dublin North-Central (18).  
22 items
- 23** 1955 Circular letter appealing for funds for the No. 3 area candidates in the municipal elections (3); circular notice announcing a constituency convention to select candidates and launch the campaign for the North-Central constituency corporation elections (7).  
12 items
- 24** 1956 Correspondence between General Mulcahy, Minister for Education, and A. Kenny regarding the discontinuation of the Inns Quay branch (4-6)  
6 items
- 25** 1957 Material relating to the bye-election of 1957. Includes details of a special committee set up to co-ordinate organisation, lists of people involved, lists of polling places, electors and votes, circular letters relating to canvassing and voting statistics within the area (1-35).  
35 items
- 26** 1958 Letter from Councillor Fred Mullin to Dineen discussing the need for reorganisation in Dublin North-Central (1)  
3 items
- 27** 1959 Material relating to the forthcoming referendum on proportional representation and presidential election. Includes circular letters announcing meeting on this matter and an address by the presidential candidate General Seán MacEoin T.D. (1, 2).  
4 items

- 28** 1960 Circular letter announcing an executive meeting to discuss the Dublin Corporation election (1) 3 items
- 29** 1961 Circular letter announcing a special general meeting of Dublin North-Central to consider the whole question of organisation in the constituency (1) 14 items
- 30** 1962 8 items
- 31** 1963 5 items
- 32** 1964 Correspondence relating to a new branch - the Phibsboro branch; Dineen asks Patrick McGilligan T.D. to ensure that the branch be kept active (3-7). 15 items
- 33** 1965 Letter from Dineen to Patrick McGilligan T.D. relating to a Mrs Dowling who has a premises which she is willing to have used as election rooms (15). 21 items
- 34** 1966 Correspondence between Dineen and Luke Belton T.D. and Richie Ryan T.D. regarding an Alex O'Donnell who is looking for payment for services rendered on polling day of the presidential election (7, 8); letter of resignation from Fred Mullin to Dineen due to his having published certain personal views in the *Sunday Independent*, which may be considered detrimental to party interests (10); circular letter seeking support for T.F. O'Higgins, the Fine Gael presidential candidate (11); correspondence relating to the dissatisfaction of the Mountjoy branch and the possibility of it resigning from the party (12-14); letter from Maire Leonard, secretary, Inns Quay branch, to Dineen endorsing a Mr Duffy as that branch's candidate for the forthcoming municipal elections (15); circular letter calling for a large turn-out for the 1916 commemorative ceremony (49). 31 items





- 45** 1960 Report on the constituency convention held to elect four candidates for the forthcoming general election and at which General Seán MacEoin presided (1-2); letter from Dineen to J. O'Higgins T.D. referring to Dublin North-East as 'one of the worst organised in the city'. Dineen would like to see the area reorganised on Ward areas. 45 items
- 46** 1961 Letter from Dineen to M.J. O'Higgins T.D. relating to a constituency convention to be held on 20 July to confirm or otherwise, the candidates chosen on 9 December last. Since then the constituency has lost the North Dock Ward and part of Mountjoy Ward and has gained a lot of Glasnevin Ward due to changes in the Electoral Act (1); letter from Dineen to Mary McMunn, secretary, constituency executive, asking her to postpone the constituency a.g.m. until after the Sligo/Leitrim bye-election (23). 26 items
- 47** 1962 Letter from W.G. Burke, secretary constituency executive, to the constituency representatives, informing them that at a recent executive meeting it was agreed that these representatives were not 'sufficiently promoting the policy and ideals of Fine Gael'. He mentions Richie Ryan T.D. and Charles Haughey T.D. as examples they could learn from (4); letter from Dineen to Gordon McCawley asking him to set up 'an efficient and workable organisation machine' in Dublin North-East (9). 14 items
- 48** 1963 Letter from a Gerald McCarthy to Oliver J. Flanagan T.D. suggesting himself as a possible election candidate (4-6); letter from Dineen to Patrick Belton discussing the lack of any active branches in Dublin North-East (9); letter from Dineen to Patrick Belton T.D. regarding a John Grant who claims to know many Fine Gael supporters who would be interested in joining the party (21); circular letter announcing a Constituency Victory Dance to celebrate the Fine Gael's candidate, Patrick Belton's success in the recent bye-election (22); letter and copy reply from W.G. Burke, secretary, constituency executive, to Dineen, regarding the rumour that Dublin Corporation recently purchased £250,000 worth of oral vaccine which was rejected, upon importation (23-24). 24 items

- 49** 1964 Correspondence relating to the death of Tom Cosgrave and the subsequent vacancy on the Dublin Corporation for No. 1 area. The Clontarf branch propose that Victor Carton fill this vacancy. Letter from Dineen to Fred J. Mullen, councillor, informing him that at a convention of delegates from the Wards of No.1 area, Victor Carton was chosen as Tom Cosgrave's successor (1-10, 15-17); letter from Dineen to Patrick McGilligan T.D. informing him that the standing committee wants each constituency to examine existing branches and put them in working order due to the possibility of an imminent general election (42).  
42 items
- 50** 1965 Letter from Raymond Fay, honorary secretary of Harmonstown/Killester branch, to Dineen, informing him that his newly formed branch has decided to call itself the W.T. Cosgrave branch (3); letter from Dineen to Denis Whooley, secretary, constituency executive, advising a strong drive to establish a branch in the Harmonstown area (13); following a letter from a Raymond Fay to Dineen pointing out the lack of Fine Gael organisation in this area compared to that of Fianna Fáil. He includes a leaflet and questionnaire which are being distributed by Fianna Fáil (14-18); letter from Denis A. Whooley to Dineen informing him of the constituency's resolution to pledge loyalty to Liam Cosgrave in his task of establishing a Fine Gael government (36); letter from Sean F. O'Driscoll, secretary, Sutton branch, to Dineen informing him of the new branch in this area (62); letter to Dineen from a Mrs Moezek, a returned emigrant who is 'shocked to see how our country is run by the Fianna Fáil Party' (67-68); letters from a Joseph G. Daly to James Dillon T.D. maintaining that in the event of an election Fine Gael should come out strongly on behalf of the National Teachers. Subsequent letters discuss articles he wishes to write condemning government policy and how he can get actively involved in Fine Gael (69-88); letter from Whooley to Dineen discussing the 'precarious state of organisation which has existed up to now in this area' (90-92).  
97 items
- 51** 1966 Material relating to a constituency bus tour being organised (24-25); circular letter from Harold G. Share, chairman, constituency executive, thanking people for the effort put into the recent presidential election (31); circular letter announcing a public meeting at which Senator Garret FitzGerald will give an address entitled 'A Brave New Ireland' (32); circular letter announcing an inaugural meeting to establish a branch in Fairview/Marino (46); constituency circular letter announcing a convention to select candidates for No.1 Corporation Area (70); circular letter announcing a public meeting arranged by the Sutton branch on

- 51 contd.** apartheid, at which Kadar Asmal is to give an address (72).  
73 items
- 52** 1967 Letter from a John Murray to Dineen in which he states that he is interested in joining Fine Gael because of their policy on 'Irish Language Preservation' (5); letter from Ballymun Estate Tenants' Association asking that a Fine Gael representative attend their meetings. Charles Haughey has agreed to attend (18); circular letter announcing a convention of Dublin North-East and Dublin North-West to select candidates for Areas 3 and 4 in the 1967 local elections (26); circular letter announcing a joint meeting of Dublin North-East, North-Central and North-West to consider the position arising from the new allocation of the electoral areas in Dublin city (27); circular letter announcing a constituency convention to select and ratify candidates for the forthcoming municipal elections (29).  
89 items
- 53** 1968 Letter and copy reply from Thomas G. Harrington to Comdt. Sanfey, general secretary, Fine Gael, discussing Fianna Fáil's 'drastic butchery of constitutions (5-9); an invitation to Sanfey to attend the erection of a plaque to the memory of Arthur Griffith, by private citizens (21); letter from Denis Whooley to Sanfey informing him that the constituency has now been revised and that it now contains eight branches (35); letter from F.J. Lynch, honorary secretary of the Grange Raheny Residents' Association, requesting a meeting with the relevant councillors (37); circular letter announcing a Drumcondra branch meeting to be held to discuss the forthcoming referendum on proportional representation (39); letter to Dineen from the Old Shieling Hotel informing him that Fine Gael owe them £31.16s (61); letter from Whooley to Sanfey informing him that the constituency decided to adopt the system that he proposed with regard to branch affiliation fees (64).  
104 items
- 54** 1969 Letter from Sanfey to Ray Fay relating to the sum of £140 which is owed to the Hollybrook Hotel for a function held to honour General Mulcahy (54); circular letter announcing a Monster Meeting, 'A Change for the better towards a Just Society' at which Liam Cosgrave is to speak (24); circular letter of the Sean Nestor branch looking for financial support (35).  
36 items



- 59 contd.** in relation to an Executive meeting to coordinate preparations for the forthcoming general election (19). 29 items
- 60** 1958 5 items
- 61** 1959 Copy letter from Dineen to Richie Ryan T.D. requesting that he give the constituency executive a 'pep-talk' (4) 17 items
- 62** 1960 Correspondence between Dineen and T.J. Egan, chairman, Shandon branch, with regard to a new branch established in Finglas West (4-5); circular letter announcing an executive meeting entitled 'Improving the Health Services' at which T.F. O'Higgins, former Minister for Health, is to speak (7). 27 items
- 63** 1961 Correspondence between Dineen and T.J. Egan in relation to organisational and personality problems in the Eoin O'Duffy branch. This is eventually resolved and the branch is reorganised (4-8); newspaper cutting mentioning a new Fine Gael branch in the Navan Road area (9); letter from B. Gilligan, secretary of Finglas East branch, to Dineen relating to a committee established in the area to co-ordinate social functions and to generate interest (12-15); letter from Kathleen Donovan, secretary constituency executive, to Dineen, informing him of the executive's decision to send a letter of protest to David Allen and Sons Ltd., as a result of the wording on a poster they erected on the executive's behalf (16); letter from a John J. O'Farrell to Dineen who feels that the increase in the Fine Gael poll is probably due to Fine Gael's policy 'on Irish Education and Health' (20-23); letter from Dineen to T.J. Keaney, trustee, Finglas East branch, informing him that the registers will not be available until ten days after the Supreme Court decision on the Electoral Bill (31). 54 items
- 64** 1962 Letter from John F. O'Farrell, secretary, Navan Road branch, to Dineen, in which he requests a change of name of the Navan Road branch to the Michael Collins branch (Navan Road) (2); copy letter from Dineen to Declan Costello T.D. relating to a loudspeaker lent to him prior to the general election in 1961 (15). 27 items

- 65** 1963 Circular letter announcing an address by Michael O'Higgins T.D. on 'The Governments' Economic Programme' (7); letter of thanks from Dineen, on behalf of the Standing Committee, to Mr and Mrs Sean Keaney, who are leaving Dublin, (12).  
25 items
- 66** 1964 Letter from Kathleen Donovan, secretary, constituency executive, to Dineen, informing him that at an executive meeting, Desmond P. Humphreys was elected director of elections for the forthcoming municipal elections (5); letter from Kathleen Donovan to Dineen inquiring as to whether the constituency is entitled to two representatives on the National Council (8-9).  
30 items
- 67** 1965 Letter from Kathleen Donovan, secretary, constituency executive, to Dineen, informing him that at the monthly executive meeting, a vote of censure was passed on Fine Gael deputies who were absent from the Dáil when Ireland's economic situation was being discussed (7); letter from Kathleen Donovan to Dineen with regard to changing the name of the Cabra East branch to the John A. Costello branch (25) letter from D. Humphreys, Navan Road branch secretary, to Dineen informing him of a new branch formed in Cabra West (27).  
30 items
- 68** 1966 Circular letter announcing Fine Gael's intention of putting Tom O'Higgins T.D., a former Minister for Health, forward as their presidential candidate (1); letter from Kathleen Donovan to Dineen informing him that the present John A. Costello branch was previously the Shandon branch (38); circular letter thanking those who worked for Tom O'Higgins in the Presidential Campaign (1).  
49 items
- 69** 1967 Correspondence relating to organisational problems within the Chapelizod branch which led to the resignation of branch members (8-24); circular letter announcing the decision of Fine Gael's Standing Committee to appoint a committee under the chairmanship of Senator Garret FitzGerald to examine reorganisation of the party (25-28); circular letter announcing a convention to select candidates for Areas 3 and 4 for the 1967 local elections (38); correspondence relating to a statement by Rev. Fr. Brady, Vice-President of the National Farmers'

- 69 contd.** Association, referring to Fine Gael as both gutless and spineless due to their lack of support for farmers (44-45); correspondence concerning the efforts of Denis Bennett to reform the Fine Gael branch in the Shandon area and the consequent new Phibsboro branch. Richie Ryan feels that such a branch is not justified in the area and consequently Bennett severs 'any connection in every shape and form from the Fine Gael Party' (67-77).  
102 items
- 70** 1968 Circular letter announcing an open forum on Fine Gael policy with particular emphasis on education and social welfare. The panel is to consist of P.J. Lindsay T.D., Richie Ryan T.D., and Declan Costello T.D. (11); circular letter announcing a Citizens Free Advice Bureau in Dublin North West (30). 33 items
- 71** 1969 Text of questions asked in Dáil Éireann by Deputy Hugh Byrne T.D. and the responses given to him. They cover topics such as heating complaints from Ballymun residents (5), complaints of noise from Cabra residents (8), and queries regarding the possible movement of offices to the Phibsboro shopping centre (11); letter from Sanfey to Paddy McDonnell, chairman of the Michael Collins branch, relating to his possible nomination to a vacant Senate seat (13-14); letter to Sanfey from F. Keeley, member of Ballymun Estate Tenants' Association, requesting a meeting with a Fine Gael representative (41); correspondence relating to the validity of the newly formed Jack Belton branch; letters from Helen Burke, secretary, constituency executive, to Sanfey claiming that the branch was validly formed (46-54).  
92 items
- 72** 1970 Letter from Rev. Laurence Redmond C.C., to Sanfey promoting a public playground run by trained social workers in the Aughrim Street parish (5); material relating to organisational and personality problems within the constituency executive which spring from complaints regarding the election canvassing conduct of a member of the Michael Collins branch (32-79); list of members of Dublin Corporation for Electoral Area No.3 (109); letter from Mary Watson and Margaret Shanahan, joint treasurers of Dublin North-West executive, to Liam Cosgrave stating that 'Fine Gael's accountancy in Dublin North-West does not satisfy us' and feel that a proper survey should be made (133); circular letter of complaint from Hugh Byrne T.D. to the Superintendent Traffic Department, Dublin Castle, relating to a number of complaints he received of speeding in McKee Avenue (147).  
147 items



- 80 contd.** cast for each candidate (6), names and addresses of voters (7) and results of the 1954 and 1957 elections (26).  
25 items
- 81** 1962 Letter from Dineen to James Clarke, treasurer, constituency executive, looking for the loud-speaking equipment Clarke borrowed for the Corpus Christi procession (4); letters from Dineen to Paul Murray and to George McLoughlin constituency chairman, about the need to re-organise the constituency (5-6), with lists of possible helpers for election (7-27); correspondence between Dineen and Maurice E. Dockrell T.D., T.C. on the need for greater organisation in the constituency (31-35).  
81 items
- 82** 1963 Letter from Dineen to General Seán MacEoin T.D. sending him particulars of the voting patterns in the constituency in the last general election and the last Presidential Election (1-3).  
4 items
- 83** 1964 Letter from Richie Ryan T.D. to Dineen informing him of the newly formed Kilmainham/Inchicore branch (6); circular letter announcing a re-organisation meeting (12); letter from Dineen to Nuala Stanley, constituency secretary, warning her against a group calling themselves the Dublin City Group who have published statements 'calculated to mislead the followers of our Party' (16); letter from Dineen to Gerald Sweetman T.D. telling him to use members of Central Branch to help in the re-organisation of Dublin South Central in preparation for the next local and general elections (17-18); typed lists of previous helpers in the constituency (32-37).  
83 items
- 84** 1965 Circular letter announcing the formation meeting of a Harcourt Street branch (6); letter from J.D. Nugent, constituency organiser, to Gerry L'Estrange T.D., requesting that he give a talk to the recently formed Thomas Street branch on re-organisation (8); circular letter relating to Liam Cosgrave's directive to all constituencies to begin re-organisation (11).  
13 items

- 85** 1966 Letter from J.D. Nugent, director of elections, to Patrick Nugent, secretary, Inchicore branch, asking for better branch organisation for the forthcoming presidential election (9); letter requesting the constituency to set up an election machine for the presidential election (10); circular letter stating that the 44<sup>th</sup> Ard Fheis will not be in the traditional style but will be a huge demonstration in support of T.F. O'Higgins, Fine Gael's presidential candidate (23); letter from Ritchie Ryan T.D., to Dineen, informing him of a new branch in the South Dock area (33); circular letter announcing the formation of a branch in Harcourt Street area (44); circular letter announcing the establishment of election headquarters in Great Georges Street (47). 50 items
- 86** 1967 Letter from J.J. Ryan, honorary secretary, Inchicore/Kilmainham branch, to Sanfey, assistant general secretary, in relation to a meeting to form a new branch for Thomas Street, Kilmainham area (6). 21 items
- 87** 1968 12 items
- 88** 1969 Letter and copy reply from Mr McVey, a party member, to Sanfey, requesting to see the minutes of the Standing Committee which he is told are confidential (1, 2); text of questions and responses given to Richie Ryan by Dublin Corporation on such subjects as traffic lights (20), waterworks (30) and sewers (45); circular letter requesting all South-Central Branches to send five delegates to a meeting to establish a new constituency executive and to arrange a convention to nominate candidates for the general election (101); typed lists of South-Central polling booths and draft delineation of branch areas (105). 105 items
- 89** 1970 Circular announcing a visit to Leinster House organised by the Terenure branch (12); circular letters from Richie Ryan to constituents giving the responses he received from the Corporation and County Council when he approached them on behalf of his constituents. Subjects covered include roads (26), refuse collections (106), drainage (145), and married quarters for army personnel (139); circular letter announcing the Senate's intention of reviewing the recently-published reports of the Arts Council) and of the Trustees of the National Library

**89 contd.**

(30); correspondence relating to the case of Michael Cooney (formerly Sgt.) which he put before Richie Ryan. Cooney claims to be 'a victim of blind justice' and feels that his discharge from the army was a miscarriage of justice (38-44); letter from a L. Birthistle to Fine Gael saying 'It makes me mad and sad when I consider how Fianna Fáil used de Valera the myth to win their battles when you, Fine Gael had Collins – the realist statesman but never invoked' (50); letter from J. Doyle to Fine Gael with a resolution 'that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael merge in the interests of the Irish people (64); controversy within the constituency resulting from the way the Gerald Sweetman branch was established (75-88); newsletter of the Nutgrove Tenants' and Residents' Association (89); letter and copy reply from William B. Devine, constituency honorary secretary, to Sanfey expressing his fear that the structure of the executive may conflict with the Constitution and Rules adopted at the Ard Fheis (143, 144); draft speech, in Irish, of Senator Sean Ó Ceallaigh, to be given to the Senate (167-174); circular letter from Richie Ryan to Fine Gael county councillors calling them to a meeting to discuss the rearrangement of health and hospital regions (180); letter from a Pam Harrigan to Richie Ryan saying that, as 1971 is the anniversary of Arthur Griffith's birth, there should be some special commemoration (203); letter from John O'Grady, honorary secretary, Rathfarnham branch, to Sanfey with a branch resolution 'That the Rathfarnham branch of Fine Gael affirms its sympathy with the aims of the Architectural Students in occupying 45 St. Stephen's Green, thus preventing its demolition' (211).

247 items

**G. DUBLIN SOUTH EAST, 1954-70**

- 90**            1954                            Letter from Eileen Claffey, constituency honorary secretary, to Dineen, informing him that it was decided to call the branch in the Ballsbridge area, the Merrion branch, to avoid confusion with the Ballsbridge branch (1); letter from David O'Mahony, Sandymount branch honorary secretary, to Dineen, wondering if the Fine Gael publication *The Digest*, could be sold more extensively (8); letter from Dineen to John O'Donovan T.D. discussing the disorganised state of the constituency. Wants the branches to keep in closer contact with headquarters (20); draft of speech by John A. Costello, party leader, for the final rally before the general election. Discusses the policy Fine Gael will adopt 'calculated to bring about a reduction in prices or an increase in income' (33-41); election handbill for John A. Costello and John O'Donovan (43); draft speech discussing Fine Gael's policy in relation to finance and unemployment (50-53); list of polling stations in Dublin South East (60-62).  
62 items
- 91**            1955                            Correspondence relating to controversy in Rathmines, resulting from the resignation of E. Claffey as secretary of the Rathmines Central branch who then set up a new branch, of the same name but under the Dublin South-East Constituency. This confusion led to a special committee being formed 'to enquire into and arbitrate ... and to decide on their relative claims to various documents and monies and the right to representation on the Executive'. (9-13, 57-60); letters from the secretaries of the Milltown, Sandymount and Ranelagh branches to Dineen objecting to headquarters decision to nominate a fourth candidate for these branches, for the municipal elections (37-43); resolution of the constituency executive 'that a directive be addressed to each member of the present party representation, urging the fullest possible attendance at Corporation meetings' (65).  
79 items
- 92**            1956                            Letter from James Loftus, constituency honorary secretary, to Dineen, stressing the inadvisability of an increase in the price of electricity (6); circular letter from Dineen stressing the need for all constituency executives to hold a meeting before December 1955 to survey the condition of constituency organisation. Future branch meetings are to be attended by a deputy, senator, councillor or officer of the executive (2-7); E. Claffey, Rathmines South-East branch secretary, to Dineen

- 92 contd.** objecting to such attendance at branch meetings which she considers to be interference (25-26). 28 items
- 93** 1957 Note from Bridie Perry, party member, to Dineen, with regard to the now defunct Milltown branch (43); letter from E. Claffey to Dineen, informing him that B. MacKenzie was asked to accept co-option onto Dublin Corporation (44); correspondence between Sarah Dillon, Tom Ruane, Ranelagh branch honorary secretary, and Dineen, in relation to his inference that the branch contributed little to the recent general election and also discussing 'the unsatisfactory position existing in Dublin South-East' (47-51); invitation to Dineen to attend a Smoking Concert and Social Evening which was arranged as a victory celebration following the success of John A. Costello and Senator John O'Donovan in the recent general election (52). 67 items
- 94** 1957 Copy of letter from Dineen to William Reidy, executive vice-chairperson, requesting that a branch of Dublin South-East pass the following resolution 'congratulating Deputies Gerald Sweetman and James M. Dillon on their successful fight in Dáil Éireann against the introduction of retrospective taxation in the Finance Bill and on their stand against other Income Tax provisions harmful to the citizen' (6); copies of letter from Dineen to Patrick Mulligan, John A. Costello T.D. and Thomas A. Doyle enquiring as to the progress of re-organisation in Dublin South-East (15-17). 23 items
- 95** 1958 File not present
- 96** 1959 Circular letter from the constituency executive relating to the impending presidential election and constitutional referendum campaigns (11). 21 items
- 97** 1960 Copy of letter from Dineen to Seán MacEoin T.D. discussing a woman looking for payment as a Personating Agent who is probably 'being pushed by Fianna Fáil elements to create a fuss' (4); material relating to a debt of £106.9s.3d which the Sandymount branch owe to the Shelbourne Hotel (6-8). 24 items

- 98** 1961 Copy of letter from Dineen to Senator John O'Donovan informing him of the recently formed Rathgar branch (2); correspondence relating to the constituency convention to select candidates for the forthcoming general election (4-5); typed, unsigned letter referring to the new constitution boundaries and how the constituency of Dublin South-East is affected (7).  
7 items
- 99** 1962 3 items
- 100** 1963 Circular letter from the constituency executive announcing a discussion on the Turnover Tax at which Senator P.J. Lindsay will attend (3); copy of letter from Dineen to Desmond J. Fay, enquiring into the state of organisation in Dublin South-East and emphasising the possibility of a general election (4)  
11 items
- 101** 1964 13 items
- 102** 1965 Letter from David O'Mahony to Dineen discussing O'Mahony's intention of setting up a branch in the Churchtown area (27-29); circulars from the Ballsbridge (Arthur Griffith) branch publicising the first edition of a new Fine Gael newspaper entitled *The Citizen* (12), and informing its membership that 're-organisation can now be carried out under the new and vigorous leadership of Liam Cosgrave and this branch is taking the initiative in this direction in the constituency of Dublin South-East' (32).  
45 items
- 103** 1966 Correspondence between Dineen and Senator Garret FitzGerald relating to some confusion over branches in Rathfarnham (14, 15); executive circular letter mentioning Fine Gael's near victory in the 1966 presidential election and calling for re-organisation (27); circular letter announcing meeting of the Ballsbridge (Arthur Griffith) branch at which Garret FitzGerald will speak on the recent commission 'to review constitutional legislation and institutional basis of government' (29); circular from the Ballsbridge (Arthur Griffith) branch announcing a discussion on 'Planning and preservation of national amenities' (53).  
54 items

- 104** 1967 Material relating to the vacancy created on Dublin Corporation by the retirement of Catherine Byrne. Desmond J. Fay is elected in her stead (16-24); circular announcing the formation of a new branch in the Nutley area (56); circular from the executive announcing a meeting to discuss the cost of administering Dublin city (60); circular announcing the intention of forming a branch in the Ringsend/Irishtown area (64); circular letter announcing an executive meeting of Dublin South-East, Dublin South-Central and Dublin South-West, to consider the position arising from the new allocation of electoral areas in Dublin city (79); circular letter from the Ballsbridge (Arthur Griffith) branch stressing the importance of the forthcoming local government elections and announcing a branch meeting to discuss Fine Gael policy in relation to the Irish language (86); material relating to the selection of candidates for the forthcoming general election (86). 104 items
- 105** 1968 Letter from Helen Leonard, secretary, constituency executive, to Comdt. F. Sanfey, general secretary Fine Gael, giving the names of branches which will be staying in Dublin South-East and those which will be moving to Dublin South-Central, assuming that the new Government Electoral Bill passes (7); circular letter from the Rathfarnham branch announcing a meeting to discuss the future role of the branch in light of the proposed constituency changes as set out in the recent Government Electoral Bill (10); material relating to the need to marshal forces against the Government in their attempt to abolish proportional representation (28, 36); letter from Helen Leonard to Sanfey suggesting that the executive's newsletter *Phase One*, should be distributed to all Fine Gael branches (34); circular from the Ballsbridge branch announcing an address by Councillor Maurice O'Connell on the Grand Canal (42); copy of the South-East Constituency *Constitution and Rules* (34-42); material, especially circular letters, relating to the need for a re-organisation drive (43) and (62-63); copy of May edition of *Phase One* newsletter (47-48). 121 items
- 106** 1969 Circular letter announcing a presentation dinner arranged by the South-East executive to commemorate the retirement of John A. Costello (5); letter from Sadie McHugh, secretary, constituency executive, to Sanfey, informing him of the formation of a new St Kevin's branch (41); letter from Sadie McHugh to Dineen asking that branches be notified of party collections which are going to be made in the area (29-31); letter from E. Stokes, Rathfarnham branch secretary, to Sanfey informing him that the proposal to change the party name to 'Fine Gael – the Social and Democratic Party' was defeated at a

- 106 contd.** branch meeting by 13 votes to 4 (72, 73); letter from M.P. Fogarty, Director, Economic and Social Research Institute, to Sanfey informing him of a letter he received from Dr K.J. Kahn, executive secretary of the Rome Centre of the European Christian Democrat Parties, offering opportunities to an Irish person. This letter is being circulated to the three main political parties (103). 112 items
- 107** 1970 Copy of letter from Sanfey to Garret FitzGerald T.D. relating to unauthorised persons using his free-postage facility (42, 43); material relating to the very successful Ard Fheis (44-52); circular letter from the Ballsbridge branch announcing a centenary commemorative talk on Arthur Griffith (84); material relating to the Kildare bye-election, canvassing for which has been allocated to Dublin South-East (108); letter from Alexis Fitzgerald, Director of Organisation, to Liam Cosgrave, with proposals for what he thinks will revitalise the party (116, 117); letter from Sadie McHugh to Sanfey informing him that the Executive decided to adopt his idea regarding the affiliation of branches (148); drafts of the Dublin South-East constituency executives *Constitution and Rules* (159-172). 183 items

#### H. DUBLIN SOUTH WEST, 1954-70

- 108** 1954 Letter from Richard Ryan constituency executive secretary, to Dineen tendering his resignation as he has 'been invited to enter the Public Service as Private secretary to the Minister for Justice' (8) memorandum and related correspondence discussing the deteriorating organisation in Dublin South-West (15-17) 30 items
- 109** 1955 Circular letter relating to the need for improved amenities for the residents of Riverside Cottages, Templeogue (4); circular letter discussing the need for re-organisation in the Rathmines branch (13). 20 items
- 110** 1956 Circular letter from Dineen announcing an address by the Minister for Health entitled 'Some Aspects of the Health Act' (7). 13 items

- 111** 1957 Copy of letter from Dineen to P. O'Toole, constituency executive secretary, enquiring as to how active are the constituency's branches (3). 22 items
- 112** 1958 Letter from Thomas Burke, Drimnagh branch secretary, who feels that the ordinary man should be, but is not, represented at all levels of Fine Gael (2, 3); circular letter announcing an executive meeting which will be the start of a re-organisation drive in the constituency (13). 14 items
- 113** 1959 Circular letters announcing meetings and events in the campaign for the forthcoming presidential election and proportional representation referendum (6, 7). 32 items
- 114** 1960 Circular letter announcing an executive meeting to make organisational alterations 'necessitated by the changes in constituency boundaries caused by the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1960' (16); material relating to the selection of candidates, the organisational arrangements, and the results of the Corporation elections (25-30); letter from Richie Ryan T.D. to Dineen informing him of the newly-formed branch in Ballyfermot, which as a result of the Electoral Act is part of Dublin South-West (39); typed list of areas which Inquiry Officers must report on if a person is to be allowed a Blue Card by the Dublin Board of Assistance (46-47). 48 items
- 115** 1961 Copy of a letter from Dineen to Michael O'Connor in relation to Headquarters intention of setting up a branch in the Richmond Hill area (14, 15); correspondence relating to the constituency convention to select candidates for the forthcoming general election. Material covers who is to preside, the number of candidates and the candidates chosen (20-28, 37). 50 items
- 116** 1962 Copy of a letter from Dineen to Henry J. Lowe, constituency executive secretary, informing him that the draft Organisation and Rules of the executive which were submitted to the Standing Committee have been amended to fit in with the Scheme of

- 116 contd.** Organisation and the policy of the Party. The amended version is included. Includes preliminary executive material relating to the drafting of these rules (1-10) and (17-19); newspaper cutting about the newly resigned chairman of the Drimmagh branch – Thomas Burke (3). 48 items
- 117** 1963 Copy of a letter from Dineen to Richie Ryan T.D. in relation to Fine Gael's approach to Joseph Murphy, owner of Tayto Company for financial support and his refusal on the grounds that when his firm faced difficulties Noel Lemass of Fianna Fáil was of invaluable assistance (10); motion from Ann Casey, Peadar S. Doyle, North Crumlin branch honorary secretary, that 'Mr Dillon be asked to call an emergency meeting of the Parliamentary Party to condemn the attitude of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in the present Sub-Postmasters Strike' (17); circular letter announcing a meeting of the Peadar S. Doyle North Crumlin branch at which J. Kerrigan will speak on 'The purpose and formation of the constituency executive' and P. Murray will speak on 'The purpose and formation of the standing committee and the national council of Fine Gael' (45); resolution of the Ballyfermot branch that means testing for Old Age Pensioners should be abolished and the validating age should be dropped from 70 to 65 (49). 56 items
- 118** 1964 Letter from S. Clancy to Dineen discussing Louis McCarthy who was possibly dropped from Bord Iascaigh Mhara because he opposed the Turn-over Tax. His position was taken by a known supporter of the tax (3); circular letter announcing when Richie Ryan is available to meet constituents (37). 38 items
- 119** 1965 Resignation of J. MacWeeney from the Rathmines branch due to a 'certain organised pressure group'. However because of the election of Liam Cosgrave as party leader he 'holds out hope for the party' and pledges support (15, 16); material relating to the local elections of (20-22). 35 items
- 120** 1966 Circular letter announcing a debate between the North Crumlin and Terenure branches on the motion 'That R.T.É. service is unsatisfactory' (16); material relating to the presidential election. Includes circular letters announcing a rally (46), calling for help (45) and thanking people for their support (32). 70 items

- 121** 1967 Report of the Terenure branch A.G.M. which announced 1967 one of its' 'most successful and active years' (1); circular announcing a committee appointed by the Standing Committee to examine the organisation of the party in Dublin city in preparation for a general election (4); circular announcing the intention of organising a Fine Gael branch in the Drimnagh/North Crumlin area (10); letter from Ned Boylan, a veteran of the Civil War, who wants to publish a book about Michael Collins and his Castle activities (23-25); letter of resignation from J.J. Gillen, Peadar S. Doyle North Crumlin branch, to Dineen because he feels 'the party is not being run on democratic' lines (28); circular letter announcing a meeting of the constituencies of Dublin South-East, South-Central and South-West to discuss the position arising from the allocation of electoral areas in Dublin city and to make arrangements accordingly (46); material relating to the local elections (63); circular letter announcing a presentation to the Four Provinces Irish Club of Melbourne, Australia (72). 121 items
- 122** 1968 Circular letters with responses given to Richie Ryan T.D. by Dublin Corporation to various representations he made on behalf of constituents (1, 42-43); material relating to the referendum on proportional representation, requesting canvassers (13) and announcing meetings on this issue (34); circular letter announcing a meeting of the Terenure branch, at which Patrick J. Lindsay, spokesperson on education, will speak on the recently published 'Towards a Just Society' (74). The constituency executive also plan a meeting to discuss this publication (105); circular letter announcing Fine Gael's Rates Protest Picket (85). 116 items
- 123** 1969 Correspondence between Hugo McCabe, constituency executive honorary secretary, and Sanfey in relation to confusion over the officers of the Walkinstown branch (8); circular letter relating to helpers for the forthcoming general election (30); circular letter announcing an address by Patrick Donegan, spokesperson on industry, on recently-published policy documents by the Minister for Industry and Commerce (44); report of the Peadar S. Doyle, Drimnagh/North Crumlin a.g.m. at which the motion regarding changing the party name to 'Fine Gael – the Social Democratic party' was defeated (70). 83 items

- 124** 1970 Copy of a letter from Sanfey to Hugo McCabe, constituency executive honorary secretary, relating to the resignation of Councillor George Butler to rejoin the Labour Party (2); letter from Marie Byrne, Capt. Joe Mack, Crumlin branch honorary secretary, to Sanfey suggesting 'that in view of the fact that Fine Gael has been allocated two positions on the Dublin Regional Hospitals Board' a meeting should be held to select the representatives (17); resolution passed by the Dublin City Council that 'the elected members of the Dublin City Council request the members of the Irish Delegation to the Council of Europe to bring to the attention of the Local Affairs Committee of that Council, the action of the Government in dissolving Dublin City Council and to request the support of that body in all efforts to have local democracy restored in this city (26); circular letter from Sanfey pointing out that Dublin South-West is the only constituency which does not have a resident Fine Gael deputy or senator (73); material relating to the Dublin South-West bye-election (65, 76, 78, 105). 124 items

## II. COUNTY DUBLIN CONSTITUENCIES

### A. DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN, 1953-70

- 125** 1954 Copy of a letter from Dineen to Monkstown Garage relating to a bill owed by a branch of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown constituency (6); material relating to the forthcoming general election including a draft speech of John A. Costello T.D. in which he speaks of the coming elections which the government has been forced to call because of the 'strength of Fine Gael' (7-10) and a typed directive to each branch secretary on canvassing (15, 16); letter from Liam Cosgrave T.D. to Frank Kearney relating to public collections which 'in accordance with the ruling of the National Council' were discontinued (25) 30 items
- 126** 1955 Resolution of the Gearóid O'Sullivan branch relating to non-attendance and failure to give attention to legitimate complaints by the four party councillors on the local borough council. This they feel could lead to the eventual dissolution of the branch (3). 26 items

- 127** 1956 Constituency executive's 'Income and Expenditure Accounts for local Elections 1955' (3); resolution of the Gearóid O'Sullivan branch that the 1956 *Fine Gael Digest* should be sent free of charge to all branches (15). 23 items
- 128** 1957 Circular letter from Liam Cosgrave T.D. to Fine Gael members of Dublin County Council relating to the forthcoming appointment of a Rate Collector. Liam Cosgrave stresses the importance of securing if for the Fine Gael nominee (11). 32 items
- 129** 1958 Circular letters from Cosgrave to Fine Gael members of Dublin County Council announcing meetings to consider a chairperson and to consider the admission of T.B. patients to hospitals (16, 20). 36 items
- 130** 1959 Circular letters from Cosgrave to Fine Gael members of Dublin County Council announcing meetings to consider the re-distribution of Council areas (1) and to consider the vacancy for Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Corporation (11); circular letter from the Blackrock branch announcing a lecture entitled 'Whitaker Report on Economic Development in Ireland' (12); circular letters relating to the forthcoming Presidential Election and referendum (14) and (23). 29 items
- 131** 1959-1960 Letter from Cosgrave to Senator James Tunney on behalf of Fine Gael councillors in relation to the formation of the new County Council (20); circular letter announcing a convention to discuss the rearranged electoral areas (32); material relating to the selection of candidates for constituency local elections (32-33, 35, 52, and 60); circular letter from Cosgrave to Councillors announcing a meeting to consider the rate for the coming year (55). 72 items
- 132** 1961 Material relating to the general election including a meeting to review the results (2). Most of the material relates to the convention to select candidates and includes lists of voters and information regarding elected candidates (3, 14, 17, 18). 51 items

- 133** 1962 41 items
- 134** 1962 Material relating to disturbances caused by Councillor John Ferris Coughlan at meetings. Includes a report by Horace Porter, constituency executive secretary, on the matter (18-27); circular letter announcing a meeting to discuss the report of a committee set up to consider financial matters (37).  
45 items
- 135** 1964-1965 Copy of a letter from Dineen to Horace Porter reminding him of the Unity Organisation meeting to be held, at which a new nationalist organisation is to be formed, to be sponsored by the National Unity Organisation (26, 27); copy of letter from Dineen to B. Sheerin warning him against the Dublin City Group which has just resigned en masse (29); circular announcing a resolution that 'the Executive is of the opinion that Councillors are obliged to support the official candidates of the Fine Gael Party' (51).  
54 items
- 136** 1965 Copy of a letter from Dineen to James Guinan, pointing out that there are no polling stations in the Beechill area (3); copy of a letter from Dineen to Horace Porter in relation to a new branch formed in Kilmacud by James Guinan (40); correspondence relating to the convention called to select candidates for the general election. Includes many complaints due to the short notice given for the meeting (51-60, 66-68).  
98 items
- 137** 1966 Circular announcing the intention of the Stillorgan branch to hold a series of meetings dealing with the social issues which young people consider important (15); letter from Dineen to M.J. O'Driscoll who is interested in re-organising the Goatstown-Clonskea area (29); circular announcing a discussion of the Blackrock branch on the 'Policy of Fine Gael on Irish language' (52); material relating to the presidential election including discussions on this event, advice to canvassers, review of the results and complaints about the posters not being taken down (59, 66-68, 82, and 89).  
106 items

- 138** 1967 Circular announcing a meeting of the Blackrock branch to consider the proposition that the branch 'investigate the possibility of establishing a suitable industry in the Blackrock district' (53); material relating to the selection of candidates for the Borough Corporation and County Council Elections (58, 76, 77, 89); particulars of the branches in the Ballybrack electoral area (78, 79). 109 items
- 139** 1968 Circular letter announcing a presentation dinner for Liam Cosgrave to celebrate his 25 years as a Dáil deputy (4); material relating to the Referendum on proportional representation. Includes a review of results (18), requests for canvassers (23), meetings on the event (37); circular letter announcing an executive finance committee, at which each branch is to attend (39); circular announcing an executive discussion on electoral reform (90); circular letters announcing executive meetings to discuss a constituency collection (94). 115 items
- 140** 1969 Letter from Bridie Browne, Dalkey branch honorary secretary, to Deputy Sweetman, enquiring as to the voting rights at a branch a.g.m. of a visiting chairman and a member of the Standing Committee (11); circular announcing a meeting of the Blackrock branch at which Councillor J.C. Hogan is to read a paper entitled 'Why Dún Laoghaire should not be part of Greater Dublin' (45); material relating to the general election (83); copy of letter from Sanfey to Mrs Phil Dunne reprimanding her branch for having released branch decisions to the press (89) 198 items
- 141** 1970 Notice of the annual commemorative Mass for Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins (36); copy of a letter of congratulations from Sanfey to Henry P. Dockrell on his election as Cathaoirleach to Dún Laoghaire Borough Corporation (52); letter from Teresa Butler, Student Representative Council honorary secretary, to Sanfey asking to send two observers to a constituency executive meeting (76, 77); circular looking for help on the day of the Kildare bye-election (92); circular announcing a meeting of Blackrock branch at which there will be a discussion on the forthcoming 'Metric System and Decimal Currency' (99); circular relating to a statement by Seán Flanagan, Minister for Lands, that 'the preparation of comprehensive legislation on the conservation of wild-life ... is at an advanced stage' (102); circular letters with replies which Cosgrove received from representations he made on behalf of constituents (109) and

- 141 contd.** (112); circular relating to the Fine Gael publication 'Winning Through to a Just Society' which was issued during the 1969 general election Campaign (117). 149 items

## B. DUBLIN COUNTY, 1954-69

- 142** 1954 Copy of a letter from Dineen to Eamonn Rooney T.D. informing him that he received no notification of the existence of a Malahide executive (2); circular letter announcing convention of Dublin County to consider re-organisation, a national collection and county council election plans (8); copy letter from Dineen to Eamonn Rooney informing him of his intention of starting a new Walkinstown branch (14); circular letter announcing an executive meeting to consider a nomination for the Seanad (18); figures for the County Dublin national collection (29); material relating to the 1954 general election. Includes notice of convention (20) and election results (32). 34 items
- 143** 1955 Letter from James J. Loftus to Dineen informing him of his intention to form a branch in the Cherry Grove and Fortfield areas (8). 27 items
- 144** 1956 38 items
- 145** 1957 Letter of complaint from Michael J. Griffin to Dineen relating to the non-performance of R. Burgess in his role as councillor (8); material relating to the general election. Including correspondence between Dineen and Eamonn Rooney T.D. discussing two under-age girls voting on behalf of nurses in Connolly Memorial hospital (11-17) and a letter of complaint from Rooney to James Crean in relation to the poor election effort of the Palmerstown area (18); letter from H.E. Lawless, Crumlin-Walkinstown branch chairman, to Dineen informing him of the formation of the branch (23); correspondence relating to a sum owed to the Dorset Press for local government election printing and the consequent resignation of James Loftus, Michael Collins (Walkinstown) branch honorary secretary, (27-34). 44 items



- 153** 1965 Material relating to Dublin County Council. Includes the selection of candidates for elections (4) and the selection of suitable persons to fill vacancies (44); circular letter announcing a new branch in the Perrystown/Manor Estate area (36); draft circular from the Ballyfermot branch announcing a house-to-house collection (54); circular letter announcing motion of the executive 'that in Fine Gael propaganda, heavy emphasis be placed on our intention to hold a referendum with a view to amending the constitution to permit votes at 18 years of age' (64)  
67 items
- 154** 1966 Circular letters from branches emphasising the need for improved organisation (4); material relating to the presidential election including discussion on the results (37); circulars relating to arrangements (56); letter from Michael Crowley suggesting that Fine Gael use the *Farmers Journal* for publicity purposes (94-96).  
100 items
- 155** 1967 Material relating to the local elections, mainly circular letters announcing branch meetings on this issue (32, 33, 52) and dealing with the convention to select candidates (41, 47).  
84 items
- 156** 1968 Circular letter from the constituency executive announcing a meeting with regard to the recently-published Electoral Amendment Bill which divides County Dublin into two constituencies, North and South (5); material relating to the referendum held on proportional representation. Includes circular letter announcing a victory rally and stating that 'the coming months may well be the most important in the history of Fine Gael' (14); letter from John C. O'Mara, Macra na Feirme general secretary, to Sanfey informing him of an annual rally on the theme 'Our Young Farmers - Their Challenge and Opportunity' and at which they would like a T.D. from each party (23); circular letter relating to a motion passed by the County Council and Dublin Health Authority requesting the Minister for Social Welfare to extend the cheap fuel scheme so as to include all areas of Dublin county (68); circular announcing the formation of Churchtown and Rathcoole branches (70, 88); letter of enquiry relating to the new salary structure introduced for Junior and Chief Technologists (82-83).  
109 items







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**DUBLIN CONSTITUENCIES,  
1971-75**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>1973</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>131</b>

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While the Dublin constituency files for 1951-70 are primarily arranged by constituency and by date within each constituency, the files for 1971-75 have been maintained in their original chronological order to make allowance for the major boundary changes which occurred in 1974.

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During the period 1971-74, party organisation in the city and county was based on the ten constituencies and the Central Branch:

- Central Branch
- Dublin Central
- Dublin North-Central
- Dublin North-East
- Dublin North-West
- Dublin South-Central
- Dublin South-East
- Dublin South-West
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
- North County Dublin
- South County Dublin

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After reorganisation in 1974, party organisation in the city and county was based on fourteen constituencies and the Central Branch:

- Central Branch
- Dublin Artane
- Dublin Ballyfermot
- Dublin Cabra
- Dublin Clontarf
- Dublin Finglas
- Rathmines West
- Dublin North-Central
- Dublin South-Central
- Dublin South-East
- Dún Laoghaire
- North County Dublin
- Mid County Dublin
- South County Dublin
- West County Dublin

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## DUBLIN CONSTITUENCIES, 1971-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. 1971

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| <b>170</b> | 1971 | <p><b>Central Branch:</b><br/>         notices for seminars and lectures to be held by Central Branch, giving a three-day itinerary, and listing areas for discussion, such as branch development, financial planning, fund raising, publicity and canvassing (8-11); copy of the <i>First Interim Report of the Recorder of the Operational Committee to the Committee of the Central Branch, 12 January 1970</i>. The report covers areas of administration, management, time schedules, seminar structure, training and selection of mentors, and the appointment of members of the Operational Committee for the execution of seminars. These analyse 'the historical development ... of political organisations', 'the behavioural approach to voter attitudes' and aspects of constituency organisation (17-20) <span style="float: right;">21 items</span></p> |
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- 171**      1971      **Dublin Central :**  
 letter from Neil McLaughlin, chairman of the Arthur Griffith branch, to Sanfey, complaining that church gate collections for St. Peter's Church, Phibsboro were overlapping because of crossed constituency boundaries (10-12); circular letter to constituency secretaries announcing Dublin Central church gate collections, and the need for proper coordination beforehand to avoid duplication amongst branches (13); correspondence between Mark Clinton T.D. and Sanfey, reporting on the constituency annual general meeting, and noting the outstanding debts of some branches (43-45); circular letter from Sanfey to members of the officer board of the Dublin constituencies to announce the formation of a committee to investigate the organisation of the constituency and affiliated branches, under the chairmanship of Deputy Patrick Malone T.D.. Sanfey requests that each constituency organise a meeting which will be attended by the committee to discuss organisation strategy (29); correspondence, mainly between David Clarke and Sanfey regarding the acceptance of the Clanbrassil Street branch as part of the constituency. This includes a report on the new branches set up prior to the 1969 general election and the status of the Clanbrassil Street branch. David Clarke also outlines his relationship with the Clanbrassil Street branch, giving a background to the formation of the Dublin Central constituency, the Liberties, Inchicore and James St. branches. Clarke mentions that the election of candidates for the constituency convention led some to believe that 'paper branches' were being formed. Also includes a letter from Ann Stack, secretary of the constituency executive, to Sanfey, expressing her belief that the Clanbrassil St. branch may have been 'one of the 'bogus' branches set up prior to the General Election at the time of the Dublin Central Convention in the Four Courts Hotel' (54-72).      81 items
- 172**      1971      **Dublin North-Central:**  
 letter from Michael Kelly, secretary of the Drumcondra branch, to Sanfey expressing the branch's disappointment at the agenda presented at the Ard Fheis, saying that the programme is 'too long' and that 'motions could be improved' (42-44); correspondence between Sanfey, Michael Kelly and Denis Jones T.D., chairman of the National Executive, regarding the impending examination of the constituency. Kelly notes the Drumcondra branch decision to disallow their delegates to give evidence at a public meeting of the constituency executive, since they have 'no say in the executive' (45-47); correspondence between Patrick Kenny, secretary of constituency executive, to Sanfey, declaring their church gate collection to be a 'great success', and noting the amount collected (53-55); copy of the newsletter *AIM*, written by the 'youth of Drumcondra' (25); notice for a meeting: 'Spotlight on the E.E.C.', including Richie Ryan T.D., and Garret FitzGerald T.D. as speakers (76); questionnaire from Luke Belton T.D. to

**172 contd.** constituents, asking for their comments on public services in the area (58); notice for a meeting: 'spotlight on traffic' and questionnaire from Luke Belton T.D. to constituents, to obtain information on the use of various forms of transport (66, 67); questionnaire on political attitudes asking for public opinion on the present government and their ideas for possible alternatives (90). 113 items

**173** 1971 **Dublin North-East:**  
 letter from Des Byrne, member of the Raheny branch, to Sanfey, informing him of the inaugural meeting of St Donagh's Tenant's Association (1); extract from the Ard Fheis resolutions in 1971, noting the number of motions which were accepted (5); circular letter from Paddy Belton T.D., to residents, noting that Dublin Corporation traffic lights are to be examined, following his representation (12); correspondence between Lillian O'Connor, James Nolan, secretary of the Raheny branch, and Sanfey. O'Connor hands in her resignation as chairman of the branch, claiming that she was being 'treated with contempt' by branch officers at a recent constituency executive meeting (16-18); notice announcing the establishment of new clinics to meet 'great demand' by constituents in Ballymun, Donnycarney, Beaumont and Howth', listing their location and opening hours (29); letter from Laura Tallon to Sanfey noting the dissolution of the Harmonstown branch, following a meeting of the executive committee (38); letter from Sanfey to Deputy Paddy Belton regarding a constituent who was querying about the possible receipt of an IRA disability pension, following the death of her husband (32); typed memo, referring to the disbanding of the Harmonstown branch and the walk out of Ray Fay from a meeting on 22 June 1971. Also refers to Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien's interview to determine his eligibility as a Fine Gael candidate, and deals with further instances of disquiet in the constituency over Deputy Paddy Belton's decision to 'switch' Desmond Humphreys from the Dublin North-West to the Dublin North-East constituency (40). 63 items

**174** 1971 **Dublin North-West:**  
 notice for a meeting of the officer board of the constituency to examine the state of organisation (20); extract of a speech of Surgeon Patrick Hogan at the Fine Gael Ard Fheis 1971, on the subject of rates. Hogan believes that 'rates are levied without regard to the ratepayers ability to pay' (34-36); letter from Sanfey to Mary Prendergast, informing the constituency executive of a debit balance in their account which should be cleared (44); Dublin North-West constituency Balance Sheet (undated), listing their income and expenditure, (85). 119 items



- 176 contd.** place. The statement expresses members' doubts at the advantages of joining the EEC, the lack of safeguards to prevent 'the taking over of Irish land by foreigners', and the need for presentation of facts, not 'vague generalities from party leaders' in order to gain public support(71); correspondence between Elizabeth McNamara, Arthur Griffith branch, and Sanfey, regarding the right to a postal vote (82-84); correspondence between Paul Doyle, student, Garret FitzGerald T.D., and Sanfey, regarding the establishment of a Fine Gael branch for fifth and sixth year students for C.U.S., Leeson Street, 'owing to lack of political thought in schools' (113-122); questionnaire to members of the Nutley branch, requesting information on the activities that they would like to see within the branch (138); notice to residents of the constituency, requesting their attendance at a public meeting to establish a housing committee and initiate a national programme for the party, to improve the poor state of housing development within the constituency (159, 160); letter from James Hand, secretary of the Emmet branch, Rathgar, to Sanfey, passing on a motion for the forthcoming Ard Fheis, that a 'body be set up, responsible for the study of our inland waterways ... and the best means of putting these to use' (154, 155); letter from Alexis Fitzgerald to Sanfey reporting on a branch meeting in the Dublin North-West constituency relating to the formation of a new branch in the area and of 'considerable personality friction' which existed in the local branch (192); list of resolutions proposed at the Dublin South-East constituency convention, 31 January 1971, under organisation and policy, and other resolutions such as the 'amendment of Article 41, Section 3 ... of the Constitution of Ireland in view of their impingement of basic civil liberties' (182-190).  
233 items

- 177** 1971 **Dublin South-West:**  
correspondence between Gay Canning, chairman of the Michael Collins branch, and Sanfey, regarding the passing of the proposed amendments to the party's constitution and rules at the forty-ninth Ard Fheis (29-34); copy of the working party's report on the Ard Fheis, outlining recommendations to improve effectiveness through structural, statutory and organisational reform, including more time spent on motions, amendments to the party constitution, and the need for 'flexibility in the agenda' (70-75); Dublin South-West constituency plan under the Electoral Amendment Act, 1969, including notes giving a general demographic profile of the polling districts, with maps of the wards in the constituency as a whole, and in the six branch areas. The plan outlines both the immediate and long-term aims for the division of the electorate into sub-units within the constituency and gives canvassing aims for the next election (76-98).  
98 items

- 178**            1971                            **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown:**  
correspondence between J. McCall and Liam Cosgrave T.D. regarding the reduction of the speed limit at Foxrock village (2); letter from L. Barry to Sanfey regarding the abolition of Stormont and his opposition to Senator John Kelly's 'milk and water' view of Northern Ireland. He hopes that the 'party will strongly support the passive disobedience campaign' (45); news release relating to the motion tabled in Seanad Éireann by Senators John Boland, Dr Richard Belton and P.J. Reynolds, calling on the Minister for Health to 'improve salary scales and conditions of service' for medical staff and the 'provision of a college of nursing' (46); Letter from Finbar Corry to Sanfey, regarding Tom O'Higgins' question in the Dáil about 'brutal treatment' by security forces in Belfast. He condemns O'Higgins' charge as 'hysterical' and expresses 'a complete loss of faith in the one political party in Southern Ireland which I felt to be honest and courageous' (88-94); letter from Eamonn O'Driscoll, student, to Sanfey, suggesting that Cosgrave be replaced by Garret FitzGerald as leader because of 'his personality in the age of mass media' (98-100); Letter from L. Barry to Sanfey expressing his disappointment at the treatment of Captain Kelly, who 'does not deserve the inquisition to which he is being subjected' (157); telegram from Liam Cosgrave T.D., to Rev. Professor Dermot Ryan, congratulating him on his appointment as Archbishop of Dublin (190).  
194 items

- 179**            1971                            **North County Dublin:**  
draft and final copy of the Palmerstown branch magazine *Point of View*, December 1971, which includes an editorial on the 'crumbling edifice' papered over by Fianna Fáil, with regard to the £1,000,000,000 national debt. Articles cover cross-border relations, local authority matters such as the amalgamation of Dublin city and county, road and traffic improvements, and a list of local public representatives (11-26); correspondence between Thomas Randles, secretary of Kilgarvan branch, Patrick Kenny, and Sanfey, relating to Mark Clinton T.D.'s statement on the television programme 'The Politicians', 15 November 1971, favouring the Buchanan Report. Randles notes that since 'all of us in Kerry are against *the Buchanan* and this applies to most of the country', Clinton's statement was very damaging to the party (55-58); notice from Senator John Boland to applicants for council housing in Clondalkin, of a meeting to decide on their allocation (31); draft and final copy of the Palmerstown branch magazine *Point of View*, September 1971, which includes an editorial on new social welfare and vocational school regulations 'foisted by Fianna Fáil onto residents', the recent sacking of government ministers and the problems of the teachers' and doctors' pay disputes. Also includes articles on matters of local interest such as the inadequacy of local transport and electricity services (97-113); *Report to the North County Dublin constituency*

179 contd. *executive by the organisation committee on the memorandum submitted by James Clyne, Lucan Branch.* The report lists the members of the committee, plus their proposals, including the election of a full-time organiser-collector who would also act as Policies Promotion Officer, and the formation of a policy sub-committee. The report covers conditions for membership of the party and for prospective candidates, and rules for the election of public representatives (135-139); report on the re-organisation and co-ordination of constituency activity, submitted by James B. Clyne, which makes recommendations for the improvement of constituency organisation, such as the expansion of party membership, preparations for forthcoming elections, distribution of the workload into routine and branch matters and the formation of select specialist advisory committees to advise the Oireachtas on 'technical matters of legislation, planning, regional organisation, health, welfare, etc.' (145-152); correspondence between Fergus O'Lochlainn and Sanfey relating to the party's stance on reform legislation for the provision of proper eligibility for jury duty. O'Lochlainn complains of delay in passing reform which is of such 'grave concern and urgency' (153-155); circular letter from Kitty MacFadden to branch secretaries informing them that Des Mulvaney 'has declined to take up the position as full time constituency organiser' (141); letter from Noreen Peck, secretary of the Michael Collins branch, to Sanfey, forwarding a motion for the coming Ard Fheis to extend 'legal aid to people in need by giving a choice of legal advisers' (188); Finance Statement of North County Dublin constituency between 25 February 1969 and 25 April 1971, listing income and expenditure (196-198); copy of the Palmerstown branch magazine *Point of View*, November 1971, which includes an editorial focusing on economic affairs and inflation under the Fianna Fáil government, who have 'grossly mismanaged economic affairs'. Articles cover local developments in lighting and transport, and the government effort to improve the use of the Irish language with the formation of the Language Commission, which costs the tax payers 'thousands of pounds' and also diverts the public's attention from the 'sorry economic mess it has created'. (45-47); circular letter from Kitty MacFadden to branch secretaries noting the decision of the constituency executive to levy payments against all branches to support central party funds. Each branch must also keep a diary, listing all branch functions. A finance committee has also been established to raise money for constituency funds (219); copy of the Palmerstown branch magazine *Point of View*, January 1971, which includes an editorial on the 'political disaster' of the past year with 'strikes and economic upheavals, tribunals and trials, resignations and dismissals of Ministers of State'. Articles refer to acts passed to support the Irish language and industry, once used by Cumann na nGaedheal, now copied by Fianna Fáil. Others refer to high unemployment statistics, poor social welfare conditions, strikes and industrial closure 'which have shattered the complacency of the public' (224-239); Palmerstown branch newsletter *Point of View*, First Issue, with a

- 179 contd.** commendation forwarded by Mark Clinton T.D., stating that the newsletter provides 'a forum for discussing pressing local problems'. Articles include 'Fine Gael Now - And in the Future' on the preparation for general election, 'The Amalgamation of the City and County', the imposition of rates and local improvements in lighting, ground and traffic utilities (240, 241)  
242 items

- 180** 1971 **South County Dublin:**  
notice of a meeting of the constituency executive (1); letter from Gretta O'Quigley, secretary of the Roebuck branch, to Sanfey, to propose the resolution 'that this branch requests that greater control be exercised over members of the Fine Gael party who appear as members of the party either on political or current affairs programmes' (3); correspondence between Sanfey and Richard Burke T.D., regarding talks given to the Saggart Educational and Recreational Club on the 'EEC and its Involvement' and on 'Youth and Drugs' (59-60); Income and Expenditure account for South County Dublin executive (63, 64); circular to the South County Dublin electorate, appealing for subscriptions for the Fine Gael national collection (69); invitation to Wood Park/Ballinteer residents to a meeting to form a branch in the area (78); letter from C. O'Toole, Northern Refugee Fund, to Sanfey, thanking him for contribution of the Tallaght branch to the fund (88); letter from Jack O'Farrell, chairman of the constituency executive, to Sanfey, asking that no secretarial facilities be given to members of the constituency who are attempting to reorganise and strengthen the Sandyford branch, as this programme is to be put off until September (91); correspondence between Jim Jennings, Tallaght & Bohernabreena branch, to Sanfey, over complaints that certain motions 'some of a serious and complex nature', proposed by his branch, had been ignored at a recent Ard Fheis (94-101); notice from the Tallaght & Bohernabreena branch to residents for a lecture on 'Community Schools' - one of the 'burning issues of the day'. Speakers include Garret FitzGerald T.D.(106); circular letter to residents from the Tallaght & Bohernabreena branch in relation to planning and organisation in the Tallaght district. The circular calls for social amenities which will prevent 'haphazard and anti-social development' within the community (112); income and expenditure account for the South County Dublin constituency executive from 30 March 1971 to 24 June 1971 (115, 116); correspondence between Denis Connolly, chairman of the Joint Consultative Council of Retired State Servants, to Sanfey, asking for better increases in the pension under the Fine Gael budget. He encloses a press statement, which may be released to the daily newspapers, informing the press of how the public service pensions 'lagged far behind those of their colleagues' (158-162); letter from Myles O'Gorman, Public Representative of the Old Bawn Residents Association, to Sanfey, complaining about the lack of action to

- 180 contd.** build a school for the area (166); receipts and payments account for South County Dublin, up to 29 March 1971 (208); circular letter from the Pearse Morris branch to members, to say that the motion was passed by the branch to urge Fine Gael 'to do all in its powers to secure the repeal of the anti-contraception laws' (218); letter from Margaret Bannon to Liam Cosgrave T.D., asking for improvements in the social welfare benefit for pensioners (226); notice of the Tallaght & Bohernabreena branch for a lecture on 'The Worker and the Common Market' (200); letter from Sanfey to Deputy Thomas O'Higgins, requesting a representative at the Templeogue College Parents' Association meeting to discuss the threatened secondary school strike (257); letter from Sanfey to Margaret Costello regarding the policy of payment to personating agents on polling day (256); Fine Gael promotional leaflet:- 'Mise Eire-Scuab Nua ag teastail?' to recruit members to join the party (269); proposal from the constituency executive, that each branch should hold a meeting on prison reform, as part of a discussion on party policy (272). 274 items

## II. 1972

- 181** 1972 **Central Branch:**  
 circular letter to Dublin constituency members from the Central Branch, announcing the possible introduction of seminars on the Citizens' Advice Bureau, elements of social welfare, housing, local government, and community action. The circular discusses the possibility of expanding the Central Branch as a research and educational body and seeks members' responses (3); circular letter from Central Branch, seeking members interested in a proposal to establish and maintain research committees through Central Branch for use by Oireachtas members, for example to prepare points for a speech or script (11); circular letter to members with further details on the seminar to discuss the Citizens' Advice Bureau, with a table of contents (16); report of the 'Central Branch Training Seminar' to educate members in efficient organisation of the party. Outlined in the report is a plan to 'train and select instructors', giving actual format of the seminars:- who shall participate, discussion lengths, the size of the group. The plan follows through to the dissemination phase at constituency and branch level, with the Central Branch acting as administrators for the plan (19-21). 21 items

- 182** 1972 **Dublin Central:**  
 news release noting the resolution made by the constituency executive that ‘the process of redrawing of constituency boundaries according to population movements be placed in the hands of an independent judicial committee’ (2); copy of the newsletter *Anna Livia*, vol I no 2, June 1972. Includes an editorial on the improving party outlook – its success in the EEC referendum, the Ard Fheis, the new front bench, the alignment of Labour and Fine Gael. Letters to the editor focus on the need to emphasise a ‘more equal distribution of the nation’s wealth’ and an ‘eradication of social ills’. Features cover the coalition of Fine Gael and Labour, Fine Gael’s fiftieth anniversary Ard Fheis in Cork, effective party publicity, the EEC referendum campaign in Dublin Central, the structure and reorganisation of the Defence Forces, the Cork bye-elections and an extract from an *Irish Independent* article by Edward Collins T.D. on ‘What I would do as Minister for Education’ (28-82); copy of the newsletter *Anna Livia*, vol I no 1, April 1972. Includes an editorial on the reasons for founding the newsletter, with the commendation of Maurice Dockrell T.D., while Alexis FitzGerald outlines his objectives in his new position as Director of Organisation. Articles of local interest note the opening of new clinics, meetings held and branch news. Features focus on the exploitation of Irish mineral resources, the Alliance Party conference in Belfast and the 1972 Cork Ard Fheis (87-106); circular to members of the constituency noting a meeting of the National Executive to discuss the referendum for entry to the EEC (107); notice of a meeting of Liberties branch members to discuss the pollution threat to the River Liffey and Dublin Bay (109); *Liberties Association Newsletter* with local news on housing schemes in Long Lane – New Street – Clanbrassil Street – Kevin Street, and Dublin Corporation plans to promote industrial development in the Liberties area (130-133); flyers advertising a Fine Gael talk on public housing and overcrowding. Speakers include Garret FitzGerald T.D. (136); copy of the Dublin Central constituency executive constitution and rules (137-152). 152 items
- 183** 1972 **Dublin North Central:**  
 notice from Luke Belton T.D. of a meeting; ‘Spotlight on Dublin Bay’ (2); letter from Rev. Alistair Graham, on behalf of the Clontarf Youth Group, to Sanfey, inviting him to a church service to create an awareness of Vietnam (11); questionnaire to constituents from Luke Belton T.D., asking for their opinion on the plans by the Dublin Port and Docks Board for development (14); correspondence between Ann O’Boyce, public relations officer, City branch, and Sanfey, informing him of the motion of concern, passed by the branch over the ‘apparent lack of verballity (*sic*) of the organisation in relation to the present unemployment crisis’. Sanfey refers to a statement issued that day by the Front Bench on the matter, later broadcast by R.T.É. (61, 62). 62 items

- 184** 1972 **Dublin North-East:**  
questionnaire from Paddy Belton, T.D. to constituents, asking for their opinion on the planned development of Dublin Port (7); correspondence between Peter Coyle, secretary of the Sutton branch, and Sanfey regarding the motion forwarded by the branch 'condemning the blatant "jobbery" involved in the recent appointment of six rate collectors by Dublin County Council'. Coyle claim that people have been appointed to highly paid positions - 'which in urbanised areas involve little or no work'. The branch wishes to bring the matter to the attention of the National Executive (47-49). 66 items
- 185** 1972 **Dublin North-West:**  
circular letter from Sanfey to the constituency party members informing them of a meeting to discuss the problems of the constituency, and asking that their annual general meeting be postponed until this meeting has been concluded (3); correspondence mainly between Mary Prendergast, secretary of the constituency executive, and Sanfey, regarding the formation and ratification of the Michael Sweetman branch, 'composed mostly of members of the Arthur Griffith branch who have resigned in order to form the new branch' (5-16); letter from Declan Costello T.D. to Neil McLaughlin, chairman of the constituency executive, clarifying Costello's position in relation to discussions he had with Dr Byrne about Peter Sutherland. Both have considered him to be 'an excellent candidate' (67); letter from Des Humphreys to Sanfey saying that he is severing his connection with the constituency 'as I find that it is not possible to make any constructive contribution in that area' (89); letter from, J. Connors, Principal Officer of the Housing Department, to Hugh Byrne T.D., to acknowledge receipt of applications for a sale scheme of Dublin Corporation houses, listing all applicants by name and address (92); notice for a Mass for the repose of Michael Sweetman T.D. (101); notice from the constituency executive to members of a constituency convention, with the purpose of briefing members of the organisation about the EEC campaign (139); receipts and payments account for Dublin North-West constituency, 1971-72 (167, 168). 177 items
- 186** 1972 **Dublin South-East:**  
circular letter from Sanfey to branch members asking for cooperation from each branch in checking the draft electoral register, especially since voting rights have been granted to people of eighteen years of age (1); letter from Richie Ryan T.D., to Ann McCarthy, secretary of the constituency executive, explaining why the Fine Gael party sought affiliation with the Christian Democratic Group in the European parliament (6); invitation to the Béal na Bláth

- 186 contd.** ceremonies in Cork to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Michael Collins (66); circular letter from the Gerard Sweetman branch to members, commenting on the success of the recent Ard Fheis, the local church gate collections, and the referendum on the reduction of the voting age (81); correspondence between Richie Ryan T.D. and local residents regarding improved lighting, proposed bus shelters, and the Rathmines and Terenure branch old folks party (54,128,138); circular letter from Sanfey to constituency members noting the need to promote a 'first class public image' of the party (151-153).  
172 items

- 187** 1972 **Dublin South Central:**  
notice from the Trinity branch, inviting students to a meeting to form a youth group within the Fine Gael party (11); circular from the Trinity branch calling on volunteers interested in educational policy-making to meet, and redraft some of the existing policies (26); notice of a meeting of the UCD branch to discuss the 'Social consequences of the Northern struggle' (35); campaign circular supporting the referendum, saying that eighteen year olds should be allowed to vote, to guarantee the '1916 Proclamation to cherish all children of the nation equally' (40); letter from Ann McCarthy, secretary of the constituency executive, to Sanfey, forwarding the motion that the Executive disagrees with the Front Bench proposal that they should sit with the Christian, rather than the Social Democrats in the EEC Assembly' (53, 54); circular letter from Bill McSwiney, director of organisation, to branch treasurers, calling a meeting of the Dublin South-East constituency executive to account for all the monies held by the branches, including a statement to show amounts collected during the door-to-door collections (49); circulars to students from the UCD and Trinity branches, encouraging membership of the party, and listing activities carried out by the branches (68, 72); report by Garret FitzGerald T.D., on the *Future of European Air Transport*, focusing on the economic impact of this 'light-technology industry', and the results of competitive pressure on its development. The report analyses the growth in world trade from 1963 and its impact on air traffic and production of aircraft. It also discusses the expansion of non-scheduled operators, the burden of State airlines and possible suggestions for progress in the North Atlantic and intra-European network. Calls for the establishment of an inter-governmental rationalisation programme for aircraft production and traffic control (100-121); letter from Michael Kenny to 'Denis', announcing his resignation as secretary of the Donnybrook branch because of the pressure of other activities. 'The Donnybrook branch is dying', he notes, 'precisely because its most forceful personalities are still fighting the Civil War' (156, 157); results for the referendum on voting age, in the constituency, giving polling place, polling district and voters'

- 187 contd.** numbers (187); correspondence between Richard Dennis, Sanfey and Ann McCarthy in relation to the ratification of the Shelbourne & Bath Avenue branch, which was brought into the constituency on the last boundary change (190-196); notice from Fergus O'Brien to residents in the City Quay/ Westland Row branch area, of a public meeting to discuss a new office block proposed for Boyne Street (206); notice for the postponement of a discussion on 'the North', because of the 'Derry Massacre' (241); notice of a Student branch meeting, with a discussion on 'Strikes, Inflation and Discontent' (241); circular letter from Brian Murray, chairman of the Trinity branch, appealing for donations to meet the cost of meetings (244); correspondence between Martin Reynolds and Sanfey, proposing the motion 'that the party should carry out a survey of their membership to see if they support the government decision to join the EEC' (248, 249); letter from Alexis FitzGerald to Ann McCarthy noting his resignation as director of organisation of the Dublin South-East constituency and his acceptance of the post in Central Branch. He notes that 'we all owe a very clear political debt (to Garret FitzGerald) in the way he has awakened political action right through the city of Dublin' (261, 262). Copy of a newspaper article by John Burke, on the 'Irish need for an honest broker' in cross-border cooperation (270); notice of the postponement of the Sandymount branch annual general meeting because of the death of General Mulcahy (281); income and expenditure account for Dublin South-East constituency for 1971 (344); Fine Gael constituency balance sheet for Dublin South-East, 31 December 1971 (345); list of constituency executive resolutions for the annual convention, 1972 (297-304); discussion documents on aspects of the financial, constitutional and political aspects of the Northern Ireland problem and its implications for the rest of the island of Ireland (305-361).  
345 items

- 188** 1972 **Dublin South-West:**  
notice of the inaugural meeting of the constituency youth group (17); letter from Charles McManus, Walkinstown branch, to Sanfey, forwarding a resolution that the branch welcomes move toward 'pre-election agreement between Fine Gael and the Labour Party' (26); circular from Declan Costello to local residents appealing for support in the EEC referendum (56).  
105 items



- 191**      1972      **South County Dublin:**  
 circular letter from the constituency executive to branch officers, encouraging branch members to participate in the Cork bye-election campaign (88); itinerary for an 'Indian student visit' to Dublin (99, 100); circular letter from Deputy Mark Clinton, calling on the Minister for Local Government to amend the regulations on the purchase of local authority housing and to supplement the grants available (118); circular from the constituency executive to all branch chairmen, calling for reorganisation for the next general election, and specifying procedures to be put into practice (125); blank form to the constituency branches to form a plan of action, with outlines of present organisational structure (153, 154); income and expenditure account for events, and for general purposes, which includes the Honorary Treasurer's report, 1971-72, and the balance sheet for 23 March, 1972 for the South County Dublin constituency executive (185-188); notice of a special meeting to members of the constituency on Northern Ireland (196); letter from the general manager of 'Medeering Ltd.', concerning the opening of their factory in Tallaght (239-242).  
 273 items

### III. 1973

- 192**      1973      **Central Branch:**  
 list of proposals submitted by Martin Reynolds, Central Branch, in areas such as education, housing and legal issues, to be discussed at a Central Branch meeting (5, 6); notice of a seminar on the organisation of the Citizens' Advice Bureau (14); draft and final copy of a report on *Landlord and Tenant Law* by B. Gallaher, describing the contractual relationship of landlord and tenant from the Landlord Tenant Act of 1860, the Rent Restrictions Acts 1960 and 1971, and their major protections in rent, repairs, recovery of property, rateable amount, and use of tenements. The report also reviews the Landlord and Tenant (Reversionary leases) Act 1958, the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Act 1967, and the conditions involved in the Rent Restrictions Acts 1960-67 under the areas of dwelling, rent and recovery of possession (17-25).  
 25 items
- 193**      1973      **Dublin Central:**  
 letter from Ann Stack, secretary of Dublin Central constituency executive, to Sanfey, noting the formation of two new branches in Portobello and the Dorset Street area (2); letter from Michael Keating, chairman of the Dublin Central constituency executive, to Sanfey on the

- 193 contd.** financial situation of the constituency, giving the cost of the general election campaign and any outstanding debts (7); correspondence between Ann Stack and Sanfey regarding permission to form and ratify the Rialto branch by the Dublin Central constituency (23-26); notice of the fifty-first annual Ard Fheis, noting the method of submitting motions, how to make proposals, rules for voting and for the election of officers (38, 39); correspondence between Michael Keating and Sanfey, regarding proposals on constituency organisation, development and related matters, including the creation of 'structures which will allow all members genuinely interested in making a political contribution to become involved in some aspect of this very wide and comprehensive political spectrum'. Lists vacancies for various committees, and sub-committees and outlines methods to obtain party funds (15-20). 61 items

- 194** 1973 **Dublin North Central:**  
letter from Oonagh Egan, secretary of the Sean Nestor branch, Clontarf, to Sanfey, forwarding the motion that 'this branch requests the party to seek a mandate by way of referendum in the proposed changes in legislation on contraception' (2); correspondence between Sanfey and Luke Belton T.D., regarding the entitlement of a local physically handicapped resident and his family to visits by a social services officer (5-7) and disruptions to local elderly residents by 'constant drilling in the neighbourhood of the Fr. Scully Flats' (18-23); letter from Andrew Wall to Sanfey complaining about the recent budget which has 'lost your party the support of my household' because of the burden of income tax and VAT (35, 36); letter from Bernadette Slattery to Sanfey, thanking the party for transporting the elderly to the polling booths for the election, and congratulating Liam Cosgrave on his win (45); letter from Fintan Mulally, constituency executive, to Sanfey, forwarding the resolution that members 'strongly deplore the manner in which the chairman previously closed the meeting of 13 March ... and demand an Executive General Meeting' (56-59) 100 items

- 195** 1973 **Dublin North-East:**  
correspondence between Laura Tallon, secretary of the Dublin North-East constituency executive, and Sanfey, regarding a meeting between representatives of the Dublin South-East, North Central and North County constituencies, and the Minister for Local Government, to discuss the forthcoming Constituency Revision Bill (5-11); letter from Laura Tallon to Sanfey, supporting the government and Minister for Justice in relation to 'the defence of the security of the State, the reform of prison institutions and the putting down of subversive organisations' (13); letters from Paddy Belton T.D., to Sanfey noting disagreement between the

- 195 contd.** Howth and Ballymun branches during the annual general meeting of 9 April 1973. The Howth branch walked out of the meeting, and the Ballymun branch were excluded from voting, according to Belton's report (40-45); letter from James Kelly to Sanfey, saying that he cannot act as a candidate for the Seanad elections, because of injuries sustained to his arm during his general election campaign (65). 81 items

- 196** 1973 **Dublin North-West:**  
correspondence, mainly between Frank Moran, secretary of the Michael Collins branch, and Sanfey, regarding membership, reform and final ratification of the branch, to determine which constituency it belongs to (6-22); circular letter from the constituency executive to members, calling on their assistance in the campaign to elect Tom O'Higgins as President (78); correspondence between Neil McLaughlin and Sanfey, regarding Peter Sutherland's admission to the Arthur Griffith branch (81-86); correspondence relating to internal friction in the Dublin North-West constituency and its organisation, including a letter from D. Ryan to Neil McLaughlin, congratulating him on the news that there is to be an investigation of affairs in the constituency. Ryan refers to 'the present deputy who constantly dictates to all and sundry' in the executive; and notes that meetings, 'terrible to witness', would often end in 'chaos' (120, 121); in a letter from Helen Burke to Tom Fitzgerald, chairman of the National Executive, she recounts 'dissension' among the executive, following the election of Dr. Byrne, formerly a member of the Labour Party. Burke would not consent to ask Deputy Garret Fitzgerald to write speeches for Dr. Byrne, and he subsequently campaigned to have Mary Prendergast elected as secretary in 1971. She includes references to 'the curious history of the O'Devaney Flats branch' which was supposedly formed by Dr Byrne and Patrick Wynne, through funds paid out of the executive, and 'other branches founded by Dr Byrne appeared to warrant investigation'. Deterioration in control has even resulted in 'violence' to 'break up the meetings', over the past few months (122, 123); Patrick Wynne, former chairman of the Dublin North-West constituency executive, includes a report on events surrounding his chairmanship. He describes the formation of paper branches, for voting purposes only, and the failure of Dr Byrne to carry out his duty in attending clinics in the Phibsboro area (124, 125); members of the constituency enclose a signed covering letter to Sanfey, listing the problems in the constituency since the last general election, culminating in an attempt 'to stop Peter Sutherland from joining a branch within the constituency which unanimously accepted him as a member'. A request is made for an investigation by the National Executive (119). 151 items

- 197**      1973      **Dublin South Central:**  
 newspaper article, 'New role for women's activist political group', *Sunday Press*, 7 October 1973, on the Women's Political Association, chaired by Mary Robinson and Gemma Hussey (45); letter from Sanfey to Barney Conlon, Gerard Sweetman Branch, acknowledging his regards following Sanfey's appointment to the Seanad (83); itinerary for Tom O'Higgins campaign for the presidential election, listing various events which the candidate will attend in the constituency, including a visit to UCD Belfield, and a meeting with the president of the ITGWU (100); circular letter from John Kelly T.D., Director of Elections, to branch chairmen, noting locations for the continuation of canvassing in the constituency. It also refers to the existence of a circular with false information about the Tom O'Higgins programme and canvas, which has been circulating under his name (109); list of branches in Dublin South Central and Dublin South-East, entitled to attend and vote for co-option to Dublin Corporation (119); circular letter from the Gerard Sweetman branch, Rathmines, to members. Luke O'Toole, chairman, notes the restoration of the Dublin City Council and legislation which will be passed to enable government to regulate takeovers, monopolies and price fixing (128); circular letter from the Gerard Sweetman branch to members noting the success of returning two local fine Gael representatives, Richie Ryan, Minister for Finance, and John Kelly, Minister for Defence, to the Dáil (145); polling list for the constituency itemising branches, the number of electors in each, the number of polling booths, paid-up members, meetings held, social functions per year. Also includes total funds of the constituency, and the total income in the church gate collection (196); letter from Gemma Hussey to Sanfey regarding her application for membership of the party, and complaining that the lack of response had been poor (19).      202 items
- 198**      1973      **Dublin South-East:**  
 notice of a Trinity branch meeting on Northern Ireland including representatives from Unionist and SDLP parties (17); draft notice announcing a meeting of the Youth Council, 'particularly important now that young people have the vote' (21); notice of a meeting of the School Students' branch to discuss the formulation of policy on education (41); circular letter and questionnaire to Dublin architects from Martin Reynolds, on behalf of Fergus O'Brien, asking for their opinion on housing shortages in Dublin and how new building should be conducted by the Corporation (91, 92); report entitled *Discussion on a New Ireland* prepared by members of the Trinity branch. The document reflects on the replacement of the old Stormont system by a new assembly, and possibilities for a more 'healthy and pluralist society'. It calls for an acknowledgment of the Unionist tradition and the Protestant minority in the Republic and recognises the need to create an entirely new constitution and institutions in the Republic. It

- 198 contd.** suggests the removal of compulsory Irish, the official position of the Catholic Church, legislative reform in the areas of contraception, abortion and divorce, and a review of the national flag and anthem. Suggests cross-border cooperation, the appointment of representatives to the Dail and Seanad, the creation of a Council of Ireland and ideological reform through education, social and economic structures (124-136); constitution of the Trinity branch (153-160); Avila Kilmurray, secretary of the Nutley branch, to members, thanking them for their support in the recent concentrated election campaign, returning two T.D.s in the three-seat constituency (187); circular letter from the Trinity branch to voters asking them to check the electoral register to guarantee their right to vote (232); notice of the Irish School Student's Union first national conference, noting that the ISSU will disband, and reform as the Union of Students in Ireland (251); circular letter to members, noting the procedures and rules for voting and organisation for the 51<sup>st</sup> Ard Fheis (259, 260); Dublin South-East constituency statement of accounts (263); report on education in Ireland, covering its historical development, through to the modern period, including the developing religious influences on school teaching. The report examines legislative support and reform affecting the development of the Board of Education at local and national level, the improvements in vocational training, and its objectives. It compares the Irish educational system to those in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Norway and Japan, and makes proposals for change and renewal by better administrative and social organisation (307-328).

328 items

- 199** 1973 **Dublin South-West:**  
letter from Hugo McCabe to Sanfey conveying his resignation as vice-chairman and honorary secretary of the P.S. Doyle, Drimnagh/North Crumlin branch, because of ill health (6); blank circular to members asking what tasks they would be willing to perform in the 1973 general election (34); list of forthcoming annual general meetings of the Wexford, Dublin South-West, and North-East Cork constituencies (39).

48 items

- 200** 1973 **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown:**  
letter from Fred Faulkner, secretary of the Blackrock branch, to Sanfey, forwarding a resolution to congratulate Liam Cosgrave 'on the outstanding part he and his government have played in bringing about the Sunningdale Negotiations and on the historic outcome of those negotiations which will result in the establishment of a Council of Ireland' (1-3); letter from James Smyth, chairman of Dublin North Central constituency executive, noting that he decided to adjourn a meeting of the executive before the election of officers because

**200 contd.** of irregularities in the delegations from the City Quay and North Strand branches (22); notice to members that a presentation will be made to Liam Cosgrave to mark his election as Taoiseach, and asking for contributions (67); letter from Charles Smythe to Sanfey, forwarding the motion of the GORTA Public Representatives Group 'that each public representative, representing a particular organisation, do all in his power to interest the various sections of his organisation at constituency level throughout the twenty-six counties in doing something for GORTA Week' (97). 142 items

**201** 1973 **North County Dublin:**  
lists noting changes in corporations in Dublin, Cork, and Drogheda, and county councils in Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Louth, Monaghan, Waterford, and Wicklow (1, 2); circular letter from Brian Fleming, member of the constituency executive, to branch secretaries, noting conditions laid down by the Gardai in licencing the national collection, including use of speakers, obstruction of traffic, and use of authorised collectors (20); letter from Bernard Cosgrave to Sanfey stating that although the Baldoyle branch belongs to the North County Dublin constituency for Dáil elections, it belongs in Dublin North-East for Dublin corporation elections, and asks for rectification (46-49); itinerary for Tom O'Higgins' tour of the North County Dublin constituency, including a cavalcade tour of housing estates in the area (50). 135 items

**202** 1973 **South County Dublin:**  
income and expenditure account for the South County Dublin constituency, March 1972–October 1973 (21, 22); circular letter from D. Hand, joint treasurer of the South County Dublin constituency, asking for contributions to the constituency to cover debts incurred during campaigns for the two referenda, the general election and the presidential election, which should be paid off before the reorganisation of the South County Dublin constituency under the Constituencies Bill (51-53); letter from Michael Penston to Sanfey relating to a circular sent to him during the last general election, in which Dublin County Council purports to encourage the local electorate to support the Fianna Fáil candidates, and in particular Councillor Jim Murphy (51-53); notice from the Tallaght & Bohernabreena branch advertising a public meeting on the new social welfare benefits provided under the 1973 budget (59, 60); notice for a special commemorative dinner in tribute to Tom O'Higgins' twenty-five years of continuous service to Dáil Eireann (140). 181 items



- 205 contd.** 'Ministers have shown that they are incapable through lack of experience and education, and the absence of moral courage to carry through legislation'. Richie Ryan, Minister for Finance, is 'reluctant to face his responsibilities with regards to income tax', Michael Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce, 'could be described as a Jester' and 'the oil situation was mishandled' (41). 61 items

- 206** 1974 **Dublin North-East/Dublin Clontarf:**  
correspondence between Laura Tallon, secretary of the Dublin North-East constituency executive, and Sanfey, regarding the ratification of the Kilbarrack St. Barrach branch (31-45); circular letter from P. Molumby, secretary of the Beaumont-Santry branch, complaining of poor attendance at branch meetings (13); notice from J. Heatley, honorary secretary of the district executive, announcing a convention to select candidates for the Dublin Corporation election in the proposed Dublin Artane constituency area (29); notice of the inaugural meeting of the district executive for the proposed Dublin Artane constituency area (48); notice of a meeting of the Beaumont/Santry branch with the purpose of forming district executives in each of the proposed new constituency areas, that is Dublin Clontarf and Dublin Artane (55); letter from Eileen Nangle to Sanfey expressing her disappointment over the failure of the Kevin O'Higgins branch members to arrange a firing squad for her husband's funeral (65); letter from James Nolan, secretary of the district executive for the proposed Dublin Clontarf constituency, to Sanfey, listing officers elected to represent the body, and branches present at the meeting (47). 65 items

- 207** 1974 **Dublin North-West:**  
financial statement for Dublin North-West constituency, 1972 to 30 April 1974 (1-3); circular letter from Sanfey to members of the National Executive noting a meeting of the Executive in Leinster House. The agenda will include a revision of the constituencies and results of the 1974 local elections (12-14); invitation cards and programme for the 1974 Ard Fheis, with an enclosed covering notice listing the itinerary of the event, and the conditions for admission as a delegate (19-24); circular letter from the constituency executive to the local electorate appealing for subscriptions to replace 'very depleted' funds, following the previous year's presidential and general elections (26); receipts and payments account for the constituency executive (39-41); letter from Sanfey to Hugh Byrne T.D., saying that there will be a meeting to deal with the heating situation in Ballymun Flats, to be attended by representatives from the political parties (58); copy of the *Navan Road Community Council Newsletter* (59); correspondence,

- 207 contd.** mainly between Sanfey and Mary Prendergast, secretary of the Dublin North-West constituency, regarding the organisation of a meeting of the constituency executive to address the financial problems of the constituency (61-70); correspondence between Hugh Byrne T.D. and Sanfey concerning a resolution passed by the constituency executive requesting a special meeting about finances. Byrne wishes to know who wrote such a letter and who had the authority to do so, to which Sanfey replies that 'no unusual procedures were adopted regarding correspondence' (78-81); correspondence, mainly between Patrick McDonnell, Ballymun branch, and Sanfey, concerning the percentage of constituency omissions on the electoral register, noting a 4% omission overall (95-100); list of industrial and private businesses by name and address, in the Dublin North-West constituency area (106-108). 108 items

- 208** 1974 **Dublin South Central/Mid County Dublin:**  
letter from John Kelly T.D., Parliamentary Secretary to the Taoiseach, to Sanfey, listing Fine Gael branches now in the new Mid-County Dublin constituency and to what constituency they previously belonged (3, 4); circular letter from Pat O'Connor, Terenure branch, to members, noting a fund to be set up in honour of Billy Fox to build a memorial park to 'provide recreational activities for the people of his native Monaghan' (10); letter from Donald Seligman to Sanfey resigning as a member of the party because of the party's policy on the Middle East conflict, which perceives 'oil to be a more precious commodity than the blood of innocent people' (15, 16); notice to members of the Gerard Sweetman branch, stating that Richie Ryan T.D., Minister for Finance, has invited them to Leinster House 'to see our parliament at work' (48); letter from Richard Doyle, Gerard Sweetman branch, to Sanfey, forwarding a motion that the branch 'views with deep concern the shooting of Senator Billy Fox' (73); letter from Richie Ryan to Sanfey referring to a letter sent to him by Gus Donovan, chairman of the Dublin South Central constituency executive, enquiring about changes made under the new corporation boundaries, whereby the Terenure and Harold's Cross branch boundaries are divided but both wish to send a full team of delegates to the forthcoming constituency convention (78, 79). 114 items

- 209** 1974 **Dublin South-East:**  
draft circular letter from Marie O'Connor, secretary of the St. Stephen's Green branch, noting that the branch has been affiliated with Dublin South Central (6); notice for the final meeting of the old Dublin South-East constituency executive (7); notice for a meeting of the UCD branch, with a lecture on 'True Liberalism' and its compatibility

**209 contd.** 'with the maintenance of democracy' (32); circular letter to members of the Trinity branch noting that they are forming a social welfare policy committee and intend to produce a report concentrating on social welfare and the elderly, as well as an educational survey of the city centre (34); circular letter to students from the Trinity branch asking for contributions for their branch newsletter, *Vulcan* (36); notice of the postponement of a UCD branch meeting because of the death of President Erskine Childers (44); letter from Donal McMahon, Managing Director of Morgan McMahon & Co. Ltd., to Sanfey, criticising a statement made by Councillor Peter Kelly, Donnybrook branch, who said that there was 'no real crisis in the construction industry' (88); notice of a meeting of the School Students Branch on 'The position of the Coalition in Irish politics' (89); circular letter to members of the Donnybrook branch announcing the last meeting before the local elections, and appealing for 'manpower (and womanpower)' for the election campaign (156); Second edition of the report *A Document for Discussion on a New Ireland*, prepared by members of the Trinity branch, reflecting on the 'long term constitutional future of Ireland' (165-179) [See P39/C/D/198 (124-136) for the first edition]; correspondence between Sanfey and Eoin O Malley, Donnybrook branch, regarding a talk on the Roger Casement diaries, with enclosed photocopied articles from the *Irish Independent*, 27 November 1968, and *Evening Herald*, 11 April 1974 (180-183); circular letter from the Sandymount branch to local residents to say that the branch is conducting a special study on the future of Dublin Bay as an industrial and amenity development. The report will aim to 'encourage action in the best public interest', considering economic, social and environmental factors (184); circular letter to members of the constituency party to note the forthcoming local elections, and listing the functions of members and local branches in organising and supporting the campaign (187); covering letter from Fergus O'Brien T.D., to constituents, with an enclosed list of social welfare increases as a result of the Budget (209-212); circular from the Trinity branch asking for public comment on a report on the environment, prepared by the branch, which they are forwarding to the government, press and public representatives (223); notice of a meeting of the UCD branch to discuss the Sunningdale Agreement (281); notice for a meeting of the Trinity branch on 'Justice in the Courts?' (297); notice of a meeting of the Arthur Griffith branch, Ballsbridge on 'Ireland, the Challenge of the Future' (299); circular letter to students from the Trinity and UCD branches, encouraging membership, and listing branch activities and special interests (401, 403); draft and final report of *A New Beginning. The Education Policy of the Fine Gael School Students Branch*. The policy intends to provide an educational system which 'will train better citizens as well as better workers' (430-469). 469 items

- 210** 1974 **Dublin South-West:**  
 Notice of a meeting of the Dublin South-West constituency executive, which includes the motion 'that the Drimnagh and Walkinstown branches be amalgamated' (217); list of businesses in the Dublin South-West constituency, with a covering circular letter requesting financial contributions to help alleviate financial problems arising from recent election campaigns within the constituency (33-44).  
 46 items
- 211** 1974 **Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown:**  
 Correspondence between R. Lynham, Killiney/Ballybrack branch, and Sanfey, regarding the voting rights and amalgamation of the Killiney/Ballybrack and Shankill branches (1-4); memo to Sanfey noting a complaint made by a local constituent about unfair estimates in electricity bills in the Dún Laoghaire district (29, 30); notice of branch conventions for the selection of candidates for the Dublin Central Borough Area of Dublin County Council for the local elections of 1974 (72); correspondence regarding the admittance of Robert and Monica Barnes to the Sandycove/Glasthule branch. Sanfey notes that he is being 'pestered by Mr Barnes for action' (122-133).  
 157 items
- 212** 1974 **North County Dublin:**  
 Circular letter from Brian Fleming, secretary of the North County Dublin constituency executive, to branch secretaries, asking delegates to be prepared to discuss the proposal of 'wealth taxes' at the next meeting, by getting feedback at grass roots level (45); list of new constituencies now part of West County Dublin, containing part of the Clane, Lucan and Tallaght electoral areas, and also part of Crumlin (47); notice of a meeting to discuss the new constituency of West Dublin under the provisions of the Constituencies Bill, and to organise a new constituency executive (49); circular letter from the W.T. Cosgrave branch to canvassers on tactics for local elections, listing the motions under which Brian Fleming will be canvassing, and urging a check on the newly available postal vote (53-57); copy of the Palmerstown magazine. *Points of View*, May 1974. Articles focus on the mortgage problem and 'alleged malpractices of the Building Societies', the budget, and matters of local interest (58-61); letter from John Corry, secretary of the Malahide branch, to Mark Clinton T.D. forwarding the motion to approve 'moderate proposals for reform contained in the Government Bill', concerning a relaxation of the control on importing contraceptives (73, 74); letter from Sanfey to P.J. Ryan noting that the constituency executive has approved of the formation of a Portmarnock branch (89).  
 125 items

213

1974

**South County Dublin:**

notice of a meeting of the Mount Merrion and Roebuck branch to discuss changes in the branch because of constituency revision, effective from the 1 January 1975 (14); minutes of meetings of the Emmet branch, Rathfarnham (51-56); letter from Tom Farmer, Dundrum district executive, to Sanfey, forwarding the motion that the Executive 'strongly regrets the decision of the National Executive of Fine Gael not to hold an Ard Fheis this year' (59-61); circular letter from Alan Benson, Arthur Griffith branch, Mount Merrion to announce a continuous raffle to be held during the year, all the profits of which will be used for an election campaign 'to alleviate a situation whereby an Executive is put in a position of trying to administer an efficient campaign and raise funds at the same time' (62); circular letter from Tom Hand, chairman of the South County Dublin constituency executive, to branch chairmen, noting a meeting to be held in mid-October to discuss a debt of £500 owed to the Executive, with each branch making a contribution to alleviate this debt (67); circular letter from George McHugh, director of elections, Ballinteer branch, to members in the district electoral area of Dundrum, thanking them for their assistance in the local government election campaign (85); circular letter from Fine Gael candidates, on behalf of James Tully, Minister for Local Government, regarding a 'misleading' circular issued by the ACRA in connection with mortgage interest rates on private dwellings, which suggests that a subsidy of £1 million, given to building societies, was used largely for their own profit. 'Contrary to the ACRA circular, the National Coalition Government has fulfilled its promise to remove the cost of health charges and local authority housing from the rates' (91, 92); notice to residents, inviting new members to the newly-formed branch in the Springfield and Fortunestown area (137); circular to branch chairman from the Dundrum Electoral Area executive for a meeting to discuss boundaries, and arrange a convention to select candidates for local elections (139).

208 items

## V. 1975

- 214**            1975                            **Central Branch:**  
notice of a central branch meeting on the development of inner city Dublin (17).                            18 items
- 215**            1975                            **Dublin Artane:**  
list of advice centres in the Dublin Artane constituency (1); questionnaire from Paddy Belton T.D. to constituents, asking for their opinion on public services, such as lighting, traffic, and refuse collections, in the area (5); letter from James Heatly, secretary of the constituency executive, to Sanfey stating that the executive are in the process of fund-raising to pay back the levy of £150 owing to the party. 'Funds are not very big', he notes, owing to their being a new constituency (9); circular notice to branch officers and delegates in the constituency to note a meeting to set up a new constituency executive, and to discuss the organisation of future meetings and the making of financial arrangements (21).  
35 items
- 216**            1975                            **Dublin Ballyfermot:**  
letter from Sanfey to Brid Mooney, secretary of the Inchicore branch, referring to the establishment of the Trade Union Group by the National Executive, with Deputy Fergus O'Brien as chairman (1); letter from Paddy O'Reilly, chairman of the Michael Collins branch, Ballyfermot, to Sanfey, noting the forced cancellation of a branch meeting because of the resignation of the secretary and area organiser (19); letter from Charles MacManus to Sanfey listing the elected officers of the Dublin Ballyfermot constituency (22); letter from Marie Byrne, secretary of the Billy Fox branch, Crumlin, to Sanfey, noting the inaugural meeting of their branch, which is comprised mainly of residents of the Captain Joe Mack branch, Crumlin, now in the constituency of Ballyfermot (41, 42); copy of the report on *Educational needs in the Dublin area with particular reference to the needs of the Dublin Ballyfermot constituency*. The report notes that the 'average secondary school course is too academic', and while the vocational school offers a broader curriculum, it 'has a lower status in the community'. The report also recognises the 'urgent need for an adult education programme' throughout Dublin, remedial facilities at primary and secondary level, and reform of the curriculum which would 'prepare people for work and life in the community' (46-50).                            50 items

- 217** 1975 **Dublin Cabra:**  
 circular letter from Eamonn Murphy, secretary of the constituency executive, to branch secretaries, noting outstanding debts owed by branches (74); letter from Sanfey to Eamonn Murphy, informing him of the £150 levy owed by the constituency - £50 for each Dáil seat (89); letter from Eamonn Murphy to Charles O'Reilly, chairman of the constituency executive, forwarding the motion that comments made by Vincent Browne in a recent series of newspaper articles are 'untruthful statements ... and that the Executive's confidence and loyalty to the Taoiseach will not in any way be damaged by these statements' (66-67); notice of a meeting to set up a constituency executive for the new Dublin Cabra constituency (116); Treasurer's report for the Glasnevin branch (133-135); letter from Judy Rood, secretary of the Annamoe branch, to Sanfey, referring to the decision by Neil McLaughlin, chairman of the constituency, to discontinue the branch because of poor attendance (132). 152 items
- 218** 1974 **Dublin Clontarf:**  
 Circular letter from George Bermingham, secretary of the Raheny branch, to local residents noting that due to a 'dramatic increase in membership of the Raheny branch', a new Foxfield branch is to be established, chaired by Don O'Leary (23); letter from Marie Cassidy, secretary of the Dublin Clontarf constituency executive, to Sanfey, stating that £70 worth of prize bonds have been cashed in, to pay off part of the levy of £150 (34); correspondence between George Bermingham and Sanfey, relating to the motion forwarded by the branch that it 'deplores and condemns the attitude of the Clontarf constituency executive towards our highly respected chairman [Capt. James Kelly]' (60-64); correspondence between James Nolan, secretary of the Dublin North-East constituency executive, and Sanfey, regarding the affiliation of the Howth Branch to the Dublin North-East or the Dublin Clontarf constituencies (73-76). 176 items
- 219** 1975 **Dublin Finglas:**  
 letter from Rita Boyle, secretary to the Glasnevin branch, to Sanfey, forwarding the branch's concern over the 'paltry sum' of £26,000, which is inadequate to support the school libraries system (4); circular letter from Luke Belton T.D., to constituents, noting the revision of the constituency boundaries in the Ballymun area, thus making him their Fine Gael representative (5); extract from minutes of a National Executive meeting concerning the establishment of a new constituency executive in the Dublin Finglas area, and listing the branches which should be part of the new constituency (23); correspondence, mainly between George Cartwright, chairman of the Drumcondra branch, and Sanfey, reporting on the sub

- 219 contd.** committee meeting of the National Executive of 12 June 1975 to discuss the new Dublin Finglas constituency. Cartwright claims that the Ballymun branch is part of the North County Dublin catchment area and should remain within that constituency (26); letter from Sanfey to the Superintendent of Dáil Eireann, listing those members allowed to be admitted to Leinster House for a meeting to organise the new Dublin Finglas constituency (51, 52); correspondence mainly between George Cartwright, chairman of the Drumcondra branch, and Sanfey, concerning a slight against the name of Michael Kelly at a meeting of the Drumcondra branch (54-61); letter from George Cartwright to Sanfey noting those branches interested in being part of the Dublin Finglas or Dublin North Central constituencies (72); list of 'arrangements made in regard to the new Dublin constituencies at meetings held under the Chairmanship of James Smyth and Des Humphreys, giving the new constituencies and the location of the branches – before and after constituency revision (108-111); report of the Dublin Finglas constituency meeting held 24 October 1974, giving the branches under the new Dublin constituency, and more detailed settlements for the Drumcondra, Ballymun Estate, Collins/Griffith and Finglas West branches, and their approval by the Executive. The list also includes former officers of the Griffith/Collins branch, who 'no longer communicate' with the constituency executive (112, 113). 113 items

- 220** 1975 **Rathmines West:**  
Circular notice to members, of a meeting of the Gerard Sweetman branch to familiarise members with the new constituency set-up and to meet some of the new officers (75); notice of a meeting to set up a new constituency executive on 1 January 1975 for Dublin Rathmines West, listing the branches to be involved in the meeting (93). 93 items

- 221** 1975 **Dublin North Central:**  
Report of a North City meeting to consider the constituency boundaries, and the establishment of a new Richmond branch (12, 13); list of members of a sub-committee set up to deal with difficulties in Dublin North Central and Dublin Finglas constituencies (14); letter from Oonagh Egan, secretary of the Hollybrook branch, to Sanfey, forwarding the motion that 'the practice of block voting be discontinued at future Ard Fheiseanna and only ballot voting be accepted' (18); list of branches who have the right to send delegates to the convention to set up a new constituency executive in Dublin North Central (25); notice of a meeting to set up a new constituency executive for Dublin North Central (33); letter from Sanfey to John Ryan, chairman of the Richmond branch, acknowledging its ratification (39); list of

- 221 contd.** decisions taken at a committee meeting in Leinster House, to resolve the difficulties in Dublin North Central, dealing with the branches which would participate in the formation of the new constituency executive (50); letter from Maurice Dockrell T.D., to Sanfey, noting that the Mater, Paddy Hogan and Dorset branches are all valid and legal, and wish to be part of the new Dublin North Central electoral area (53); letter from Michael Keating, chairman of the Dublin North Central constituency executive, to Sanfey outlining the jurisdiction of the three branches who wish to remain in the constituency and supporting their integrity as valid branches (55); letter from John Ryan P.C., chairman of the Drumcondra branch, to Sanfey, informing him of a group of members within the Drumcondra branch, who object to being located in the new Dublin Finglas constituency, and have initiated the formation of a new branch in the area to fall under the Dublin North Central constituency. He refers to similar troubles affecting the Clontarf branch, due to changes in constituency boundaries (80, 81); lists of the areas and members of the Dorset, Mater and Paddy Hogan branches (82-85). 101 items

- 222** 1975 **Dublin South Central:**  
 copy of the Trinity branch newsletter *The Vulcan*, edited by Phillip Jones, with an editorial covering the death of Eamon de Valera, and describing his 1937 Constitution as having little 'relevance to the Ireland of 1975'. Articles include a progress report on the activities of the branch, an analysis of the Young Liberal Conference in Scarborough, and vandalism in Dublin – 'part of the highly competitive society in which we exist'. The 'Newsdesk' section deals with contemporary national, local and international affairs, such as the establishment of a second RTE channel, interdenominational schooling, the Kissinger agreement between Israel and Egypt, and developments in the Irish language (18-34); report from the Trinity branch on *Mental Health: The Case for Reform* (59-62); letter from Rory O'Ferrall, secretary of the St. Stephen's Green branch, to Sanfey, congratulating him on the efficient operation of the Ard Fheis and forwarding motions from the branch for better organisation of the event in the coming year (64); letter from Philip Kelly, secretary of the Trinity branch, to Sanfey, confirming that the branch will be part of the Dublin South Central constituency and not the former Dublin South-East constituency, under the constituency revision (113); Dublin South Central executive constitution and rules (142-145); notice of a meeting of the Trinity branch to discuss the proposed Dublin Bay oil refinery (169). 146 items

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1974-76

**Dublin South-East:**

circular letter from the Donnybrook branch to members, noting that the National Coalition Government will soon be three years elected and 'already there are talks of a general election'. Members should be on the alert for the coming year (38); circular letter from Sanfey to branch secretaries informing them of the 'vital bye-election' being fought in Mayo, and requesting that members willing to transport Mayo voters from Dublin to cast their vote to contact headquarters (56); correspondence, mainly between Una Dunne, secretary of the Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association, and Sanfey, regarding a public meeting at which they request a Fine Gael representative. The meeting shall 'draw to the attention of the public the two major threats of our environment e.g. the oil refinery and the Sandymount and Merrion motorway' (80-84); circular letter from the Billy Fox branch to secretaries of the branches in the Dublin South-East constituency listing motions proposed by Kevin Cross for 'the government to implement a series of family law reforms immediately' to overcome injustices in society, particularly in matrimonial affairs (132); copy of the UCD newsletter *The Gazette*, edited by Gerry Torsney, with an editorial encouraging students to become active in politics. Articles include a critique on the 'ambivalence' and 'fuzzy thinking' of Fianna Fáil, the unbalanced emphasis on academia in Irish education, the 'low profile' of Northern Ireland policy, failures in the economic and social planning of the National Coalition government, and the establishment of a new Portuguese democratic government (146-173); copy of guidelines endorsed by the Dublin South-East constituency executive for the establishment of an Executive Social Committee (215); circular letter from the Ranelagh branch, noting its establishment after the recent revision of the constituency boundaries (257); flyers from the Billy Fox branch to constituents announcing that from the next general election, they will be leaving the old Dublin South County Dáil constituency and moving to the new Dublin South-East constituency (228); notice of a meeting by the Dublin South-East constituency on 'The Status of Women' (259); correspondence between Liam Cosgrave, Taoiseach, and Basil d'Arcy, chairman of the UCD branch, concerning the complete lack of support from headquarters for the branch, both monetary and in the provision of speakers. This has resulted in a loss of interest by students in joining the branch, and allows 'organisations such as Provisional Sinn Fein ... to acquire a dominant position within the university' (292-298); list of the branches, elected officers and delegates in the new Dublin South-East constituency following the revision of constituency boundaries (316, 317); notice of the first annual general meeting of the Dublin South-East constituency under the new constituency boundaries (365); copy of the constitution of the UCD branch (376); Dublin South-East constituency constitution and rules (378-385). 385 items

- 224** 1975 **Dún Laoghaire:**  
 extract from the draft register of electors 1976-77 in the Rathfarnham No. 2- Ballyroan Polling District, for the Mid County Dublin constituency, which include the names of Liam and William T. Cosgrave (13-15); letter from Brother Leo Clancy, Provincial, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, inviting Liam Cosgrave to open a new school for mentally handicapped children at St. Mary's, Drumcar, Co. Louth (18-19); correspondence mainly between Kathleen Underwood, secretary of the Dún Laoghaire constituency executive, and Cosgrave, concerning an alleged lack of publicity and regard for the Conference of Women at the Ard Fheis (28-40); circular notice from the Stillorgan branch noting that the National Executive has set up a Trade Union Group within the Party and proposed that a conference would be held in the near future. Branches have been invited to forward names of trade unionists who would be interested in the conference (48); notice for a Women's Conference in Athlone, October, 1975 (67); letter from Sanfey to Patrick Rock referring to the formation of the CUS [Catholic University School] branch [subsequently the School Students branch], saying that 'it started some years ago mainly because of the fact that the sons of some prominent members of the party were pupils there, and aided by their fathers, they got a flourishing branch going' (72); letter from Bernadette Bonar, secretary of the Foxrock branch, to Sanfey, forwarding a motion that members of local authorities should be adequately compensated for their work (141); correspondence between Anne Elliot and Liam Cosgrave concerning the Galway bye-elections. Elliot implies that organisation for the election was not up to standard, noting that she had canvassed one area four times, and others had been missed entirely (141-147).  
 200 items
- 225** 1975 **North County Dublin:**  
 notice from the Clonsilla branch to members of a meeting to discuss the report of the West County Dublin constituency executive working group on youth participation in Fine Gael (2); notice to branch officers of a meeting of the new constituency executive of North County Dublin, to elect a new officer board, listing participating branches (13); list of affiliated branches in North County Dublin (29); list of 'arrangements made in regard to the new Dublin constituencies' at meetings held under the Chairmanship of James Smyth and Des Humphreys, giving the old and new constituencies to which each branch belongs (30-33).  
 33 items

- 226** 1975 **Mid County Dublin:**  
 letter from Marie Rooney, secretary of the Mid-County constituency executive, to Sanfey, noting the formation of the Firhouse branch (37); letter from Barry Breslin, secretary of the Templeogue West branch, to Sanfey informing him of a change in branch name to the Wellington branch (61); photocopied newspaper articles on 'Ghadaffi defends Libyan aid to IRA' and 'Guess who's off to Libya', describing an all-party delegation sent to Libya in April to help in the establishment in Dublin of a Libyan bank financed by Colonel Ghadaffi (82); letter from Sanfey to Kevin McEvoy, noting the inclusion of four branches in County Wicklow, Manorkilbride, Ballyknockan, Baltyboys, and Valleymount, in the new Mid-County constituency (84); notice of a meeting to form a new constituency executive for the Mid-County constituency, listing interested branches (86); letter from Sanfey to Aideen Carden, secretary of the Churchtown branch, noting the new geographical era embraced by the constituency, and the inclusion of four Wicklow branches (87). 99 items
- 227** 1975 **South County Dublin:**  
 letter from Richard Humphreys to Sanfey giving information for the preparation of a green paper on a national pensions scheme. Humphreys lists the principles which he believes should be incorporated into the scheme, including the right to have an inflation-proof pension related to earnings from years prior to retirement, guaranteed by government. He suggests that the national pension scheme be funded from savings, with the national pension Fund acting as a 'valuable source of much needed investment for private industry' (7-14); copy of the Cabinteely/ Rochestown branch newsletter, November 1975, including articles of local interest such as the Cabinteely Community School, maternity services for the Loughlinstown Hospital, and the construction of a shopping and community centre in Ballybrack (43); notice for the inaugural meeting of the Little Bray branch (50); letter from Sanfey to Joe Whelan stating that he is not allowed to use a reference or photograph of the Taoiseach in making a financial appeal on behalf of the executive (51); minutes from the inaugural meeting of the Dublin South Central constituency executive, listing officers elected (83); correspondence between Tom Fitzpatrick, Minister for Lands, and Sanfey, with queries from Richard Burke, Minister for Education, regarding the eligibility of councillors to vote at meetings and conventions outside their own constituency (67-69); copy of the Cabinteely/Rochestown branch newsletter, April 1975, covering areas of local interest such as the new Ballybrack library and vocational school, improvements in public amenities and the rights of the electorate to assistance (85-91); report from Dick Humphreys to Sanfey, discussing methods of organisation and planning for branches towards the expansion of branch membership and the Fine Gael vote, increasing the contribution

towards party headquarters, coordination with locally elected representatives, and participation in branch events. These objectives should be implemented at constituency level with the agreement of the executive (118-125); correspondence between David Conway, secretary of the Ben O'Quigley branch, and Sanfey, regarding the decision taken to allow nominations from the floor at forthcoming conventions, saying that it 'creates confusion and detracts from instructions given by branches to delegates' (137, 138); copy of the report, *Programme for Reform of Dole and Unemployment Assistance Schemes*, outlining problems associated with the present schemes: tension and dissatisfaction in society, a spirit of dependency, abuse of the system, and a lack of incentive to enter employment. The report suggests a scheme where work, not only of a community type, but of a varied nature, be carried out, allowing the unemployed person to prepare for employment and improve their 'psychological wellbeing'. Unemployment relief should be paid directly to the temporary employer, who pays this out as wages. This system will 'immediately produce a much needed improvement in attitudes' and 'produce additional jobs in the longer term' (179-184). 184 items

228

1975

**West County Dublin:**

letter from Mary Fleming, secretary of the W.T. Cosgrave branch, Palmerstown, to Sanfey describing the derelict state of Michael Collins' birthplace, and suggesting its restoration (6); copy of the Palmerstown branch magazine, *Points of View*, August 1975, giving a review of current local problems and improvements, listing local Fine Gael representatives in the area, and congratulating Mark Clinton T.D., for his appointment as Peace Commissioner (21-30); minutes of the West County Dublin constituency executive organisational meeting, noting the elected officer board and the thirteen branches of the new constituency executive (56, 57); notice of a meeting to establish a new constituency executive for West County Dublin, listing interested branches (76); copy of the Palmerstown branch magazine *Points of View*, January 1975, with an editorial commenting on the 'serious economic upheaval everywhere', and the need to 'moderate our demands for pay increases', and support the 'Buy Irish' campaign. Articles focus on the success of Brian Fleming in the local elections, the progress of Mark Clinton T.D., in the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, and proposals for improvements in education in the locality (98-108). 116 items

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## **GALWAY CONSTITUENCIES**

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In 1923 Galway constituted a single constituency returning nine members. In 1935 it was divided into East (4) and West Galway (3), part of the constituency being included in the Clare constituency.

In 1947 it was divided into three constituencies, South, North and West Galway, each returning three members. Redistribution in 1961 saw North and South amalgamated into East Galway with five members.

In 1969 areas of East Galway were added to the Clare/South Galway Constituency (*q.v.*), while the remainder formed North-East Galway, both with three members.

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## GALWAY CONSTITUENCIES

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- ❑ Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- ❑ Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- ❑ Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- ❑ Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- ❑ Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- ❑ Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- ❑ Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- ❑ Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- ❑ The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. SOUTH GALWAY, 1954-60

- |          |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Bye-election results (31-34); draft election poster (47); correspondence concerning a claim for damages against the party lodged by a Ballinasloe resident (71-78); analysis of the distribution of first preference votes by polling station in the 1953 bye-election in the constituency. 85 items   |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Copy memorandum concerning the constituency, supplied to Oliver J. Flanagan, Parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, on the occasion of his attending a convention in Loughrea (26, 27); request from the Gort district executive for the services of an organiser (39); copy report from Oliver J. Flanagan to Richard Mulcahy, Minister for Education, on the convention at Loughrea (42, 43). 81 items |

- 3** 1956 Letter from a member of the Gort district executive requesting a copy of the 'Parish Plan' and information on how it is implemented (19, 20). Letter written on behalf of the Gort district executive requesting some assistance to 'work up some activity' in the area (28-30). Letter from the secretary of the Clonfert branch requesting assistance (34). Copy report forwarded to John O'Donovan on the South Galway Constituency, stating that it is 'a strong Fianna Fáil area - our strength lies mainly in the eastern portion of the Constituency'. This includes the local returns for the previous general election (49, 50).  
55 items
- 4** 1957 Report on the South Galway convention held at Loughrea on 17 November including a statement of constituency expenses at the recent general election (2, 3). Report written by Gerald Sweetman on the North and South Galway constituency meeting held at Ballinasloe on 10 September. A schedule of meetings for the re-organisation of the South Galway districts is included. These are to be attended by Deputy Miss (Brigid) Hogan. A meeting is to be organised for the party workers and supporters at Tuam 'at which we would set off in earnest about a re-organisation drive in North Galway'. Attendance list is also enclosed (7-9). Report from the Vice-chairman of the Loughrea district executive regarding a convention held at Loughrea on 10 February. Miss Brigid Hogan and Mr Joseph Lambert were the selected candidates. The writer remarks that it will be difficult to retain the seat and he would feel far more confident 'with one Candidate as I think that a considerable number of Lambert's first preferences will go to Fianna Fáil and with one Candidate our first preferences would be strong enough to have the third Fianna Fáil eliminated' (30). Letter from the secretary of the Kinvara branch largely about petrol coupons (33-36). Letter from the secretary of the Kilnadeema branch regarding affiliation. The members were reluctant to accept office for the coming year. 'Several members expressed the opinion that membership of Fine Gael was a handicap in the past when application was made to the Special Employment Schemes Office for grants'. The branch delegates to the Ard Fheis have been instructed 'to support the resolution from the Thurles district executive, that all works under Special Employment Schemes, should be carried out by the County Council in the area involved, and that materials required for such works be produced on the site, and the labour recruited from the local Labour Exchange, and rotated if necessary, in view of the serious unemployment position' (40, 41). List of the South Galway constituency executive and branches. This includes a list of polling booths and the names and addresses of the branch Secretaries responsible for them (45-69).  
69 items



- 8 contd.** of the North Galway general election vote of 18 May 1954. Breakdown by candidate and booth (21-24). 40 items
- 9** 1955 Correspondence regarding the Mountbellew convention of 27 February. Mr P. McGilligan S.C. T.D., Attorney General, nominated by the standing committee to preside (6-11). 16 items
- 10** 1956 8 items
- 11** 1957 Report on the Tuam convention held on 1 December. The financial situation is bad. They owe about £120 due to the election (1, 2). Report on the North Galway constituency by M.C. Lynch, organiser, in the aftermath of the general election campaign. He reports a lack of confidence and many Fine Gael supporters did not exercise the franchise at all. He interviewed the Clann na Talmhan councillors and found them well disposed towards Fine Gael. Outlines possible future candidates. He concludes with a summary of the general election results (5-9). 39 items
- 12** 1958 Letter from a Galway county councillor confirming the location of the Ballinamore Bridge-Muckloon branch (2). Correspondence arising out of a complaint lodged by an inhabitant of the Ballinasloe area with General Richard Mulcahy T.D., regarding an unspecified complaint, possibly relating to dismissal from employment by the Land Commission. (5-10) 10 items
- 13** 1959 Report submitted by Michael Lynch, party organiser, on the North Galway convention held at Tuam on 29 November. This includes details of the constituency finances, policy regarding the forthcoming local elections and a list of the elected officers (1-5). Details of branches re-organised by Michael Lynch (16-22). Copy letter to General Richard Mulcahy T.D., forwarding two resolutions passed at a meeting of the Headford branch. These concern the depressed state of the sheep trade and Oireachtas salaries respectively (23). Report from Michael Lynch concerning the

- 13 contd.** Bunmore and Headford areas (27). Report from Michael Lynch on the North Galway convention held at Tuam on 25 January. It deals with the election of officers, church gate meetings and collections. No organisational activity since the last general election (40). 44 items
- 14** 1960 Biographical sketches of Senator Gerard L'Estrange and Mr James J. Burke T.D. (15). Copy letter to Senator L'Estrange giving outline details of the North Galway constituency, including the names and addresses of the executive. (24-26) 36 items

### III. EAST GALWAY AND NORTH-EAST GALWAY 1961-74

#### A. EAST GALWAY, 1961-68

- 15** 1961 Letter from the secretary of the Tuam branch on behalf of Seán Purcell who is canvassing hard for the general election. He requires a scheme of the organisation in the new East Galway constituency (6). Copy letter to Sean Canning, advising him that one of the candidates selected at the recent convention has withdrawn due to illness and urges the selection of a new candidate. 'The object of Fine Gael is to put up sufficient candidates in each constituency to give the people an opportunity to elect a Fine Gael Government at the General Election' (9). Copy letter to Senator John O'Donovan giving details of the Tuam area which he proposes visiting. 'The Tuam area and what was formerly North Galway is now incorporated in the new constituency of East Galway, which comprises roughly North and South Galway and has five seats' (11). Letter from Michael Lynch in which he comments adversely on a possible candidate in the general election, who is not a good party man and is rather on the selfish side. (128) Copy letter to the secretary of the North Galway constituency executive on the holding of a constituency convention. 'The new Electoral Act may have a serious effect on the situation in Galway and until the Bill is circulated it may be difficult to call a convention' (129). 134 items

- 16** 1962 Letter from the secretary of the Killeenvara branch. He reports that he lives in a Fianna Fáil stronghold where it is impossible to keep a branch going. The fine youths who were with me, have emigrated and the few middle-aged men that are left are too timid and shy and refuse to man the polling booths. Therefore he is unable to pay the affiliation fee (19). Correspondence regarding a possible youth branch in Galway City (25-31). 34 items
- 17** 1963 Enquiry from the secretary of the Ballinasloe branch concerning the co-option of a member at a recently held meeting of the Ballinasloe Urban District Council. The member in question elected to go forward on behalf of the Ratepayers Association (5). In another letter the same correspondent writes 'the checking of the Voters Lists was attended to and eleven names were added to the list in Ballinasloe Urban [District]. 'As the Fine Gael branch here has kept a close watch on the register for a number of years past ... the people responsible for compiling the register are careful to be as accurate as possible' (15). 18 items
- 18** 1964 Copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Executive of Clann na Talmhan, in the East Galway constituency which was held at Tuam on 16 October. The party 'pledges its wholehearted support to Mr John Donnellan, when he is selected as the Fine Gael Candidate, and proposes in such an event to integrate its Organisation with that of Fine Gael in order to secure Mr Donnellan's return'. On the same date the executive of the Fine Gael East Galway constituency, unanimously selected Mr John Donnellan as their candidate. (4, 5) 34 items
- 19** 1965 Copy letter to J.P. Glynn, constituency secretary regarding delegates to the National Council (4). Circular concerning the Ard Fheis (19). Copy letter to a constituent giving details of the Ballinasloe electoral area (24, 25). Copy letter to a party member in the Tuam area regarding the constituency executive and constituency conventions (29). Copy letter to the secretary of the newly established Fine Gael Youth Group in Ballinasloe (37). Results of the general election – East Galway – 7 April 1965. Breakdown by polling station and by candidate (43-52). Letter to the secretary of the Kinvara district executive advising him of a resolution of the standing committee concerning the selection of candidates for the

- 19 contd.** local elections; each electoral area to put forward one more than half the total vacancies (92). Letter from the chairman of the Kinvara district executive forwarding officer returns. This includes an analysis of John Donnellan's recent victory in the general election. He concludes that Fine Gael have a sporting change of getting an additional seat in the forthcoming local elections (102). Letter of congratulations written by a party supporter, on the occasion of John Donnellan's victory in a recent bye-election; 'a vindication of all that F.G. stands for, auguring well for the future and a signal triumph for the now unequalled party electioneering machine' (137, 138). 143 items
- 20** 1966 Letter from the secretary of the Woodford district executive, concerning the election of a bogus district executive. 'All the lads were mad over it as nobody ever saw any of these 4 people at a F.G. meeting since 1932 with the exception of the years of the Inter Party Government & you will remember the letters they sent to the *Connacht Tribune* stating they were never in any way associated with or members of Fine Gael ... these letters were written during the time we were fighting for our lives with the Blue Shirts' (23, 24). Copy of a letter from the secretary of the Ballinasloe branch regarding the Collins Memorial Committee. The branch has decided to contribute financially to this project and has also established a local sub-committee (45). Correspondence arising out of a complaint lodged against the secretary of the Kinvara district executive (61-83). 129 items
- 21** 1967 21 items
- 22** 1968 Circular to all branches from Mr Liam Cosgrave, President of Fine Gael, on the referendum result. He expresses thanks for the great work done. Other topics include the forthcoming Ard Fheis at which a new scheme of re-organisation and a new party name will be discussed (2, 3). 60 items



- 26** 1972 Letter from the secretary of the North East Galway County Executive, requesting the attendance of John Bruton T.D. party spokesman on agriculture at their next meeting (6).  
40 items
- 27** 1973 Invitation extended to the general secretary to attend a meeting of the Athleague district executive on 25 May for the purpose of making full arrangements for the presidential election. (26)  
59 items
- 28** 1974 Letter from the assistant secretary of the Tuam branch, requesting a job in the Tuam Beet Factory. It is his belief that the local manager of the Labour Exchange and all but three of the beet factory staff are Fianna Fáil supporters. It is his view that there is a conspiracy to overthrow the government. (48, 49)  
88 items
- 29** 1975 List of monthly clinics held by Deputy John Donellan (6). Letter of complaint from a party member resident in the Ballinasloe area, regarding a reduction, without notice, of his unemployment assistance (15, 16). Letter from John Bruton T.D., parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Education; he is unable to attend the Athenry branch social where he was expected to be guest speaker (18). Copy letter of thanks to a tallyman resident in Athenry. 'Your totally accurate prediction of the outcome was as you know passed by me to the Taoiseach' A sample of the result sheet and of the tallyman's card was requested in order that they might be circulated (24). Correspondence regarding the visit of An Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave to Mountbellew for the official opening of the new agricultural college there (29-34). Amended list of all branch secretaries and officers in the 'new constituency' (47-73). Copy statement from *The Herald* office, requesting payment of an account relating to the printing of election brochures (79). Correspondence regarding a convention, to be held on 12 May, to form the new constituency executive for East Galway (83-94). Copy letter to John Donnellan T.D. enclosing a list of the branches in North-East Galway; he is requested to return the list 'showing the branches which are appropriate to the new East Galway Constituency' (99, 100). Annotated list of those branches which are in other constituencies but which had voting rights at the North-East Galway convention (152-168). Letter from the secretary of the Moycullen branch, outlining

- 29 contd.** the deplorable conditions at the local Tullykyne National School (176-179). Letter from the chairman of the constituency executive, promising support for the chosen candidate in the forthcoming election. He believes that 'we will shock the County with a win for Fine Gael, as the party in this Constituency is in the best ever state of organization' (184, 185). Copy letter requesting payment by the North-East Galway Constituency of £150 due for 1974 (192). Copy letter from Tim Fitzpatrick T.D., Minister for Lands, to the chairman of the constituency executive, expressing the opinion that 'recognised and active branches should be allowed to vote because otherwise it will not be possible to get the best out of the campaign' (214). Letter of complaint from an active member of Fine Gael. 'It is impossible to get any requests attended to. Mrs Brigid Hogan-O'Higgins was a very successful deputy until the coalition took over but now it takes six months to get a reply, and then the answer is always no' (276, 277). 288 items

#### IV. WEST GALWAY 1954-75

- 30** 1954 Letter of resignation from the party from an inhabitant of the Aran Islands. He is disgusted at the way in which the election workers were recently treated. Not one penny was sent to them. 'For shame's sake, my son had to pay four jarveys' (8). Copy letter to Fintan Coogan T.D., giving notification of an impending visit by Oliver Flanagan to Galway to inspect the fishing installations there (9). Copy letter to a prospective young member. 'This time we are going into the struggle conscious of our strength, proud of our record and safe in our policy. Every bit of help we can secure is necessary so that we may achieve a victory not so much for our Party but for the harassed taxpayers and community so long inflicted with the injustices, misdirection and downright corruption which is Fianna Fáil.' (17) 33 items
- 31** 1955 Correspondence concerning the provision of school transport in the Rosscahill area (4-9). Copy letter from the chairman of the lapsed Kingstown Club. He reports that 'all our club is in England and the Treasurer in America, only me [the] chairman remains' (14). Letter from the secretary of the Galway City branch, reporting that they are in dispute with the West Galway executive. The general feeling in the branch is that they should have nothing further to do with the

- 31 contd.** Connemara area (21). Copy of the Scheme of Organisation (24). 28 items
- 32** 1956 Correspondence regarding the Galway City branches. Some confusion exists as to their number and which have paid affiliation fees (2-12). 18 items
- 33** 1957 Letter from the chairman of the Kingstown branch requesting that a letter be sent to a staunch supporter in Clifden where 'he lives among a lot of Lukewarms'. He adds that 'a little flattery will do him good'. He is disappointed at the result of the Dáil and Senate elections and especially regrets the failure of John Mannion who lost both seats. The writer goes on to give his own analysis of the situation (4, 5). 21 items
- 34** 1958 Copy letter to the constituency Director of Elections in which the recent Western Conference is commented upon. 'Overall rather disappointing, but perhaps the delegates were a bit overawed and allowances must be made for the fact that it was the first occasion on which such a Conference was held in the West' (6). Annotated list of delegates who attended the Conference, supplied by Michael Lynch, including delegates' names and addresses and remarks as to their ability (10, 11). Copy of a memorandum on West Galway sent to General Richard Mulcahy. No national collection was taken up because (a) Galway City is being levied by the Bishop for funds to build a new cathedral, and (b) bad feeling exists between Galway City and the rest of the constituency on account of the distribution of the election collection. It is alleged that the Connemara and Clifden areas contributed nothing to the election funds and that Galway City was expected to pay all the debts (34). 37 items
- 35** 1959 4 items
- 36** 1960 3 items

- 37** 1961 Copy memorandum outlining possible election candidates in the constituency (1). Copy letter listing prominent supporters in Galway City (2). Letter from Michael Lynch, party organiser, suggesting that it would be better to wait until after race-week before departing for West Galway, in order to locate a possible candidate (4). Copy letter from Gerard Sweetman to Michael Lynch, outlining possible candidates in West Galway (5). 20 items
- 38** 1962 Copy letter to the secretary of the Michael Collins branch, regarding a collection taken up in Galway and Salthill on 10 June and which only amounted to £29.12s.7d., which was unworthy of Galway. The West Galway Constituency is indebted to headquarters for the sum of £235 in respect of the annual levies (1). Copy letter to the Mayor of Galway, regarding an outstanding account due to the *Connaught Tribune* (15). Letter from Michael Lynch reporting on progress. After ten days of hard slogging in Galway City he has collected £43.5s.6d. He reports that 'I met with some refusals in the city, not so much because they disagreed with the Party but [due to] the fear of becoming involved'. The constituency owes £131 to the *Connaught Tribune* which is due since the general election. He then reports that there is 'a wave of despondency' with regard to their future. They believe, they will not be able to compete in the European Economic Community. Many of them, especially those, who have built their businesses with their own capital, are taking a poor view with regards to the facilities, now offered to German industrialists. Many feel it is a 'colossal gamble' which may have serious consequence at a later date (18, 19). 19 items
- 39** 1963 Draft of a Fine Gael finance circular, largely attacking the imposition of the 'iniquitous turnover tax' against the wishes of the people and requesting subscriptions to extend and revitalize its organisation (3). Copy letter to the secretary of the Michael Collins branch regarding the constituency collection. West Galway is the only constituency which has consistently defaulted over the years. (16, 17) This branch is of the view that fundraising is secondary to the establishment of new branches (20-22) Circular issued by the Michael Collins branch concerning a meeting of Fine Gael members in West Galway, to be held on 14 December under the auspices of the club, as no other effective machinery remains in the city, will discuss the re-organisation of the party in the city and the west (24). 32 items



- 46 contd.** the grounds of misconduct of those persons whom he thought not fit to hold office as Ministers of State' (18). Letter from the secretary of Galway Youth Council stating that, at a recent seminar held in Galway, the standard of debating in Leinster House was much criticised. 'Too many personal arguments were being discussed on taxpayer's time and we feel a more earnest approach by all T.D.s would be in order.' (28) 46 items
- 47** 1971 Correspondence relating to a dispute over the establishment of a Central branch in Galway City (26-34, 41-59). Circular regarding the sale of seals to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of the signing of the treaty and the deaths of Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins (37). Copy of a letter addressed to the National Executive of Fine Gael, written by a University College Galway staff member. The campaign to promote the importation, advertisement and sale of contraceptives constitutes a threat to the Irish Christian way of life (66). 87 items
- 48** 1973 Circular concerning the referendum on Ireland's entry into the E.E.C., which will take place on 10 May (23). Letter from Richie Ryan T.D., on behalf of a U.C.G. student who is having difficulty, in obtaining speakers to address branch meetings (33). Letter from the constituency executive requesting that the following resolution be added to the agenda at the forthcoming Ard Fheis: 'That this Ard Fheis advocates the extension of Rural Electrification as a potential tourist asset in Western Areas' (42). 53 items
- 49** 1973 Copy letter to the constituency executive acknowledging that they have nominated Senator Mannion as a candidate on the agricultural panel (31). 41 items
- 50** 1974 Letter of protest lodged by the constituency executive. Contrary to a recent undertaking, they were not informed that Tom O'Donnell T.D., the Minister for the Gaeltacht, was to visit the constituency in order to officially open a water-scheme in Knock. On that occasion he was completely surrounded by Fianna Fáil personnel (3). Copy letter to the secretary of the West Galway constituency executive, regarding the 1975 levy, which will be £250. 'This is based on the usual

- 50 contd.** arrangement viz. £50 for each of the Dáil Seats in your Constituency plus £50 extra for the Fine Gael Senator who resides in the Constituency'. No map is yet available which sets out the boundaries of the new constituencies which are intended to come into effect from 1 January 1975 (24). Correspondence relating to a complaint lodged by a Fine Gael supporter; on election day there was no one canvassing on behalf of Mr Tom O'Higgins at her local polling booth (29-35). Correspondence concerning alleged irregularities at the Galway convention which was held on 7 April (36-43).  
107 items

- 51** 1975 Letter from Councillor Toddie Byrne regarding the selection of candidates in the Ennistymon area for the local government elections of 1974 (2). Copy letter to same regarding the Constituency levy. Balance of £360 outstanding (11). Letter from the secretary of the Renmore branch who is of the view that there are too many 'paper branches' in the constituency and insufficient active ones (22-24). Figures for the recent West Galway bye-election (30). Report from the constituency executive secretary. Topics include: enlargement of the constituency, growth of the organisation, affiliated branches, and the local government elections (136, 137). Letter from the president of the Michael Collins branch, to which is attached the draft of a letter addressed to the editor of the *Irish Times* on the subject of 'Jack Lynch and the Blueshirts'. The writer refutes a recent statement by Jack Lynch, then the leader of the opposition in the Oireachtas that the Blueshirts 'defied in arms the verdict of the majority of the people'. He asks if it would be wise to proceed with this letter (201, 202). Letter from the secretary of the University College Galway branch of Fine Gael forwarding motions for the forthcoming Ard Fheis. The three motions are on the subject of student loans, community schools and salaries for trainee teachers (254, 255).  
260 items



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## **KERRY CONSTITUENCIES**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>SOUTH KERRY, 1954-75</b>	<b>159</b>
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<b>II.</b>	<b>NORTH KERRY, 1954-75</b>	<b>163</b>
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County Kerry has been divided into two constituencies since 1935. This arrangement has been remarkably stable, the only changes effected during the period covered by these records being boundary alterations in 1961, 1969 and 1974, with areas of the county being moved from one constituency to the other; and part of the Beara peninsula in County Cork added to Kerry South.

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## KERRY CONSTITUENCIES

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. SOUTH KERRY, 1954-75

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Material concerning the presidential election campaign in the constituency including the visit of General Seán MacEoin, Fine Gael candidate, and arrangements for polling day (26-34); notice of a meeting in Sneem on the rural electrification scheme and the development of the Fair Greens (2, 3). 34 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Request for the assistance of a party organiser in Kenmare in preparation for the local elections (28, 29); resolution from Killorglin concerning the handling by headquarters of requests and complaints from branches (2-4). 33 items   |

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|-----------|------|--|----------|
| <b>3</b>  | 1956 |  | 4 items  |
| <b>4</b>  | 1957 |  | 20 items |
| <b>5</b>  | 1958 | Material relating to the electrification of Templehoe (3-6)  | 8 items  |
| <b>6</b>  | 1959 | Outline of a five year plan for county roads in Killorglin electoral area (15); circular letter giving details of a meeting in Killarney in March to be attended by General Sean MacEoin, during the presidential election and referendum campaign (12), and notice containing dates of General MacEoin's tour of South Kerry in June (5). | 6 items  |
| <b>7</b>  | 1960 |  | 28 items |
| <b>8</b>  | 1961 | Arrangements for the South Kerry constituency convention by Patrick O'Donnell T.D. (4-9); letter from James Dillon to Patrick Dineen informing him of a member's offer to go forward as a candidate in South Kerry in the general election (3).  | 34 items |
| <b>9</b>  | 1962 | Reorganisation of Killorglin branch (22, 23); list of officers of branches in the portion of North Kerry transferred to South Kerry in July 1961 (20).   | 24 items |
| <b>10</b> | 1963 | Circular letter on the South Kerry convention in Killarney to be attended by Liam Cosgrave T.D. (12)   | 3 items  |
| <b>11</b> | 1964 | Arrangements for canvassing for Pat Connor and Michael Begley, candidates in the forthcoming by-election (5-6).  | 8 items  |





## II. NORTH KERRY, 1954-75

- 23**            1954                            Reports of events in the constituency on general election day [in which Jack Lynch lost his seat] (11-16); report by Oliver J. Flanagan T.D., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, on the recent annual general meeting of the North Kerry district executive, and on the general state of the organisation in the constituency (1).  
33 items
- 24**            1955                            Brief resumé on the state of the organisation in the constituency, by Col Dineen (20); resignation of the chairman of the Tralee branch in protest at arrangements for collections (4-7).  
42 items
- 25**            1956                            Letter of thanks from the chairman of the Dingle branch for the work of Michael Lynch, party organiser, in the area in support of Dan Spring [Labour T.D.] during a recent bye-election (15); letter from Dineen to Senator Jack Lynch, expressing concern about the weakness of the organisation in North Kerry (13, 14), and other material conveying the weakness of the branches (2, 4-11).  
36 items
- 26**            1957                            Personal opinion of Dineen on the organisation in North Kerry, and electoral possibilities (31, 32); material relating to reorganisation of constituency branches by Frank Linehan, party organiser (8-10); resignation of the secretary of the Ballybunion branch, raising the issue of a need for reorganisation (6, 7); letter from the secretary of the Ballymacelligott branch expressing disappointment at the party not appointing a senator from the constituency (3).  
47 items
- 27**            1959                            Establishment of an organising committee and attempts at the reorganisation of the branches (13-18).  
18 items





- 41**            1972                            Material relating to the 1972 Ard Fheis (8-14; 21-28)    36 items
- 42**            1973                            Letters extending congratulations to James W. Sanfey on his appointment to the Senate (14-16; 23, 24)    96 items
- 43**            1974                            Copy of a letter from Castleisland, urging action to oppose the establishment of an Ógra Fianna Fáil branch in the town and copy replies (47-50); queries by M. Louis O'Connell on the party *Constitution and Rules* (36-40); proposal for the establishment of a youth branch in Listowel (31, 32); Ard Fheis package of documents (20-26); report on the result of local elections in the Listowel Rural and Urban District Councils (4, 5).                            6 items
- 44**            1975                            Report by M. Louis O'Connell on the position in North Kerry, plus other material by O'Connell on the state of the organisation in Listowel and Tralee. including a newspaper cutting from 26 March 1975 on the personality clash between Fianna Fáil Senator Kit Ahern and Deputy Tom McEllistrim, (10-17); material relating to the election of O'Connell to the Senate (1-3)                            26 items

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## **KILDARE CONSTITUENCY 1954-75**

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With the exception of the period 1935-47, when Kildare was joined to a large part of County Carlow to form the four-seat constituency of Carlow-Kildare, the county has formed a single constituency. Parts of neighbouring counties Meath and Westmeath were added or removed in various boundary revisions; and in 1974, 5,200 Kildare residents were transferred to Meath to leave Kildare a three-seat constituency.

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**KILDARE, 1954-75**

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

<b>1</b>	1954	46 items
<b>2</b>	1955	54 items
<b>3</b>	1956	Lists of constituency delegates to the Ard Fheis (12-14). 30 items
<b>4</b>	1957	Lists of officers and copy of the constituency scheme of organisation. 34 items

<b>5</b>	1958	Lists of officers on the county executive, and delegates to the Ard Fheis. 36 items
<b>6</b>	1959	Lists of constituency officers, and of townlands and polling districts. 59 items
<b>7</b>	1960	Minutes of executive meetings in Athy and Timahoe. 67 items
<b>8</b>	1961	Lists of officers; correspondence between Col Dineen, general secretary, and Gerard Sweetman T.D., concerning the branches in Athy and Castledermot. 64 items
<b>9</b>	1962	Correspondence between Liam Cosgrave and Gerard Sweetman concerning the interpretation of a letter from the Minister for Local Government referring to the National Building Agency (10-12). 27 items
<b>10</b>	1963	24 items
<b>11</b>	1964	Lists of public meetings in Kildare, Meath and Westmeath; minutes of a National Council meeting sent by Sweetman to Dineen. 16 items
<b>12</b>	1965	Lists of officers and schema of organisation of the constituency (17-59). 63 items
<b>13</b>	1966	24 items

<b>14</b>	1967	Circulars, lists of officers and material relating to the electoral register.	58 items
<b>15</b>	1968	Lists of officers; reports on branch meetings.	84 items
<b>16</b>	1969	Lists of officers; instructions to personating agents.	61 items
<b>17</b>	1970	Correspondence concerning the resignation of members of the Milltown branch over the perceived unfair treatment of a party member (7); informal visit by Liam Cosgrave to Kildare Military Barracks (10, 11); letters of sympathy on the death of Gerard Sweetman (60-65).	80 items
<b>18</b>	1971	Request from the Maynooth branch for copies of documents on all major policy areas.	74 items
<b>19</b>	1972		60 items
<b>20</b>	1973		68 items
<b>21</b>	1974		65 items
<b>22</b>	1975	Requests for Ministers to attend branch functions; letter from Sanfey to Councillor Anthony McCormack enclosing a copy of a government statement concerning the Portlaoise hunger strike.	92 items.



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## **LAOIS-OFFALY CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>LAOIS COUNTY EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>175</b>
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<b>II.</b>	<b>OFFALY COUNTY EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>181</b>
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Laois-Offaly has been a single constituency since 1923, the only two counties in the country to have remained in association as a single constituency since then.

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## LAOIS-OFFALY CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. LAOIS COUNTY EXECUTIVE

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | List of affiliated branches for Laois and Offaly (17-25); outline of the organisational structure of the constituency in 1953 (1-5) and 1954 (6-12); notice of a meeting to consider organisation in the county (72-75).<br><span style="float: right;">104 items</span>  |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Outline of the organisational structure of the constituency with details of new and reorganised branches (1); notice of a convention in Portlaoise at which Gerry L'Estrange will represent the county (23-28); report on local elections from Oliver J. Flanagan with comment on his personal feeling at having to act as director of elections as well as a candidate (60-65).<br><span style="float: right;">65 items</span> |

- 3** 1956 Notices of meetings of Laois and Offaly county executives, to discuss the postponement of the national collection (10-28); outline of organisation in Laois in November 1954 (1-5) and March 1956 (87-108); letter to Nicholas Brennan from Patrick Dineen, general secretary, regarding the legality of raffles and lotteries, with reference to the Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1956 (31-33); notice of Laois county executive's annual dance (53-56); report of a meeting of the county executive regarding debt (82, 83). 108 items
- 4** 1957 Correspondence regarding Coolrain branch and its reorganisation (5); organisation of the Portlaoise, Luggacurran and Edenderry district executive areas (10, 11); list of affiliated branches as at 18 October 1957 (4). 11 items
- 5** 1958 Notices of meetings of Laois and Offaly county executives; letter from Charles McDonald, member of the county council, to Col Dineen concerning the grouping together of smaller branches, like Abbyleix (6-8); outline of organisation of Laois at 10 July 1957 (19-21) and 28 September 1957 (11-16); list of meetings during September in branches for the purposes of the national collection (22-32); notice of the unveiling of the memorial to T.F. O'Higgins (36). 53 items
- 6** 1959 Notice of a Laois county executive meeting dealing with finances; notice of a meeting in Portlaoise to discuss the E.E.C. (1-4; 14-16); notice of Laois-Offaly convention on 10 May 1959 to complete arrangements for the constitutional referendum and presidential election; notice of a meeting in Borris-in-Ossory (5-7); copies of blank notices used for branches (8-13). 28 items
- 7** 1960 Notice of a meeting of Borris-in-Ossory district executive (5-7); list of affiliated branches as at 11 April 1960 (75) and at 26 May 1960 (37); outline of organisation of Laois at 24 January 1958 (55-59); letter of congratulations to the newly elected county councillors; letter to Oliver Flanagan from Col Dineen giving him the nominations from Limerick County Council for the General Council of County Councils; notices of new branches (44-48); notice of an urgent meeting to deal with

- 7 contd.** local elections (66-70); 'Stop Watch' cards for the purpose of meeting expenses of the Ard Fheis (98). 104 items
- 8** 1961 Notice of Laois-Offaly convention on 4 August 1961 (3); list of affiliated branches at 28 July 1961 (13); material concerning the threatened resignation of Kieran Maher over the appointment of a rate collector (21-30). 34 items
- 9** 1962 Correspondence between Dineen and Flanagan concerning the revival of the branch in Rosenallis (1-4; 26-29); outline of the organisational structure of Laois at 24 January 1958 (11-16), and updated list at 13 June 1962 (17-25); letter to Flanagan from Dineen enclosing a list of those invited to the meeting in Portlaoise on 9 February 1962 (40-46); correspondence relating to money owed to the *Leinster Express* (31-36). 50 items
- 10** 1963 Newspaper cuttings reporting T.F. O'Higgins speech on the Fianna Fáil government (1, 2); notice of Luggacurren district executive (4); officers of Portlaoise district at 11 April 1963; outline of the organisational structure of Laois in July 1963 (15-19); circular for a meeting of the Wolfhill branch (5-6). 19 items
- 11** 1964 List of officers elected to Tinnahinch district executive on 10 May 1964; organisation of Laois Executive 1964 (12-15); notice of the reformation of Durrow branch; requests for the return of cards and money in respect of the Silver Circle draw and a letter of thanks from the Finance Committee detailing the names of the winners (1-6). 22 items
- 12** 1965 Notice of Laois-Offaly convention on 5 December 1965 (3-5); list of affiliated branches in Laois at 28 July 1965 (11); list of affiliated and unaffiliated branches at 4 May 1965 (13, 14). 18 items



- 17** 1970 Correspondence on the reorganisation of Raheny branch and Dunamais-Killeen branch (4-6); list of affiliated branches in Laois at 7 October 1970 (22); notice of committee meeting in Abbeylax to select a candidate (25); general correspondence on publicity for the election campaign, under the direction of Frank Aylmer, press officer (36-44); report on Laois county executive meeting on 15 April 1970; letter to Sanfey from Richard Graham, Portlaoise, concerning the calling of an extraordinary meeting due to 'non-attendance of our T.D.s and Senators at branch meetings since the general election' (56-58). 100 items
- 18** 1971 Memo of a phone conversation between Mr O'Riordan and Sanfey, concerning 'considerable unrest in the constituency over the fact that six councillors had voted against the party whip on the occasion of a recent co-option to the county council' (2-4); outline of the organisational position of Laois in 1971 (32-36); notice of the a.g.m. of Ballyroan branch; letter from Sanfey to Flanagan advising him not to attend the students meeting and to contact Richie Ryan who is used to dealing with the students (48, 49); correspondence regarding the levy owed by Laois-Offaly (5, 6); list of affiliated branches for 1971 (11-13) and the branches secretaries and addresses at 10 May 1971 (40); letter to Arthur Broomfield from Sanfey regarding admittance of new members to the party (22-27); list of affiliated branches in Laois-Offaly at 12 March 1971 (29). 49 items
- 19** 1972 List of affiliated branches in Laois and Offaly at 19 December 1972 (2), 13 June 1972 (10, 11) and 28 February 1972; outline of the organisational position of Laois in July 1963 (12-19); agenda for a meeting of the constituency executive on 28 April 1972; list of officers of Laois county executive at 14 March 1972; letter to Donnchadh O'Riordan from Sanfey regarding the state of affiliations for the year, 'reduction of affiliated branches for 1972 is a matter for concern' (1-5); letter to Senator Charles McDonald, enclosing the three E.E.C. articles by Dr Garrett FitzGerald that appeared in the *Irish Times* on the 19, 20 and 21 of April 1972 (6, 7). 35 items

- 20** 1973 Notices of meetings throughout Laois; list of affiliated branches for Laois-Offaly at various points throughout the year (22, 23, 29, 36, 37); letter to Donnchadh O’Riordan from Sanfey thanking him for his help in the legal case between the Portlaoise branch and the papers the *Nationalist* and the *Leinster Times* (17-21); letter to Oliver Flanagan from the Irish Sovereignty Movement asking him to launch their campaign against the signing of an Anglo-Irish Treaty, enclosing a copy of their National Declaration (4-8).  
46 items
- 21** 1974 Notices of meetings throughout Laois; outline of the organisational position in Laois at 22 February 1971 (48-53); list of affiliated branches at 9 July (24) and 2 September 1974 (42); breakdown of the number of candidates who will be contesting the local elections; comparison of the results of the elections in the branches in 1967 and 1974 (27-30); application for a new branch, the Swan, in the Luggacurren District (41); series of letters regarding confusion in the filling of vacancies on the subsidiary bodies of Laois County Council (10-22).  
75 items
- 22** 1975 Report on Castledermot’s annual dinner dance (2, 3); letter to T.G. Dowling, treasurer of Mountmellick branch, concerning the national collection (6, 7); outline of the organisational position of Laois at 16 April 1963 (37-55); report on the national collection on 1 September 1975 and its implications (27, 28); list of affiliated branches for Laois-Offaly in July 1963 and 1974 (97) and 6 March 1975 (78, 79); letter to Oliver Flanagan from Reverend M Noonan, Knockbey College, Carlow, with regard to the lack of educational grants (59, 60); letter from Flanagan to Sanfey concerning complaints made by the back-bench deputies at a meeting on 19 March 1975 (62-66).  
101 items





- 9 contd.** resignation of John Boland as secretary of the Longford branch (23, 24); letter to Dineen from Flanagan informing him of the postponement of their meeting due to the unavailability of the President or front bench members to be present. 25 items
- 10** 1963 Scheme of organisation of Offaly in July 1963 (5-8); notice of convention in Tullamore on 26 July 1963 to discuss the overhaul of the district, and enclosing a list of names to be added to the organisation list for Offaly (15-19); notice on the Silver Circle Non-Stop Draw in aid of Ballycumber (2-4). 20 items
- 11** 1964 Letters to Dineen from Flanagan informing him of a new branch in Ferbane (10, 11) and one in Tullamore (3); letter to Dineen from Flanagan reporting the appointment of Councillor Frank Feery as the second delegate to the national council from Offaly (2); letter to Dineen from Niall Moore, chairman of Clara branch, on the state of the branch and constituency in general, and commenting on the recent local elections in Roscommon (4-6). 13 items
- 12** 1965 Requests for membership cards; list of officers for Crinkle branch (1), Birr branch (4, 5), Tullamore branch (7), Tullamore Youth branch (6), Cloghan branch (8) and Banagher branch (11). 12 items
- 13** 1966 List of officers of Mount Bolus and Ferbane branches (2, 3); report on the annual general meeting of Kilcormack; notice of the annual Offaly county convention in Tullamore on 13 February 1966 (21); letter to Dineen regarding Oliver Flanagan's advice to the farmers not to picket the Dáil; letter to Gerry L'Estrange from Dineen regarding the bad state of organisation in Offaly and the need to 'wake them up' (13). 24 items



- 18** 1971 Requests for membership cards and posters; notice of annual dinner dance on 10 June 1971; list of secretaries of Egish and Crinkle branches; list of officers of Offaly county executive, Edenderry, Ferbane, Clara and Kilcormack branches; letter to Niall Moore from Sanfey regarding the payment of the levy (4-6) and letters from Niall Moore setting out the problems with regard to the levy (8-10); letter from Donald Carroll to Sanfey giving a scathing attack on Senator Fitzgerald's performance on a television programme, 'We the Irish' (2, 3) 40 items
- 19** 1972 Requests for posters and membership cards; list of affiliated branches in 1971 (25), 17 February 1972 and 10 July 1972 (12); invitations to Tullamore district executive meeting, Offaly county executive meeting and Clara branch meeting; scheme of organisation of Offaly at 24 October 1969 (34-40); letter to Sanfey from Flanagan requesting the presence of Liam Cosgrave at the next meeting of the Offaly county executive (9, 10); letter from Flanagan to Sanfey informing him of the election of Thomas O'Flynn, Banagher, as chairman of Offaly county executive and Councillor John Butterfield as vice-chairman; letter of resignation of Donald Carroll due to the party's attitude towards the E.E.C. (22, 23). 44 items
- 20** 1973 List of county councillors in Birr and Tullamore (11-13); list of affiliated branches at 3 December 1973 and 16 April 1974 (23); notice to all members of the national executive of the a.g.m. of Offaly county executive; letter to Patricia Flattery, chairman of Clara branch, from Sanfey, informing her that Senator Denis Farrelly will attend their meeting (5, 6); report from John Bruton T.D. on the problems raised at the Offaly county executive meeting: industrial grants, the general hospital in Tullamore, road grants, the E.E.C., beef prices and Bord na Móna (1-4); letter to Sanfey from Moore regarding the election of Deputy Enright as director of elections for the presidential elections (16-18); letter to Sanfey from Moore praising John Bruton's handling of an executive meeting (7-10). 47 items

- 21** 1974 List of affiliated branches in Laois/Offaly in 1973, 1974, and list of affiliated branches in Offaly in 1974 (20-22); blank notice of the a.g.m. of Offaly county executive; notice for meeting of Birr district executive and draft notice (36-38); notice of meeting in Daingean branch (68, 69); condolence letter on the death of Senator Billy Fox; election of Richard Graham as secretary of Laois county executive (39-41); letter to Niall Moore from Sanfey asking him to nominate James Fox to act as chairman at the county executive meeting; letter to Niall Moore from Sanfey informing him that the Michael Collins Commemoration will be held at Béal na mBláth on 25 August 1974 at 3p.m. 70 items
- 22** 1975 Requests for national collection posters and membership cards; lists of affiliated branches in Offaly at 8 May 1975 (7); scheme of organisation of Offaly at 20 March 1975 (12-30); officers of Offaly county executive; organisation of Banagher, Ferbane, Kilcormack and Rhode branches at 26 January 1975; report of the a.g.m. of the county executive on 18 February 1975, including the questions raised concerning the levy and the general feeling in the county that they are being ignored by party headquarters (43-47); letter to Sanfey from Moore concerning Offaly's levy (3, 4). 56 items

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## **LIMERICK CONSTITUENCIES, 1954-75**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>LIMERICK WEST</b>	<b>189</b>
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<b>II.</b>	<b>LIMERICK EAST</b>	<b>194</b>
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In 1947 Limerick, which had constituted a single constituency since 1923, was divided into Limerick West and Limerick East, the latter including the city area. They returned three and four members respectively. While there have been boundary adjustments in the revisions of 1961 and 1969, this situation has been maintained since then.

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## LIMERICK CONSTITUENCIES, 1954-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. LIMERICK WEST

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Report from Michael Madden, honorary secretary, to Comdt Patrick Dineen, Fine Gael general secretary, on an investigation into the administration of finances in one of the district executives, citing a lack of sufficient control rather than a misappropriation of funds (1-4); material concerning the cancellation of a programme of regional conferences to allow for the drafting of the party manifesto (7, 8).<br>8 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | File not present  |

- 3** 1956 Report from Denis Jones referring to Harry Hogan's appointment as a peace commissioner and a joint meeting of Askeaton and Ballysteen branches (17-23); material concerning a letter of affiliation from John W. Fitzgerald for the Glin branch, including comments on the lack of funds, and letter from John Russell, Kilmallock, informing Dineen that there has not been a branch there for a year (59-64); material concerning the establishment of a branch for Mungret (70-72); letter from William Chawke to Thomas O'Donnell, area organiser, hoping that O'Donnell's efforts will get results and feels that they should adopt new organisational methods (94); note to General Richard Mulcahy from Chawke discussing the disappointing results of his efforts to establish a strong constituency executive in West Limerick, remarking 'West Limerick is a black spot as far as Fine Gael are concerned'. He feels the need to change Deputy Madden's old order within the constituency (95); copy of a letter to Chawke from an unidentified correspondent, claiming that the Kerry bye-election and the Ard Fheis are delaying efforts being made to 'constitute firmly the executive in West Limerick' (96); material relating to Chawke's work and the efforts being made by Anthony Esmonde to canvass the area (97, 98); letter from John P. Shanahan to Col Dineen, party general secretary, relating how the Labour party are eroding the Fine Gael position in West Limerick area and how unhappy he is with Fianna Fail's methods there (102-106); letter from Denis Mangan, branch chairman, informing Dineen of the establishment of the Crecora branch (107, 108); request from Denis Jones for information about the facilities under the Special Employment Scheme and for Dineen to inform supporters about the facilities available under various other schemes (109, 110). 112 items
- 4** Report from Denis Jones about the Broadford branch and the disappointing slowness with which the matter of Broadford school is being dealt (2, 3); report on the constituency executive including consideration of the national scheme of organisation and criticism of the party's loyalty to their supporters during this period of a 'national freeze up' (8-12); letter from Thomas Gayer who is not satisfied with the party and is thinking of leaving (18-20); report on a meeting of the constituency executive referring to some heated discussions and the need for Michael Madden to hand over the administrative books (26, 27); report on a meeting in Rathkeale referring to the disappointment felt that J.J. McNamara failed to get nominated for Seanad Éireann, further discussions about the Ard Fheis and local matters (20-25); report on the situation in Patrickswell where there is 'grave disappointment' over the employment position at the cement factory in Mungret, including discussions about land

- 4 contd** division and the attendance of a Minister at their meetings (30-32); report from Ballyhahill discussing mainly local matters which are being dealt with by Denis Naughton, county councillor (33); material concerning the setting up of further meetings in the constituency, enclosing a newspaper cutting from the local press about Desmond O'Malley T.D. (34-36); report on the constituency executive's meeting in Rathkeale discussing the agenda for the National Council meeting (37-39). 39 items
- 5** 1957 Letter from P. Cronin, Bruree branch secretary, remarking on the results of the general election (16-18). 5 items
- 6** 1958 Memorandum on organisation within the constituency (15); address given by Patrick Dineen at the September convention discussing the national collection and the challenge for the future (16, 17). 39 items
- 7** 1959 Newspaper cutting concerning the election of officers for the Abbeyfeale branch (7); letter from James Carroll, Patrickswell honorary secretary, to Denis Jones T.D. discussing organisation for the forthcoming elections (10). 12 items
- 8** 1960 Letter from Denis Jones T.D. requesting the advice of Patrick Dineen on the legality of electing only twelve members of the county council instead of fifteen (12, 13); letter from Dineen to Jones informing him about plans for a regional conference (39); letter of affiliation from Shanagolden with remarks about the 'new dynamic leader' [James Dillon] who will 'bring about a revolution in Irish politics' (42-44). 44 items
- 9** 1961 38 items
- 10** 1962 13 items

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| <b>11</b> | 1963 |  | 11 items |
| <b>12</b> | 1964 | Circular concerning the omission of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith from the publication <i>Facts About Ireland</i> (2).   | 8 items  |
| <b>13</b> | 1965 | Circular concerning the need to check the draft register very carefully.   | 57 items |
| <b>14</b> | 1966 | Circular from T. Breathnach, constituency secretary, to the members of the county council, relating to a list of the water supply and sewerage schemes in the area (6); copy of a report by Sean Kearney, honorary chairman and public relations officer, about the annual general meeting in Abbeyfeale, remarking on the spirit of enthusiasm there and the marked strength of the branch, that the young voters are supporting Tom O'Higgins T.D. yet many are restless and are thinking of emigration. He stresses the need to protect Irish industry and to believe in the British market which Fianna Fáil has abandoned (7-11). | 24 items |
| <b>15</b> | 1967 | List of members of the county council, their party affiliation and number of seats gained in an electoral area (29, 30).   | 48 items |
| <b>16</b> | 1968 | Material concerning arrangements made with the Garda Síochána about the national collection (28).  | 56 items |
| <b>17</b> | 1969 | Motion from the Fine Gael Rural Youth Club stating that the party should step up agitation for a university in Limerick (8); material concerning the proposed change in name of the party to the Social Democratic Party (25).   | 28 items |

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| <b>18</b> | 1970 |   | 26 items |
| <b>19</b> | 1971 | List of party meetings attended by Councillor Brendan Danaher throughout the year.  | 95 items |
| <b>20</b> | 1971 | Report from Patrick McGreal on a constituency executive meeting referring to the idea of having a national insurance policy for members that would cover car insurance (4-6); copy of extracts of minutes of a meeting of the national executive referring to a question by Councillor Danaher about the redrawing of the West Limerick boundaries as they could gain an extra seat (14, 15); memorandum for Seamus Sanfey asking him to inform Liam Cosgrave, president of Fine Gael, about a suggestion by John Farr M.P., joint secretary of the Anglo-Irish Parliamentary Group, for a meeting with the Irish Parliamentary Group in Manchester (20, 21). | 23 items |
| <b>21</b> | 1973 |   | 32 items |
| <b>22</b> | 1974 | Material concerning a request from Patrick Rea to Seamus Sanfey to intercede on behalf of Commandant Joseph O'Higgins in relation to O'Higgins' promotion (18-21).  | 37 items |
| <b>23</b> | 1975 | Material relating to item 27 in the agenda for a meeting of Limerick county council and the objection to its introduction by James O'Donnell. The proposer, Senator O'Brien, is not an elected member of the Dáil or Limerick Council (8-10)  | 33 items |



- 29** 1959 Material sent by Patrick Dineen to Gerard Sweetman T.D. about the state of organisation in East Limerick (17); letter of congratulations to Patrick Reidy, town councillor, on his appointment to Limerick City Corporation (24).  
27 items
- 30** 1960 Letter to John Carew with suggestion for the examination of the draft register of electors and ways to regain voting strength (7); copy of a memorandum on a meeting of Fine Gael officials in East Limerick (8, 9); resolution from the Murroe branch disapproving of the proposals to increase T.D.'s salaries (19-21).  
24 items
- 31** 1961 Material concerning a report by [Edward Sweetman] on a meeting of the constituency executive which was very unsuccessful as Liam Cummins resigned as constituency secretary (6-11); letter to Michael Lynch in relation to the bad condition of the party in Limerick City due to local jealousies and John Carew's illness (25); material concerning the organisation of the county by Denis Ryan in place of Carew due to illness; remarks how his relations with Thomas O'Donnell are not favourable (26-34; 36-47).  
64 items
- 32** 1962 Material relating to Patrick Dineen's letter to George Gleeson wishing him luck in America and asking him to officially resign his seat on Limerick county council (8-11); material concerning the financial state of the party (13-15).  
30 items
- 33** 1963 A letter informing Patrick Dineen that John Carew and Milo Spillane, executive secretary, are East Limerick candidates for the National Council (3).  
38 items
- 34** 1964  
9 items

- 35** 1965 Copy of the party *Constitution and Rules* (2); material relating to the organisation of Fine Gael dances (13-19); material concerning the formation of the new branches in Thomondgate, Garryowen and a youth branch (32); material relating to the formation of the Herberts branch (61)  
66 items
- 36** 1966 Material relating to Fine Gael's policy on the use of the Irish language (23-26); letter from Dineen to Maura Ahern discussing the vast work done by the Inter-Party Government over its two terms (78, 79).  
116 items
- 37** 1967 Letter of congratulations to Theodore Russell on his election as mayor of Limerick (7); material relating to an overdraft by the East Limerick Executive (8-13); queries about the reorganisation of branches by Gerard Sweetman (56, 57); material relating to the establishment of four separate executives in Limerick City under the guidance of Thomas O'Donnell, constituency organiser (56-58).  
63 items
- 38** 1968 Copy of an address entitled 'One million pounds industrial estate for Limerick' discussing the plans of the international company G.C. Ltd. for the large scale manufacture of games and sports equipment for export, and the acquisition of a site in Limerick City (71-73); Fine Gael Newsletter for November including a message from Liam Cosgrave on the referendum result (75, 76); letter to Seamus Sanfey from Christina Murphy, editor of the *Young Citizen* magazine, discussing the need to present political parties in a favourable and positive light to children (95, 96).  
160 items
- 39** 1969 Copy of motion 22 from the 1968 Ard Fheis concerning the change of the name of the party (39); letter to Seamus Sanfey from Maureen Ahern concerning the propaganda value of the part played by the coalition government in promoting the Voluntary Health Insurance (66); letter to Sanfey from James Doherty, secretary of the East Limerick finance committee, concerning the establishment of the committee, its efforts to overcome its debts and its suggestion that Colonel Clancy visit (68).  
146 items

- 40** 1969 Letter to Seamus Sanfey from David O'Keeffe, constituency executive secretary, questioning the official nature of the establishment of the Henry Street branch (10, 11); material from Theodore Russell entitled 'Organisation in East Limerick' relating to the formation of new branches, and how they must come before the constituency executive to be ratified (14-16; 26-30; 33-36). 72 items
- 41** 1970 Letter from C. Bourke suggesting that more attention and support should be given to Garrett FitzGerald T.D. even though she is a Labour supporter; ... 'as a Labour Party supporter I am watching with interest to see if the more conservative element in Fine Gael are going to give way to the more progressive' (55); letter concerning the death of Gerard Sweetman (83, 84). 88 items
- 42** 1971 Material concerning photographs taken of the mayor making a presentation to Mr & Mrs Liam Cosgrave (9); copy of a letter from Robert Patrick Purcell to the mayor of Limerick complaining about an article in the *Irish Independent* about a plot of land being reserved for a factory, being a Christian Ecologist and Sociologist he opposes the industrialisation of the area stating that 'these people have absolutely no moral right or title to this land' (40, 41); material relating to Commandant Matthew Kavanagh's wish to transfer a merchandise licence (104-106). 138 items
- 43** 1972 Copy of a speech made by Thomas O'Donnell, Shadow Minister for Tourism, from the 'Home Holidays' campaign, discussing the need to improve the numbers of Irish people holidaying at home and to be able to offer them the variety of other countries (1, 2); letter to Seamus Sanfey from Maura Ahern informing him of the support of the St. Mary's branch for the talks taking place with the Labour Party discussing the possibility of a coalition (10, 11); material concerning the development plan for Cork harbour (15, 16); request from the *Limerick Leader* for help in compiling a prestige photographic record of the life of Michael Collins (32-35); material concerning an enquiry by Michael Culhane as to when the last photograph of Michael Collins was taken because he possesses a photograph taken the Sunday before the Béal na mBláth ambush (48-50); notice from Thomas O'Donnell concerning a symposium on the Common Market(86-88). 101 items

- 44** 1973 Request for permission to start a new branch in Southhill (38, 39); material concerning the inability of George Downes to claim his disability benefit allowance (40-47); resolution from the Ballybricken branch concerning the abolition of death duties (70, 71); thank you letter to Sanfey from Theodore Russell for Sanfey's congratulations on his unanimous election as vice-chairman of the national executive (90). 91 items
- 45** 1974 Material relating to the affiliation of branches in Bruff district and the confusion as to what branches already exist (57-65); thank you letter to Sanfey for his reception of the Ballybricken deputation to Leinster House (67); material relating to the confusion over the affiliation of the John Carew branch and the Rosbrien-Ballinacurra-Weston branch as the handwriting on both affiliations are the same (108-116). 117 items
- 46** 1975 Request to allow Aidan Kelly, University College Dublin lecturer in industrial relations, join a conference of trade union members (44, 45); letter of congratulations from Breda Greene, Ballybricken honorary secretary, to Liam Cosgrave, Patrick Cooney and other members of the Cabinet, on the handling of the Herrema kidnapping (49, 50); material relating to a proposed visit to Limerick by Minister Richard Burke who will be attending a Tipperary *v* Limerick match (83-94); letter from Leddin to Cosgrave concerning the cost of bye-elections to the State (141, 142). 142 items

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## **LONGFORD-WESTMEATH CONSTITUENCY**

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<b>I.</b>	<b>LONGFORD, 1954-74</b>	<b>201</b>
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<b>II.</b>	<b>WESTMEATH, 1954-75</b>	<b>206</b>
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In the 1947 constituency revision, the two counties of Longford and Westmeath were reunited to form the single constituency that had existed until 1935. The effect of subsequent revisions on the constituency have been confined to moving parts to adjacent constituencies and adjusting the number of deputies returned.

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## LONGFORD-WESTMEATH CONSTITUENCY

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. LONGFORD, 1954–74

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|----------|------|---|----------|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Material relating to the establishment of new branches at Cloonart and Bornscoola (6-9); annotated draft of a speech by John A. Costello concerning the 'strength and strategy of Fine Gael's campaign' (11-19); material relating to plans for a convention and 'big splash' in Longford (21-24); report by Gerald Farrell of a meeting of the Longford county executive (27, 28); reports from Seán Donohoe, North Longford organiser, concerning the disappointing national collection, the problems associated with the county executive, and the new scheme of organisation. | 35 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Material concerning Longford county council, the possibility of expelling a Fianna Fáil member who had not taken his seat, and a resolution calling on the Minister for Industry and  |          |

- 2 contd.** Commerce to investigate the possibility of re-opening an iron ore mine at Clunrath (2-4); letter from the Carrickedmond and Legan branch complaining about unorthodox procedures involved in establishing a polling booth in a private house owned by a Fianna Fáil candidate in the forthcoming local election (11). 21 items
- 3** 1956 Report from General Sean MacEoin T.D., Minister for Defence, concerning Moyne and Edenmore branches, the latter of which was abolished (1-6); letter from Henry Reynolds to Patrick F. Dineen, interested in helping the government with matters of national importance (12). 15 items
- 4** 1957 Reports from Sean MacEoin T.D. concerning progress towards re-establishing drainage schemes in the constituency, questions over the reduction of land annuities, and the extension of electricity supply to the Clonsoot, Torbay and Moyne areas (1, 2); letter from Michael McCann, Newtownforbes branch secretary, to MacEoin, concerning the selection of a successor to Bernard Dowd, deceased, member of the county council and a mishap at the time of voting causing Fianna Fáil to win the seat (6-10); reports from MacEoin on the Longford county executive convention, a postponed meeting at Moate, and plans for meetings after Mass (11). 15 items
- 5** 1958 Report on a Drumlish district executive meeting concerning the national collection and the campaign against the proposed abolition of proportional representation (21); report on a Granard branch meeting discussing the economic situation in the area, condemning the government for reducing the price of wheat and for its alleged support of China and Russia at the United Nations, calling on local T.D.s to support the Granard Town Development Association, suggesting the establishment of an investigative commission on the pig trade and bacon prices (5, 6); report from John Joseph McNally related to the re-organisation of the Rathmore/Aughnaclyffe/Pulladoey polling booth areas, including discussions on bovine tuberculosis, high unemployment and other matters (22, 23); report on the Culray and Dring branch meetings which MacEoin and Thomas Kilbride, county councillor, attended, discussing the question of drainage into Lough Gowna, the repudiation of the Fianna Fáil plan for a £100 million development in

- 5 contd** industry and agriculture (24); report from the Mullinalaghta branch discussing the need to counteract Fianna Fáil's campaign and the question of debts left behind by the Inter-Party Government (25); report by MacEoin on an Aughnaclyffe meeting detailing organisation in the area; discussions over wheat and barley prices; question of the sale of firewood cut from Erne Head; primary school books; Irish foreign policy; slowing down of government action against bovine tuberculosis and the question of adherence to NATO(26, 27); material concerning MacEoin's search for information for a speech (29). 29 items
- 6** 1959 Thank you letter from Gerald Farrell to Patrick F. Dineen for help given in composing a letter to the *Longford Leader* (10-14); extract from a letter by Henry Reynolds, Clonronee branch secretary, extending good wishes to General Richard Mulcahy and J.A. Costello on their retirement and to James Dillon on his accession as party leader (15-17); resolution from the Lanesboro branch congratulating Dillon on his appointment as chairman of Fine Gael (27); report on the Ballinamuch branch, including thanks from MacEoin for their support in his presidential campaign (36, 37); report on a Drumlish branch meeting (38, 39); material concerning the intention of holding a selection convention in the event of MacEoin winning the presidential election, and the questions this raises (42-48). 50 items
- 7** 1960 Report from Sean MacEoin on a Longford county executive meeting discussing the selection of candidates for county council elections. 17 items
- 8** 1961 Material concerning the establishment of a new branch at Foigha, including details from Gerald Farrell concerning a rumour about Sean MacEoin's retirement (4, 5); letter from Farrell to Patrick F. Dineen relating his shock at the selection of candidates, adding that MacEoin would not seek re-election and therefore asks about legalities of holding a convention to chose a successor (6, 7). 18 items
- 9** 1962 Material concerning the formation of a new branch at Ballyeymacormack (88-90); material concerning a resolution which will come before Longford county council about the

- 9 contd.** imprisonment of Sinn Féin members, relating that Patrick F. Dineen feels they should 'give no countenance to misconceived acts of violence at either side of the Border' (92, 93). 124 items
- 10** 1963 17 items
- 11** 1964 Letter from John Kilemade, secretary of Longford county executive, to Patrick F. Dineen, concerning the reimbursement of money given by Longford branch to the executive (17). 19 items
- 12** 1965 Report from John Kilemade to Patrick F. Dineen concerning the county convention, including mention of complaints made by Gerald Farrell at not receiving correspondence during the general election campaign (4, 5). 10 items
- 13** 1966 Letter from John Kilemade to Patrick Dineen requesting Dineen to send out a circular asking all Fine Gael members to make a point of attending county council meetings, and that the county Committee of Agriculture ensure that Fine Gael proposals are fully supported (7-19). 30 items
- 14** 1967 Letter from Gerard L'Estrange, party whip, concerning a directive by the standing committee about qualifications needed by candidates standing for election (6, 7). 10 items
- 15** 1968 Notice concerning a presentation in honour of Sean MacEoin, (17); material concerning a Fine Gael councillor supporting a Fianna Fáil member for the position of rate collector in Mostrim (45-63); material relating to an article in the *Irish Times* entitled 'reporting the Dail', 29 February 1968, sent by Sanfey to Gerard L'Estrange, concerning a complaint by Kevin Boland, Minister for Local Government, about 'vicious' reporting by the newspaper (73, 74). 77 items

- 16** 1969 Letter from John Kilmade to Seamus W. Sanfey, informing him of his intention to reorganise the party machine in Longford (29, 30); letter of complaint from a branch secretary believing that a certain Fine Gael T.D. should be expelled (31, 32); circular concerning the establishment of a subcommittee to deal with the question of continuing rising rates (69); material concerning the supply of a new telephone kiosk for Cloonagh (71-74); material informing Sanfey of a new branch in Cloonagh due to the rise in the local population with the establishment of Bord na Mona in the area (88-90).  
113 items
- 17** 1970 Memorandum entitled 'File Refused to Comptroller' concerning the transfer of a Garda superintendent from his home town due to the establishment of his son's law practice in the same area; refers to the questions of rent and separation allowance and to the fact that the Auditor General and Comptroller were refused access to the file dealing with the case (10); material from John Kilmade concerning his wish to expel a certain member, enclosing newspaper cuttings from the *Longford Leader* from 29 August, entitled 'Chairman of St. Loman's Hospital re-elected' (14-17); material concerning the disloyalty of a certain Fine Gael member who 'lined up with Fianna Fáil and voted against the Fine Gael nominee', includes newspaper cutting from the *Longford Leader* 18 July about the election of the Longford county council chairman (21-24); letter of complaint from Marcelina Flood, Edgeworthstown branch, about the Longford county executive a.g.m. and the manner in which it was convened (33-46).  
80 items
- 18** 1971 Resolution from Longford county councillors, that the party whip be withdrawn from a member who failed to support Fine Gael in the county council elections (12, 13); motions for convention in May to provide transport for the mentally handicapped, reopen a Civil Defence Instruction Training School, establish a beef incentive scheme, and the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (20-23).  
65 items
- 19** 1972 Motions for the Fine Gael convention in May, mainly concerning land policy and education (30-35).  
71 items

- 20** 1973 Letter from Marcelina Flood to Seamus W. Sanfey from hospital where she discusses the needs of fellow patients and includes congratulations to T.F. O'Higgins (4-12); letter of congratulations from Flood to Sanfey on Fine Gael's victory in Monaghan (22, 23); material concerning a request made by W. Jordan, Ballymore branch secretary, to Liam Cosgrave for help as he feels he has been humiliated after an incident at a meeting which he feels has been orchestrated by Fianna Fáil (29-56); letter from Flood relating her shock at the results of the presidential election and giving a list of points for discussion, based on general political and social matters (74-80); material relating to the non-existence of an Ennybegs branch (90-98); material from Michael J. Lennon to Sanfey concerning subscriptions towards Tom O'Higgins' presidential election fund, the level of apathy in the county, disgust at the way the coalition government treats O'Higgins, congratulations to Sanfey on being elected to the Seanad, (100-102) 114 items
- 21** 1974 Photocopy of Longford county executive financial statement from January to October (3-5) 35 items

## II. WESTMEATH, 1954-75

- 22** 1954 Report from P.J. Coughlan to Patrick F. Dineen about the Athlone branch, giving details about Michael Heavey's selection as candidate for the Westmeath-Longford constituency (6-8); letter from Michael Heavey to Dineen informing him of his selection (10, 11). 13 items
- 23** 1955 Report from General Sean MacEoin on a meeting of the Boher branch, including discussion about land reclamation under the Land Projects Scheme, questions of land division, sub-post office and telephone facilities in Loughna Valley-Killaire district, and rural electrification (11). 13 items

- 24** 1956 Letter to Patrick F. Dineen informing him that communications with the Killallon branch should go through the proper secretary of the branch and not someone who retired two years previously (2); report on the South-West executive a.g.m. held in Moate, with comment on national and local government matters, after-mass meetings, appeals to younger members to take offices in branches and other matters (4-5) 6 items
- 25** 1957 1 item
- 26** 1958 Draft copy of a report on a meeting of Athlone branch with Michael Heavey as chairman, discussing the decision to hold meetings on the third Monday of each month and other matters (2, 3). 4 items
- 27** 1959 Letter from Kieran Montgomery, Streamstown, to Patrick F. Dineen, concerning the split within the Boher branch over the nominations of candidates for the county council (2-4); letter from Thomas Kilroy, chairman of Athlone branch, concerning collections and the need for 'right' people for the Moate branches (7, 8). 9 items
- 28** 1960 16 items
- 29** 1961 Material relating to the Longford-Westmeath national collection, details of last convention, list of delegates from four county electoral areas, notes on the votes taken at the convention and other related material (1-12); copy of a letter to Sean [ ] from Gerard Sweetman concerning arrangements for the next convention, remarking that the younger members would not want it on a Sunday as it would interfere with their sport (20, 21). 27 items
- 30** 1962 Reports from Leo Kilmurray, honorary secretary of Ballynacargy branch, concerning a vacant Fine Gael seat on the Westmeath county council and the district executive's

- 30 contd** decision to support Kilmurray against outside candidates and their decision to resign if their vote is ignored; report from Sen. Patrick J. Lindsay SC, on the convention in Mullingar, including details about the selection of officers for the district executive (1-10); material related to a letter of complaint from Charles Fagan of Mullingar about Fine Gael's persistence in asking for funds from members and that they are 'flogging a willing horse' (12, 13). 14 items
- 31** 1963 10 items
- 32** 1964 1 item
- 33** 1965 21 items
- 34** 1966 Newspaper cutting from the *Westmeath Independent* of 14 May concerning the selection of Rosemount officers (12); motions for the Westmeath convention calling for Fine Gael to take a strong stand as the opposing party; discussing proper priorities for the investment of tax payer's money (18-20). 38 items
- 35** 1967 Resolution from the Athlone branch on their opposition to the closure of the Grand Canal, also opposed by members of the corporation (5-8); copy of a letter from Patrick F. Dineen to Liam Cosgrave concerning complaints made by Mary Spencer, Athlone branch secretary, that no front bench members had been sent to an Athlone public meeting and requesting Cosgrave's attendance at a meeting in the Spring (9); memorandum to the Standing Committee from the Athlone branch concerning the urban district council elections (37-41); motions for the Westmeath convention in April including a call for a reduction in rates by the introduction of health and maintenance of roads costs as a national charge (52-56). 83 items
- 36** 1968 Newsletter entitled 'Message to all branches from Liam Cosgrave, president of Fine Gael on the referendum result' concerning the referendum on proportional representation (2, 3);

- 36 contd** material concerning the raising of the abatement allowance, condemning jobbery and patronage, calf subsidies and other matters (37-40). 71 items
- 37** 1969 Letter from the Athlone branch informing Seamus Sanfey of their acceptance of the proposed party name, the Social Democratic Party (26, 27). 38 items
- 38** 1970 Motion from Athlone branch urging Fine Gael to take the initiative in promoting discussions with Labour to form a new coalition government (10, 11); thank you letter from Patrick Cooney T.D. to Seamus Sanfey for Sanfey's congratulations on his winning a seat (17). 22 items
- 39** 1971 Material related to a letter from Father Dominic of the Marist Brothers in Athlone requesting biographical information on Richard Burke T.D., Fine Gael chief whip, as he will need it for a talk he is preparing for a symposium attended by Burke (6-8); letters concerning the payment of outstanding levies which by rule must be paid before the end of September each year (19); letters of representation. 47 items
- 40** 1972 Draft of a notice about the upcoming referendum and its importance to party members (6, 7) notice to party members to check the draft electoral register (8, 9); notice of a meeting concerning the EEC (51); resolutions from the South Westmeath executive calling for the party to launch a nationwide ceremony to pay tribute to Michael Collins (60-62). 80 items
- 41** 1973 Letter of congratulations to John H. Keegan on his appointment as chairman of the Westmeath county council and to Sanfey on his becoming a senator (21, 22); letter from Sanfey to L'Estrange concerning a request from Mary Duff of Moate for re-testing of her herd (32, 33); 47 items



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## **LOUTH CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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From 1932 to 1961 Louth formed a three seat constituency. In the 1961 revision, part of the county was transferred to Monaghan, the remainder staying a three seater. In the revision of 1974, Louth gained a tranche of the Monaghan constituency and became a four seater.

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<b>5</b>	1955	Correspondence between John Keely and Dineen regarding rural housing (5-8). 14 items
<b>6</b>	1956	17 items
<b>7</b>	1957	Lists of officers; letters from Dineen to Patrick Donegan, refusing to affiliate branches which claim they cannot afford the affiliation fee, on the grounds that if the 'poor farmers in ... West Limerick' could afford the fees, so could the 'rich farmers' in Louth (31-34); request from Dineen that Donegan investigate alleged problems in Louth branches (48-51). 51 items
<b>8</b>	1958	22 items
<b>9</b>	1959	19 items
<b>10</b>	1960	14 items
<b>11</b>	1961	Lists of branches and branch members in Louth; list of members of Louth constituency executive; letters between Dineen and Donegan regarding a retiring branch member in Louth who has requested her 'credentials' (1-3). 53 items
<b>12</b>	1962	Dineen's request for addresses of members (12-15); letter of goodwill from the Mayor of Drogheda to Dineen. 25 items
<b>13</b>	1963	14 items
<b>14</b>	1964	28 items

<b>15</b>	1965		24 items
<b>16</b>	1966		21 items
<b>17</b>	1967		24 items
<b>18</b>	1968		58 items
<b>19</b>	1969	Copy of <i>Fine Gael Newsletter</i> .	45 items
<b>20</b>	1970	Condolences to Donegan on the death of his cousin (10); letters dealing with a request from Dealga Debating Society for an attendance at a debate (3-8).	25 items
<b>21</b>	1971	Lists of Fine Gael county councillors and of Fine Gael members of the corporations in Galway, Limerick and Dublin; letters between Donegan and a branch member regarding the absence of Dundalk branch delegates from a meeting (11-16).	46 items
<b>22</b>	1972		25 items
<b>23</b>	1973	List of members of Louth constituency executive; letter to Donegan regarding the presidential election campaign levy (3, 4).	38 items
<b>24</b>	1974	Copy of <i>The National Coalition at Work</i> ; requests for invitation cards to the Ard Fheis (9); letter of condolence to Richard Morgan (21-23).	23 items



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## MAYO CONSTITUENCIES

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In the period 1932-69, Mayo was divided into two constituencies, North and South Mayo. Successive boundary revisions saw the relative areas of the two adjusted with consequent change in the number of deputies returned; but the overall division remained consistent. Part of County Roscommon was added to South Mayo in the 1961 revision. In 1969 the county was divided into the two constituencies of West and East Mayo, each returning three deputies. In the 1974 revision, part of County Roscommon was added to East Mayo and the boundary between the two constituencies was adjusted.

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## MAYO CONSTITUENCIES

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. NORTH MAYO, 1954-69

- |          |      |  |
|----------|------|--|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Report submitted by Brendan Ruddy, constituency secretary, on the disunited state of the party on the eve of a bye-election in the constituency (16-18); correspondence concerning the formation of polling booth committees by the Crossmolina branch in advance of the next year's local elections (19-20).<br>26 items  |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Copy of a letter notifying Dineen that Fine Gael followers have been left off the electoral register by a Fianna Fáil rate collector in the Foxford area (2); copy letter to Charles Corcoran, secretary of the Crossmolina branch, promising to recommend his appointment as a peace commissioner. 'It is absolutely necessary that we have a Fine Gael P.C. in every village' (19); notice of a meeting to be held on 3 April in |

- 2 contd** Ballina and a list of all the branches to which this was sent in the Ballina and Swinford electoral area (23-25); memorandum on a conference of North and South Mayo held on 26 March at Ballina; the organisation in North Mayo 'moribund' while in South Mayo there is more activity and frequent meetings (28, 29). 42 items
- 3** 1956 Letter from Charles Corcoran, secretary of the Crossmolina branch, outlining two resolutions passed at a recent meeting; Mr Dillon's presence demanded at a meeting in Sligo on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, secondly, no ministerial letters should be despatched to any inhabitant in the town without first consulting the club secretary (1); report on the Corlough branch in North Mayo as being in a state of dormancy as are other branches, affiliation fees being difficult to extract, the report suggests re-organisation. The writer comments on recent victories at local government level but the Fianna Fáil victory in the Laois/Offaly bye-election has restored the courage of their members (3-5). 9 items
- 4** 1957 2 items
- 5** 1958 List of re-organised branches in North Mayo (4, 5); letter from James Brogan, Foxford, commenting on the branches and some of the personnel in the area (6); letter from Michael Lynch, party organiser, giving details of committees and branches recently re-organised in North Mayo (7-12); letter from James Lynn of Bangor Erris, advising on the lack of organisation in his parish (13-16); correspondence concerning Killasser branch which needs re-organisation (17-27). 27 items
- 6** 1959 1 item
- 7** 1960 Report from Michael Lynch dealing largely with the situation in the Foxford and Crossmolina areas since the change in Dáil representation, there being a certain amount of friction between the party supporters and the new deputy (3); correspondence concerning Joseph R. Lenehan M.C.C., Belmullet, Co. Mayo, who was elected in the Fine Gael interest in 1955 but subsequently lost the party whip when

- 7 contd** he failed to assist the party in the 1957 general election and in the referendum and presidential election of 1959. He is now requested to attend a meeting of the Belmullet district executive on the 27 March to explain his actions. General Sean MacEoin T.D. will preside (5-19). 34 items
- 8** 1961 Circular despatched by Patrick Lyndsey who is a candidate for the Senate (1); copy letter to James Dillon T.D., concerning the North Mayo convention on 16 July at which he is to preside. Includes details of the 1957 general election for this constituency and the national collection (4-6). 12 items
- 9** 1962 4 items
- 10** 1963 Correspondence concerning possible Fine Gael candidates in the North Mayo constituency at the next general election. Includes reports submitted by Michael Lynch, party organiser, and Dr P.F. Cawley, chairman of the Swinford branch. The latter reports that all the clubs in East Mayo, with few exceptions, are enthusiastic about having Mr T.O'Hara, a former Clann na Talmhan member, as a candidate (22-29); copy of a letter from Eamonn Carey M.C.C., concerning the rates equalisation scheme which is now being sought by the western seaboard counties. It seems that the present government is not prepared to give the matter any consideration (35). 36 items
- 11** 1964 32 items
- 12** 1965 Copy letter advising Owen Roe O'Neill that Mr Liam Cosgrave T.D. will preside over the North Mayo convention which is to be held on 12 December (17-18); correspondence outlining the situation in North Mayo and possible general election candidates (19-26). 26 items
- 13** 1966 Copy letter to Patrick J. Lindsay concerning the organisation in the Swinford electoral area. Some attention needs to be paid to the area between Foxford and Ballina. North Mayo is a

- 13 contd** marginal constituency and the party needs to act now if it is to retain two seats at the next general election which could come at anytime (3). 27 items
- 14** 1967 Copy letter to Gerry L'Estrange T.D., who will preside over a convention. This includes details of the Swinford electoral area which has five county councillors (19, 20); copy letter from Malachy Gaugin concerning the Corlough branch, he confirms that this branch has not existed for well over ten years (25); correspondence concerning the Ballina branch dinner dance, which Mr Richie Ryan T.D., has agreed to attend (28-35). 36 items
- 15** 1968 Party newsletter with a message from Mr Liam Cosgrave thanking all for 'the great work done during the Referendum Campaign.' And urging discussion at branch level on the motion that the party should change its name (2, 3); letter from a constituent who had sought Deputy Lindsay's assistance with regard to a problem he had with the Irish Land Commission (6-9). 26 items
- 16** 1969 Correspondence with Seamus Browne, secretary of the Ballina branch. The latter seeks a map showing the outline of the new constituency of East Mayo (5-12). 39 items

## II. SOUTH MAYO, 1954-69

- 17** 1954 Letter from P.W. Leamy, sub-director of elections. 'Mr (Henry) Kenny's election marks a step in this constituency which will be doubled at the next election and will gain a seat for the Inter-Party Government' (22); draft of a speech delivered by the general secretary at Castlebar and Ballina: 'After twenty years the people desire change. More and more of the youth are turning to Fine Gael where they will have the opportunity of expressing themselves. The unworthy allegations made against us and which are being busily circulated are having the reverse effect. These "modern electioneering methods" are not working. It is a significant pointer for the future that the average age of our supporters is at least ten years younger

- 17 contd** than that of Fianna Fáil. It is not good for a democracy if a government lasts too long. The difficulties experienced by the Inter-Party Government were caused by one individual' (29-40); letter from Senator Sean T. Ruane on the subject of breaking up the constituency into departments or areas of influence and on the question of marked specimen papers. This issue raised on the direction of General Mulcahy. (41-46); report from Michael Lynch, party organiser on the Claremorris electoral division (48, 94-103); report from [Liam] O' Shea, secretary of the East Mayo district executive on the work of Michael Lynch and on recent events in the area (53-54); copy letter to T.V. O'Connor, election agent, outlining his main duties. (104-106) 115 items
- 18** 1955 Letter from Sean T. Ruane reporting unrest in the Castlebar branch area because 50% of the national collection is being forwarded to headquarters. Michael Browne M.C.C. has been having some discussion with Clann Na Talmhan county councillors concerning a suggested arrangement with them in the making of some rate collector appointments in the near future. 'It is plain that these people are anxious to atone for their perfidy in joining up with Fianna Fáil concerning [the] county council chair, an action which has put their party in bad odour'. He feels the majority of our county councillors will be opposed to the suggestion (3); letter from Thomas Warde, secretary of the South Mayo executive, reporting on Gerard Sweetman's first visit to the constituency.(6); copy memorandum on the South Mayo organisation, submitted to Gerard Sweetman, Minister for Finance, prior to the visit (7-21); report from a member of the Mulick branch stating that 'there is only two of us left now,' as 'most of the young people have emigrated and the elderly men have died' (34, 35); letter from Thomas Wade outlining preparations for the local elections. (63-66) 86 items
- 19** 1956 Letter from Thomas Wade, secretary of the South Mayo executive. He reports some grumbling due to the current price of farm produce. House-to-house collections carried out in this area have proved more worthwhile. Laments the departure of Paddy Keady, a keyman in the Ballinrobe area. He severed his connection with the party because his brother-in-law did not get the dispensary at Kiltimagh, which appointment was not in the hands of the Minister. Understands that the organisation in Kilkenny-Carlow is very bad. (1-3) Copy report on the South Mayo constituency submitted to James Dillon T.D., Minister of Agriculture, prior to his visit there (9-13) 29 items





- 32** 1969 List of the rural districts and electoral areas comprising the old South Mayo constituency (1-2); circular despatched to all branches concerning the motion that henceforth the party should be known as 'Fine Gael – the Social Democratic Party' (29). 94 items

### III. WEST MAYO, 1969-75

- 33** 1969 Circular conveying a resolution of the standing committee that county councillors should convene before council meetings so as to decide the attitude to be adopted on any particular question, the majority decision to be implemented (2); report on the convention held at Castlebar on 26 October (12-18); report submitted by John F. Garavan, secretary of the constituency executive, in the aftermath of the general election. He suggests that all directors of elections should submit similar reports (33-35). 56 items
- 34** 1970 Letter from Henry Kenny advising that the constituency levy will be paid next week (1); correspondence with Henry Bros. Ltd., concerning the Achill Island water supply (4-8); resignation by John F. Garavan, as constituency secretary (9-11). 26 items
- 35** 1971 Copy letters to the Claremorris branch of the N.F.A., concerning a public meeting to discuss the Common Market. A Fine Gael spokesman is requested to attend. Cllr Miles Staunton, a member of the national executive who is *au fait* with the problems of the West of Ireland, designated to attend. (9-15); letter from Ray Ansbro, secretary of the Ballinrobe branch, concerning affiliation fees and conveying a branch resolution to the effect that they desire an end to the means test in the granting of old age and widows pensions. (33) 40 items
- 36** 1972 Copy letter from Myles Staunton, secretary of the West Mayo constituency executive, conveying a resolution to the effect that the executive committee are 'unanimously behind the leadership of Liam Cosgrave' (3); copy memorandum

- 36 contd** submitted by Cllr Myles Staunton in the wake of a visit to the U.S.A. as the recipient of an economics and management grant from the Department of External Affairs. While there he participated in the executive programme at the University of California, Los Angeles. The memorandum which is critical of the I.D.A., outlines the frustrations of many communities in rural Ireland who feel they have been by-passed by this agency. Also enclosed is a copy of an open letter explaining his reasons for submitting this memorandum to Mr Liam Cosgrave T.D., and a commentary on the Duchanan Report, as it relates to the issues discussed in this memorandum (6-60) 77 items
- 37** 1973 Letter from Patrick Durcan, constituency secretary, concerning the constituency levy for 1972-73. Copy of the minutes of the Westport branch of Fine Gael, relating to a meeting of 10 August during which Cllr Charlie Hastings was expelled from the branch. At a recent a.g.m. of Westport Urban District Council, Cllr Hastings, despite a Fine Gael directive to the contrary, voted for a Fianna Fáil nominee as chairman of the council (6-9); copy letter to Dr Hugh Byrne T.D., deputy in the Dublin North-West constituency, requesting that he locate 'digs' for a member of the organisation who is taking up employment in that area (23-27); correspondence with Patrick Durcan, joint honorary secretary of the West Mayo constituency, concerning ministerial attendance at a Castlebar garden party (30-40); copy of the itinerary of Thomas F. O'Higgins, candidate in the presidential election, on his visit to the East Mayo constituency (45-50); letter from Patrick Durcan on the indebtedness of the constituency (52, 53); copy letter to Cllr Michael Raftery on the same subject with an extract from Raftery's letter of 25 June which he had written to An Taoiseach, Mr Liam Cosgrave (54-56); correspondence with Patrick Durcan concerning which members of the organisation are eligible to stand for election to the national executive under article 31(a) of the party constitution (59-60); copy of a circular despatched by Henry Kenny T.D., calling for donations to help defray party expenditure in connection with the forthcoming presidential elections (70). 139 items
- 38** 1974 Copy of a letter to An Taoiseach, Mr Liam Cosgrave by the wife of a Fine Gael county councillor. The latter now resigns from the party and promises to persuade her husband to do so as a protest against the government's action in 'voting against Mr Cooney's bill on Contraception' and supporting the candidature of Mr Ó Daláigh as an all party nominee for the office of president (2); letter of protest from Cllr Jackie

**38 contd** Gibbons to Mr Mark Clinton concerning the appointment of Fianna Fáil candidates to the Wool Board and the by-passing of candidates particularly those from the West of Ireland, recommended by Fine Gael Oireachtas members (26, 27); letter from Patrick Durcan, secretary of the West Mayo constituency executive, advising that at a recent meeting of the executive, 'considerable concern was expressed by a number of delegates about various land problems including the division of commonage ...' (85); copy letter to Deputy Myles Staunton and Cllr Frank Durcan suggesting that the Swinford convention scheduled for 10 March should be postponed in view of the fact that the local electoral boundaries are due to be revised shortly (94); letter from Jack Gibbons on behalf of the Aughagower branch who ask that the enclosed motions concerning land legislation and the National Prices Commission be entered for the Ard Fheis (112, 113); letter of protest from the constituency executive with regard to the changes in the Mayo constituencies as contained in the Electoral Amendment Bill, 1973 (123, 124); letter from the Glenamoy branch secretary asking if the 'Plan for the West' drawn up some year ago while in opposition, is now going to be implemented (160, 161). 165 items

**39** 1975 Copy letter from the Ardnaree branch to An Taoiseach, Mr Liam Cosgrave T.D., urging the appointment of Mr Myles Staunton T.D., in place of the late Mr Henry Kenny as parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Finance (18); correspondence concerning the Agricultural Institute Centre at Creagh, County Mayo. This includes a copy letter addressed to Mr Mark Clinton T.D., Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, advising him of a motion passed by the West Mayo executive, which supported the Ballinrobe community in their fight to retain the centre at Creagh (19-29); letter from Patrick Durcan, constituency secretary, requesting copies of 'the fourteen point plan' and other older policy documents for a constituent who is doing research at University College Dublin on the development of popular support for the party (54); copy letter to the constituency treasurer concerning the arrears for the years 1973-75. A total of £448.00 is now outstanding (64); letter from Frank Durcan, constituency organiser, advising that if no minister attends the constituency dinner on 14 March, 'no further funds will be remitted to the Party' (145); copy letter to Myles Staunton concerning nominating bodies for the Seanad elections. (157) 164 items



- 45** 1974 Letter from the secretary of the Claremorris branch, '... very disappointed and mystified by our Parliamentary Party agreeing to Mr Cearbhall O' Dalaigh for the Presidency.' They are of the view that many young voters, especially females will be alienated from the party (3); copy of a letter from a Fine Gael county councillor, resident in the Foxford area. He is of the view that Fine Gael threw away a seat in East Mayo at the last election, people in the west becoming disillusioned due to the absence of a 'Disadvantaged Areas Scheme' and a 'Regional Scheme' (17, 18); copy of a letter addressed to John Kelly, parliamentary secretary to An Taoiseach, from the joint vice-president of the constituency. He relates difficulties at a recent constituency convention for the election of officers. 'It is ludicrous that people from Killala or Hollymount can decide the best candidate for the Swinford area. Often times they will back the weakest candidate to enhance the chances of their area' (216, 217). 234 items
- 46** 1975 List of branches, with the names and addresses of officers, transferred to this constituency from the Roscommon area (29, 30; 32-62); copy letter to the secretary of the Claremorris branch. The formation of new branches must be done in consultation with the constituency executive as they are the authority for deciding where new branches are needed. It is essential that as many of the youth are attracted as is possible but they must involve themselves in the existing organisation (11); correspondence concerning the cancellation of the women's conference, due to have been held at Athlone (17, 18); copy letter of sympathy sent to the family of John Joe Cribben, chairman of the Ballyhaunis branch for over thirty years; copy letter to Cllr Sean McEvoy of Foxford, informing him that 'some other branches will be coming into your constituency, but I have not yet been supplied with details from Roscommon/Leitrim constituency Executive. It appears to be [that] the branches concerned are Ballinlough, Ballaghaderreen and Loughlinn but this is subject to confirmation' (17). 174 items

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## **MEATH CONSTITUENCY, 1954–75**

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Other than the period, 1935–47 when the county was joined with most of Westmeath to form the constituency of Meath-Westmeath, Meath has formed a single constituency. Successive re-organisation has been limited to areas being shifted into and out of the constituency with corresponding adjustments in the number of deputies returned.

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**MEATH CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

<b>1</b>	1954	Lists of officers; letter from Michael Kilmartin outlining an organising campaign in the constituency (49-52); letter from Col Dineen, general secretary, to Kilmartin, outlining his views about the constituency (70).	123 items
<b>2</b>	1955		64 items
<b>3</b>	1956	Letter from Col Dineen to Michael Kilmartin concerning the low rate of affiliation in Meath (3, 4); correspondence concerning difficulties created by the work load involved in organising a branch (17-26).	104 items
<b>4</b>	1957		8 items

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|-----------|------|--|----------|
| <b>5</b>  | 1958 | Circulars; letters concerning the nomination of a candidate for the Health Council (8-10); requests for Ministers to attend county executive meetings.   | 20 items |
| <b>6</b>  | 1959 | Circulars; lists of officers; reports of meetings.   | 47 items |
| <b>7</b>  | 1960 | File not present   |          |
| <b>8</b>  | 1961 | Lists of officers; reports of meetings; letters between Dineen and two branch members concerning the election of Edward Malone as Fine Gael candidate in Trim (35-46).   | 63 items |
| <b>9</b>  | 1962 | Scheme of organisation in Meath; lists of officers; report from Senator Patrick Lindsay on the Meath county convention (26-28); circulars.   | 50 items |
| <b>10</b> | 1963 | Request from Dineen for Richie Ryan to attend a branch function (1-3); request from a branch member for a copy of James Dillon's speech on the finance bill  | 5 items  |
| <b>11</b> | 1964 | Correspondence between Dineen and a branch secretary, a local T.D., Denis Farrelly, and Richard Morgan, National Council delegate, concerning objections to the closure of Navan's Social Welfare Office (6-11). | 12 items |
| <b>12</b> | 1965 | List of officers; letters between Dineen and Kilmartin concerning the failure to invite Kilmartin to a meeting (3-5).  | 27 items |



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| <b>20</b> | 1973 |  | 88 items  |
| <b>21</b> | 1974 | Circulars; list of officers; letters from Sanfey to the Department of Finance, and Cllr William Carey, concerning Carey's inquiries about farm taxes (2-8); letters between Meath County Council and Sanfey concerning wealth tax (23-25); letters between Bruton and Sanfey concerning the authenticity of a letter issued in 1969, apparently from Fine Gael Headquarters (14-17). | 82 items  |
| <b>22</b> | 1975 | Lists of officers; lists of members of Meath constituency executive; lists of branch secretaries; letters between Kells branch and Sanfey concerning an apparently illegitimate vote (104, 105).   | 111 items |

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## **MONAGHAN CONSTITUENCY, 1954–75**

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The constituency of Monaghan was coterminous with the county from 1923 until 1961 and returned three members. The revisions in 1961 and 1969 saw portions of Louth and Meath added to the constituency which remained a three seater..

Monaghan ceased to exist as a separate constituency in the 1974 boundary revision which saw the county joined with Cavan to form a five seater.

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## MONAGHAN CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

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|----------|------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Lists of officers; letters from John J. Conlon, constituency activist, to Col Dineen, proposing a replacement for Senator Douglas and giving advice on organisation and policies (1, 3, 4, 6-11, 18, 19).  | 121 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Lists of officers; letter from a branch member expressing his anger to Dineen at one of the candidates elected to the Agriculture Committee, as the candidate was earlier 'one of the greatest opponents Fine Gael had' (33-36); letters between Dineen and Carrickmacross Branch regarding a dispute between two factions in the branch, and Dineen's request that John F. Conlon settle the matter (2-5; 13-22); letters from Dineen to the Constituency Secretary regarding irregularities in the voting register (83, 84). | 100 items |

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|-----------|------|---|-----------|
| <b>3</b>  | 1956 | Lists of officers; circulars; national organiser, Michael Lynch's material including lists of branches, personnel and polling stations (156-222).   | 222 items |
| <b>4</b>  | 1957 | Lists of officers; letters from P.J. Conlon.  | 91 items  |
| <b>5</b>  | 1958 | Circulars; copy of Carrickmacross branch rules (26-28); letters from Conlon to Dineen giving advice on how best to beat de Valera in the presidential elections (11-21).  | 32 items  |
| <b>6</b>  | 1959 | Lists of officers; letters from Conlon (27-30); James Dillon's request that an organiser be sent to Monaghan (2, 3).  | 31 items  |
| <b>7</b>  | 1960 | File not present  |           |
| <b>8</b>  | 1961 | Lists of officers and of mass times; letters from P.J. Conlon (4-17); circulars; letter from Dineen to a branch member giving a very short history of Fine Gael's election performance in the period 1922-33 (67-69). | 104 items |
| <b>9</b>  | 1962 | Short list of affiliated branches in Monaghan; circulars; letters of advice from P.J. Conlon.   | 45 items  |
| <b>10</b> | 1963 | Lists of officers; scheme of organisation in Monaghan; newspaper cuttings of elected officers.  | 67 items  |

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| <b>11</b> | 1964 | Letters of apology from Dineen to recipients of misdirected affiliation reminders; report from John F. Conlon on constituency conventions (1).   | 36 items  |
| <b>12</b> | 1965 | Reports on meetings; lists of officers; lists of affiliated branches.  | 37 items  |
| <b>13</b> | 1966 | Lists of officers and of affiliated branches; circulars.   | 38 items  |
| <b>14</b> | 1967 | Circulars; letter returning affiliation fee of a branch which had not received constituency approval (5); correspondence between Dineen and John F. Conlon regarding an account due by Fine Gael in the Oriel Hotel (41-44).   | 46 items  |
| <b>15</b> | 1968 | Lists of officers; letters from P.J. Conlon deploring Fine Gael's lack of canvassing to counteract the Fianna Fail campaign, particularly in the forthcoming referendum and advising Fine Gael to cater for working class people (17-19; 21-29; 54-64).  | 79 items  |
| <b>16</b> | 1969 | Circulars; lists of branches and officers.   | 53 items  |
| <b>17</b> | 1970 | Circulars; letters regarding Deputy William Fox being refused an Ard Fheis ballot paper (78-80); letters to a branch secretary from Dineen regarding the status of the branch; letters from Dineen responding to the Carrickmacross branch's resolution that Fine Gael should repudiate the 'scandalous' accusations made against William Fox (100-108). | 142 items |
| <b>18</b> | 1971 | Circulars; lists of officers.  | 58 items  |



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## **ROSCOMMON CONSTITUENCY, 1954–60**

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County Roscommon formed a single constituency from 1923 until 1961; though for part of that period, 1935–47, some of the county was included in Athlone-Longford.

In 1961, most of the constituency joined with part of County Leitrim to form the four-seat constituency of Roscommon-Leitrim (*q.v.*)

In the 1969 constituency revision parts of Roscommon-Leitrim, which became a three seater, were added to the North-East Galway and Clare-South Galway constituencies (*q.v.*).

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- 9 contd** organisation for each polling booth area. Letters of praise for work done in the prelude to the election and congratulations on James Burke's nomination to the Dáil. Memorandum on the reorganisation of the Roscommon constituency in the aftermath of the election by Michael Lynch. Recommends the division of Roscommon into four district executives each corresponding with an electoral area; South Roscommon, Castlerea, Elphin and Boyle (3). Progress reports by Lynch on the reorganisation drive with details of new branches (146, 147). Letter to Dineen from Lynch saying that the reorganisation of the constituency will lead to great improvement in the result of local elections (165). Letter marked 'personal' endorsing Michael Lynch's work in the constituency, despite opposition (215). Lynch, in a report to Dineen states that when he came to Roscommon, the organisation was out of control: 'I lay blame on the county executive and on the director of elections'. He discussed the matter with deputy James Burke who agrees, speaking of apathy and playacting (241-245) Correspondence with Dineen concerning the South Roscommon executive recommending persons as rate collectors, not a function of any executive or branch as they should be appointed by county councillors (323). In a letter to Oliver J. Flanagan T.D., Dineen says it must be made clear to Clann Na Talmhan that the party will not interfere with them. On the contrary, 'we are willing to work with them in harmony if they are willing to work with us' (329-330).

345 items

- 2** 1955 Material concerning the selection of candidates for the local elections. Michael Lynch, national organiser, feels completely satisfied that everything in Roscommon is first rate (46). Dineen expresses concern regarding the agitation about wheat prices, feels it is being propagated by Fianna Fáil and local people are 'absorbing it like wet sponges' (41). Requests from Joseph Dodd, secretary of the constituency executive, to get speakers for the opening of the local election campaign (27). Handbill for the county council election for the Roscommon electoral area, detailing the four nominated Fine Gael candidates and calling on voters to extend their lower choices to other members of the Inter-Party Group (13).

50 items

- 3** 1956 12 items





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## **ROSCOMMON-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY, 1961-75**

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County Roscommon (*q.v.*) formed a single constituency from 1923 until 1961; though for part of that period, 1935-47, some of the county was included in Athlone-Longford.

In 1961, most of the constituency joined with part of County Leitrim to form the four-seat constituency of Roscommon-Leitrim.

In the 1969 constituency revision parts of Roscommon-Leitrim, which became a three seater, were added to the North-East Galway and Clare-South Galway constituencies (*q.v.*).

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## ROSCOMMON-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY, 1961-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

- |          |      |   |          |
|----------|------|---|----------|
| <b>1</b> | 1961 | <p>Material relating to the planning and organisation of the general election campaign, and the work of Michael Lynch, national organiser, in the constituency; request from James Dillon, party president, to Gerry L'Estrange, that he attend a constituency convention at which Dillon will preside (28); letter from Rose Shannon reporting that '... all the farmers at the Boyle fair yesterday were shouting for a Dillon government ... quite a few Fianna Fáil votes will come our way ...' (26); list of polling stations in the Leitrim area which were transferred to the Roscommon constituency. Colonel Patrick F. Dineen, general secretary, wants polling booth groups set up to organise, control and man them (8); results of 1961 general election for the newly established four-seat Sligo-Leitrim Constituency.</p> | 35 items |
|----------|------|---|----------|



- 5 contd** Talmhan joined up' (55); James White, active member of the party claimed personal attacks were made at the meeting and an argument ensued, because the individual in question did not like newcomers (53); Dineen requested that he wants the matter to be settled amicably and only one candidate is to be selected to represent the Castlerea branch at the local election (40). In reply to a request from Reynolds to have Michael Lynch do some organisational work in Leitrim, Dineen refuses as Lynch has been sent to South Mayo to counteract the sudden re-appearance of Clann na Talmhan (22). 86 items
- 6** 1966 Dissatisfaction expressed by members of the Ballaghderreen club at the branch secretary not being notified in time for the sub-executive meeting in Castlerea, so there was no chance given to send delegates to the meeting. Felt it was not representative: '... can be described as an arrangement to dispose of our branch candidate' who was selected and ratified at a provisional meeting of the Ballaghderreen branch (32); extract from minutes of the meeting (33); notice of Fine Gael youth group meeting with the aim of energising the youth vote in the presidential election (20); arrangements for the reception of T.F. O'Higgins, Fine Gael presidential candidate to the constituency (18, 19). 38 items
- 7** 1967 Circulars calling meetings for the selection of candidates for the local elections and the establishment of youth groups; request for speaker to attend the Connaught Muintir na Tíre development week, to speak on the subject of 'The West in the E.E.C.' (2). 33 items
- 8** 1968 Planning of fund-raising events for the campaign against the abolition of proportional representation; organisation of dances and raffles to get contributions for the referendum fund. Notice of a convention to organise the referendum campaign in the constituency (72); circulars calling for subscriptions to the 'intensive effort in the fight to retain P.R. and ensure equal voting rights for all' (54; 61); letters from Deputy Joan Burke to the *Roscommon Champion* and *Roscommon Herald* thanking all those who wished her well during her illness and who worked in the referendum campaign (38, 39); newsletter from Liam Cosgrave, President of Fine Gael to all branches, thanking them for great work in the referendum campaign (28, 29); request from Joan Burke T.D. to have publicity photographs done for television and press (74);

- 8 contd** arrangements for Mary Leigh Doyle, researcher, to do an interview with Joan Burke at Leinster House (87).  
113 items
- 9** 1969 Preparation for the general election; Commandant James W. Sanfey, general secretary, sends a summary of the main points in the party's social welfare policy to Joan Burke T.D., saying it was 'well received by the press as being a very definite step towards remedying many of the social evils'. Policy elements are to be introduced over four years and cover: old age pensions, children's allowance, unemployment, deserted wives, widows, care of the elderly, health, housing and general issues (212); letters from the general public on social problems, recommending that Fine Gael rectify, them if they came into power (127; 151-153; 164) letters from Deputy Joan Burke to the *Roscommon Herald* and *Roscommon Champion* complaining about the abolition of county hospitals in favour of regionalisation: 'Roscommon town is ideally situated to serve not only ... the county but other adjacent areas' (169).  
Report by Oliver J. Flanagan T.D. on a public meeting in Athlone concerning the transfer of portions of County Westmeath to the constituency of Roscommon (172); circular to each Fine Gael councillor in County Roscommon concerning the forthcoming appointment of rate collectors, saying it is a matter for Fine Gael county councillors in the area and when a decision is enacted by the Fine Gael councillors as a group on any public matter, each councillor is bound to implement the majority decision, 'This is in accordance with the terms of the party pledge signed by each member' (163; 200). Text of speeches by Deputy Joan Burke during the election campaign (123, 124); spoke on 16 February of 'deliberate butchering of the constituency with the re-organisation of constituencies' (202). Letters of appreciation to the national papers, Deputy Burke thanks constituents in the Roscommon-Leitrim constituency for re-electing her and those who worked so hard on her behalf (118); detailed account of the breakdown of votes in the constituency (82-89); drafts of Dáil questions put by Deputy Burke to various Ministers concerning the level of unemployment in the constituency (190); the importation of wallpaper (215) 'if the minister for Education will extend the school bus service' (77); extension of the water system (75); plans for the future of the Roscommon county hospital (79); question of nurses pensions for those who retired prior to 1962 (42).  
222 items

- 10** 1970 Dáil questions on a variety of issues put by Deputy Joan Burke to different Ministers concerning the provision of swimming pools at Roscommon town, Boyle and Strokestown (136); extension of the sewerage scheme for Roscommon town, what the delay is in sanctioning the scheme (179); is the Minister for Health aware of the growing shortage of nurses leading to a reduction in bed capacity (181); concern over the closure of the 'Vidor' firm in Roscommon and what steps are being taken to create new employment (195); questions concerning health and nursing services, facilities, tutoring and payment (210-215); corresponding ministerial replies to all questions. Photocopy of article entitled *Senatorial Slur* concerning allegations made by Senator John Kelly that only Fianna Fáil supporters can get jobs on the roads. It was felt it was a slur on all county councils in Ireland and an apology was demanded (230); letter to Brian Lenihan, Minister for Transport and Power from Deputy Burke asking for his support in petitioning the Minister for Health to increase the bed complement in the Roscommon county hospital (206); series of speeches (258-280) by Deputy Burke on women's issues especially in the area of employment (278); organisation of the constituency because of the possibility of a general election looming. Burke speaks of the gerrymandering that took place in the last election and states that 'Fine Gael are the only party to offer stable government' (277); speech to workers at the Vidor factory (275, 276); speech on the most 'treacherous' and 'irresponsible' budget which doubled the turnover tax (272, 273). 280 items
- 11** 1971 Arrangements for the collection of the constituency levy. Dáil questions put by Deputy Joan Burke, Roscommon-Leitrim representative, asking Ministers what actions they are taking with regard to: the lack of institutional care for mentally handicapped children in County Roscommon; the delay by the Land Commission in taking over land belonging to the Mercy Order in Roscommon (167-169); questions relating to industrial development plans for County Roscommon and the expansion of existing industries (175); letter to Liam Cosgrave from Luke Cunniffe, secretary of the constituency executive, registering his protest. Cunniffe says: 'I take a very dim view of anyone who lends himself to be the mouthpiece of any unscrupulous politicians, thereby resowing the seeds of dissension and discord which have been part and parcel of the political scene in Boyle and South Leitrim area for some time', referring to Cosgrave's statement that the candidate in the next general election must be from Boyle (106); series of speeches by Deputy Burke concerning: women in politics (195-199); putting the Fine Gael party in office at the first opportunity and in the meantime keeping the organisation 'on its toes' (183); integration of those confined to

- 9 contd** wheelchairs into the community (36, 37) and on the 'disedifying scenes' at the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis which reflect the splits and disagreements within the government (152); organisation for the establishment of a constituency executive for Roscommon-Leitrim (213-250). 250 items
- 12** 1972 Organisation of meetings to prepare for the referenda on the three amendments to the constitution, on the removal of Article 44 giving a special position to the Catholic church in the constitution, reducing the age limit for voting from twenty-one to eighteen years of age and the referendum on Ireland's accession to the E.E.C. Organisation of the constituency to plan the referendum campaigns; letters concerning motions of confidence passed by district executives in Liam Cosgrave T.D., president of Fine Gael (10-12); letter from Richie Ryan T.D. to Cosgrave saying that when he agreed to participate in a symposium in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, he did not know the I.R.A. chief was also being invited: 'This whole matter is so serious that I feel a firm directive should be issued from the Oireachtas and/or the National Executive to decline to participate in public debates with people who repudiate the state' (173); Dáil question put by Deputy Joan Burke, representative of the Roscommon-Leitrim constituency asking the Minister for Health to give an assurance that the Roscommon county hospital would be upgraded and surgical facilities be provided; corresponding ministerial reply and extracts from the Dáil debate on the issue (29-31). Speeches by Deputy Burke on the past policies of the Fianna Fáil government, reference to the Arms crisis (62-63; 48-49). 187 items
- 13** 1973 Arrangements for the organisation of the general election campaign in the constituency. Circular calling on Fine Gael voters to attend branch meetings, especially younger voters: 'The suggestions and criticisms of the youth are very much desired by Fine Gael Headquarters, the local branch is the place to voice these' (21-24); publicity material supporting Deputy Joan Burke's re-election (108); letters of congratulation on Liam Cosgrave's election as Taoiseach; Jim Dwyer, treasurer of Roscommon constituency executive, in a letter to the general secretary, expresses his hope that Cosgrave will select Joan Burke for a cabinet position in his new government: 'it would not only be a tribute to Roscommon but to the women of Ireland (100-103); F. Gerard Gannon, Fine Gael branch member, attributes the disappointing result of the presidential election to a lack of organisation in the constituency (58-59). 151 items

- 14** 1974 Re-organisation and re-activation of branches in the constituency; representations from P.J. Reynolds T.D. for Roscommon-Leitrim, for a neighbour, seeking employment for her in headquarters (120); congratulations to Councillor Gerry Dodd from Senator James Sanfey on his election as chairman of the Boyle town commissioners (39).  
128 items
- 15** 1975 Controversy over the appointment of the postmistress in Strokestown; petition sent to each minister expressing disappointment that their candidate, a Fine Gael supporter, was not selected; felt it was 'political suicide' (198); Luke Cunniffe, chairman of the Strokestown district executive in a letter to Senator Sanfey, general secretary, feels the appointment runs contrary to a 'just society' (184, 185); Cunniffe wants Deputy Joan Burke to resign from the party in protest; Conor Cruise O'Brien, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs sends a report on the 'Strokestown incident' to Liam Cosgrave, Taoiseach (188) Letter of protest on the Strokestown post office affair to Cosgrave from Anthony Towey, on behalf of the Castlerea area; feels it is a disgrace to the party (182-192); Luke Cunniffe in a letter to Cosgrave, feels Cosgrave stood idly by and let it happen (175-199); concerning plans for the re-organisation of the constituency, Cunniffe feels it is unnecessary (129). P.J. Reynolds T.D. requests that Michael Lynch, national organiser, work in South Leitrim and North Roscommon (128); James White, chairman of the county executive, takes exception to not being informed of Lynch's coming to the constituency (120, 121); Senator Sanfey, general secretary, instructs Lynch to operate in the Leitrim portion of the constituency and in the area north of Boyle (15); text of a speech by Deputy Joan Burke at the Annual Dinner of the Irish Widows' Association in Athlone. Speaks of the attitude of newspapers and the way they refer to most women in Dáil Éireann as widows or daughters of politicians. She is not ashamed of it, is happy to be a member of the party which, while in government, has 'done everything humanly possible not only for widows but for deserted wives and all those classes who need the special consideration of the community' (173-174). 238 items



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## **SLIGO-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75**

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<b>II.</b>	<b>LEITRIM, 1954-69</b>	<b>266</b>
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In 1935 the two counties of Sligo and Leitrim, which had formed a seven seat constituency since 1923, were divided into two constituencies, each returning three members. In 1947 the two counties were re-united to form a single five seat electoral unit.

In the 1961 reorganisation, part of Leitrim was included in the Roscommon constituency (*q.v.*), the rest remaining in a four seat Sligo-Leitrim.

In 1969 Leitrim was further subdivided, portions included in Donegal-Leitrim (*q.v.*), Roscommon-Leitrim (*q.v.*), and Sligo-Leitrim, each returning three members.

In 1974 Sligo, part of Leitrim and part of Donegal formed the three seat constituency of Sligo-Leitrim. The rest of Leitrim and Roscommon formed the three seat constituency of Roscommon-Leitrim.

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## SLIGO-LEITRIM CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from concernings visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

### I. SLIGO, 1954-69

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|---|------|---|
| 1 | 1954 | Report by Michael Lynch, national organiser, on the results of the general election in the constituency. Reports of bad organisation, lack of cooperation between Sligo and Leitrim branches and executives, lack of cooperation between individual candidates, bad publicity, and lack of planning (10-12). Further draft and typescript reports on the general election; report on the director of elections; confidential report on the cause of the loss of a Fine Gael seat in South Leitrim; confidential report on the county secretary (15-24). Letter from E.D. Gallagher, branch secretary, making representations on behalf of a colleague for the position of rate collector in the district of Tubbercurry and Ballymote (9). List of Fine Gael T.D.s county councillors, officers of county executives, and district executives in Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim and South Donegal in the context of invitations issued to the Sligo county executive dance (73-77). Text of a speech by John A. Costello T.D. on the election campaign, concerning the benefits to be gained from an inter-party government and the benefits of co-operative farming (81-85).<br>85 items |
|---|------|---|

- 2** 1955 Unsigned letter to General Mulcahy, Minister for Education, on the Fine Gael councillors in county Sligo. Author speaks of bribery in the county councils and recommends that a different set of men be appointed to the council (76, 77). Complaints concerning a postman with the Charlestown, county Mayo, sub-post office, believed to be a Fianna Fail 'henchman', concerning allegations that he withheld Fine Gael electioneering literature. Details of subsequent investigations by the Minister for Post and Telegraphs (14-24). Enquiry concerning the girls national school in Curry, county Sligo, and details of the Minister for Education's investigation into the matter (9-12). Report from Sean MacEoin, Minister for Defence, concerning the county convention of the 30<sup>th</sup> April which dealt with the selection of candidates for the forthcoming local elections, and the Land Commission and bovine tuberculosis scheme in county Sligo (38). Personal and confidential report to Eugene Gilhawley, M.M.C. on the poor state of party organisation in Sligo (49-51).  
79 items
- 3** 1956 Letter to Patrick J. Lindsay T.D., parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Education and the Gaeltacht, with regard to his presiding at the Sligo constituency executive a.g.m. Colonel P.F. Dineen, general secretary of Fine Gael, asks him to refer in his address to the necessity for all Fine Gael councillors to 'sit, act and vote in the council in such a way as to secure Fine Gael interests, and support the Fine Gael candidate'. Dineen refers to previous experiences where Fine Gael members of council, 'voted every possible way except all together as one' (16). Speech by Dineen for Joseph Roddy T.D., praising the contribution of Forás Cosanta Áitúla, the voluntary reserve force, to the history of the state and congratulates them on their self-sacrifice and devotion(11).  
42 items
- 4** 1957 Returns for Sligo polling stations arranged in tabular form, detailing candidates and polling stations (43-61). Michael Lynch, national organiser, says Joseph Roddy T.D. lost his vote in Sligo town and parts of North Sligo (42). Letter to Colonel P.F. Dineen, general secretary of Fine Gael from Michael Lynch, national organiser, says he feels the time is not right to admit Alderman Foley, independent county councillor, into the organisation as it would create 'splits' and 'spleens' (27). Details of Lynch's decision to divide North Sligo into two area executives (26). Report by Michael Lynch on the low state of morale in county Sligo, under the headings: canvassing, public meetings and finance (64-65).  
71 items



- 9**                    1962                    Material relating to problems among Fine Gael members of the county council. Reports on how to deal with the misconduct of the councillors. Concern expressed by James Dillon, president of Fine Gael concerning personal vendettas and divisions among Fine Gael members of the county council generating unfavourable publicity in local newspapers, and creating circumstances in which loyal councillors were threatening to resign. Details of allegations concerning one particular councillor who it was believed was at the root of the trouble (25-28; 37-53).  
70 items
- 10**                    1963                    Efforts by Colonel P.F. Dineen, general secretary, to ensure that a Sligo county council seat made vacant in March would be filled by a Fine Gael candidate (80-91). Letter to Eugene Gilhawley, T.D., from Dineen on the subject of the vacancy on Sligo county council: 'I'd be thankful if you would make sure that there will be no hanky-panky' concerning the selection of a candidate (86). Circular to every Fine Gael councillor to ensure that three vacancies for rate collectors with Sligo county council would be filled by members of the party. Report by Michael Lynch, national organiser on the Sligo county executive meeting held in February to select the three candidates for the vacancies for rate collectors. Details of a physical confrontation between two councillors with the meeting ending in a row: 'something must be done to stop this blackguardism or the Party will be ruined in this country' (28, 29). Newspaper cutting: from the *Sligo Champion* entitled 'County councillor alleges that votes were bought' (31); from the *Western People* article entitled 'Rate payers have lost confidence in council says member' (32). Letter from Lynch to Dineen, says he believes money did change hands with regard to the appointment of rate collectors in Sligo (33, 34).  
96 items
- 11**                    1964                    9 items
- 12**                    1965                    Letter to Colonel P.F. Dineen, from Thomas R. McGoldrick, honorary secretary of the Ballincar branch asking that a certain alderman be suspended from the party as he was causing ill-feeling and creating trouble in county Sligo (16).  
21 items

- 13** 1966 Notice to the effect that Sligo county council has a majority of Fine Gael members but many elected under the Fine Gael name do not vote along party lines (8-10). Letter of criticism from Patrick O'Neill, secretary of the Dromore branch to Colonel P.F. Dineen, general secretary, criticising a Fine Gael county council member claiming he supported Fianna Fáil council appointments; requests inquiry into his activities (42-44). 46 items
- 14** 1967 Extract from national council minutes containing a resolution concerning the obligation of all county and constituency executives to raise funds and keep proper accounts (32). Circular to every constituency secretary and treasurer informing them of same (30). 73 items
- 15** 1968 Query from the North Sligo executive concerning the procedure to be adopted by Fine Gael councillors in connection with the appointment of rate collectors (18). Resulting memorandum from the Sligo county executive meeting in October which stated that each Fine Gael councillor vote for the Fine Gael nominee for co-option to the council and vote for the Fine Gael candidate as rate collector. If not the privilege of membership of the party would be withdrawn under section 29 of the constitution and rules of Fine Gael (1). Arrangements for the campaign against abolition of proportional representation; speakers for meetings; debates; organisation of transport. 110 items
- 16** 1969 Circular to every Fine Gael county councillor in county Sligo concerning the resolution passed by the standing committee at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1968, that Fine Gael councillors should meet before council meetings to formulate decisions on particular issue and that each councillor is bound to implement the majority decision (10). 32 items



- 20** 1957 Reports from Michael Lynch, national organiser to Colonel P.F. Dineen Fine Gael general secretary, on the organisation in the county in the lead-up to the election; reports in the aftermath of the general election that the problem lay in the poor organisational structure in the north-eastern areas of Leitrim, where few polling booths were manned and social problems such as emigration and unemployment made people feel they had been let down by Fine Gael deputies (69). Lynch subsequently began the re-organisation of North Leitrim. Letter to P.J. Reynolds T.D. from Dineen concerning the appointment of a state solicitor for Leitrim, explaining it is a matter for the Attorney General and he is not bound to consult the government (80). Letter from the South Leitrim executive to Dineen expressing their resentment, and that of 'every active member of Fine Gael' at the lack of consideration shown prominent Fine Gael supporters by the inter-party government in making appointments, and the mishandling of the Carrick on Shannon hospital issue by the Minister for Health which forced Fine Gael county councillors to go against the wishes of the Leitrim constituents with detrimental results for the party (10). Dissatisfaction with the Minister for Health's decision with regard to the Cottage Hospital in Ballyshannon was reiterated in Lynch's report concerning the Leitrim county convention (3).  
77 items
- 21** 1958 8 items
- 22** 1959 6 items
- 23** 1960 File not present
- 24** 1961 Letter to Joseph McLaughlin T.D. from Colonel P.F. Dineen requesting him to make the acquaintance of all those who helped him win a Dáil seat in the bye-election; thank them and make preparation for the general election (30). Analysis of voting in the 1961 election for the Sligo-Leitrim constituency (8). Details in tabular form of money acquired each year between 1950 and 1960 in ordinary collections and national collections (9). Report by Michael Lynch, national organiser, concerning the Leitrim county convention where Joe McLaughlin T.D. and Mary Reynolds were proposed and seconded; and Reynolds withdrew with the announcement of her retirement at the end of the present Dáil (6).  
33 items





- 34** 1971 Copies of Dáil questions from Joe McLaughlin T.D.; asks the Minister for Local Government when sanction will be given to Leitrim county council for the erection of four old people's homes in Dromahair, county Leitrim and twenty-five pre-fabricated houses in the county (42); asks the Minister for Lands how many small holdings were taken over by the Land Commission 1968-70, and how they've been re-allocated (44). Subsequent ministerial replies to both questions. Report to Joe McLaughlin on the Sligo county convention praising Lynch on his work on re-organising the constituency. Finds it edifying to see the 'fine types of manhood and womanhood who come to branch meetings' (28-30). Circular to all executives and branches from Sanfey informing them of a special committee to organise commemorative stamps for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Treaty (22). Details of non-Fine Gael members of Sligo county council who vote with Fine Gael in the council (13).  
52 items
- 35** 1972 Letter to Sanfey from Michael Murphy, vice-president of the Sligo Junior Chamber of Commerce, informing him of public debate organised by the group on entry into the E.E.C. Murphy believes a public airing on the issue is vital at local level; asks for a speaker from Fine Gael to represent the pro-E.E.C. side (75). List of Leitrim county councillors and Finance Committee members (55). Material concerning the collection of the constituency levy. Report by Michael Lynch, national organiser for Fine Gael, on one Fine Gael councillor who was not agreeable to having 25% of the collection taken up from branches in the Ballymote electoral district, yet does agree that the levy should be paid (42, 43). Letter from Lynch concerning the constituency finance committee for Sligo and new arrangements for the levy; Lynch feels the councillor, who has problems with payment for the Ballymote area has a 'chip on his shoulders in not being elected to contest the last Senate elections' (40, 41). Details of meetings for the re-organisation of the South Leitrim district executive (17, 18). Letter to Joe McLaughlin T.D., from the Department of Local Government informing him of grant allocations for the local improvement scheme in counties Sligo and Leitrim (4). Letters of resignation from anti-E.E.C. members of the party in the constituency (2; 21).  
93 items
- 36** 1972 File concerning *The Formation of Sligo-Leitrim Constituency executive*. Letter from James W. Sanfey, general secretary of Fine Gael, saying he was directed by the National executive to call a meeting in the constituency for the establishment of a constituency executive in accordance with rule 21 of the

- 36 contd** constitution and rules of the Fine Gael party (32). Material relating to the organisation of the constituency in preparation for a constituency executive. List of those who received delegate cards to the convention (2-5). 33 items
- 37** 1973 Notice of Sligo-Leitrim constituency convention (29). Letter from James Wrynn requesting a copy of the policy document *Winning Through to a Just Society* on behalf of his daughter (4). 33 items
- 38** 1974 Circular letter canvassing votes. Party welcomes the opinion and criticisms of youth. Fine Gael wants the ideas of all sections of the community to guide them and the local branch is the place to voice them (55). Letter to Eugene Gilhawley M.C.C., from James Sanfey, general secretary, in connection with speculation in *The Sligo Champion* regarding Fine Gael's strength in the new county council. Sanfey wants Gilhawley to take personal charge of the committee to allocate appointments and 'secure the best interests of the party' (25). Letter of appreciation from Liam Cosgrave, on the late Mary Reynolds, a former T.D. for Sligo, retired 1961: 'She devoted herself particularly to the problems and difficulties of the poorer sections of the community' (16). 57 items
- 39** 1974 Letter from Michael Lynch, national organiser, asking James W. Sanfey, general secretary to arrange a meeting between Sidney Gallagher T.C., and the Taoiseach, Liam Cosgrave. Lynch says they are already acquainted (17). Letter to Sanfey from Senator J.J. McCartin, member of the party committee on foreign affairs, requesting a meeting with regard to the Northern Ireland problem and to encourage cross border co-operation (6). 27 items



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## **TIPPERARY NORTH CONSTITUENCY, 1954–75**

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In the period 1923–47, the two administrative counties of Tipperary North and South Riding formed a single seven seat constituency. In the constituency revision of 1947 each of the Ridings became a separate constituency, North having three seats and South four.

Further revisions in 1961, 1969 and 1974 saw parts of Tipperary South included in the North Tipperary constituency.

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## TIPPERARY NORTH CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

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| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Notice of a meeting in Roscrea to discuss the reorganisation of branches (22); material relating to the selection of the party candidates for the forthcoming general election (7-9), and to the election campaign in the constituency (11-13).<br>22 items   |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Lists of branches in 1954 and 1955; letter from Jerry Ryan, chairman of Littleton branch, to Col Dineen, party general secretary, commenting on the lack of morale in the constituency, the resignation of the secretary, and the level of debt: 'things, politically, are bad here since the election. There has been a lot of bickering over results' (7, 8); reports by Michael Lynch, national organiser, on meetings of district executives, and lists of branch officers (17-23).<br>28 items |

- 3** 1956 List of affiliated branches for 1953,1954,1955 and at March 1956 (25); list of the national collection returns for North Tipperary in 1953 and 1954 (26); schema of organisation of North Tipperary in 1953 (3-10); report on the convention held on 11 March 1956 in Nenagh, including grievances felt by the area due to the alleged neglect of their T.D. (Dan Morrissey) and his reply to the accusations made against him; letter to Dineen from Richard Tobin, honorary secretary for North Tipperary, asking him to get in touch with Dan Morrissey to see if he is attending the convention 'as things are at a pretty low ebb here' (22-24); letter to Dineen from Michael Lynch giving a list of candidates for the next election and brief comments on them (27, 28); report on a meeting of the Borrisokane branch on 14 December 1956; reports from Michael Lynch. 37 items
- 4** 1957 Newspaper cutting containing a report on the Borrisokane executive meeting (3); letter to Dineen from James Blake, chairman of Moyne branch, expressing his disappointment at the results of the general election, and enclosing a list of the names and addresses of the committee; letter from Pat Cleary, secretary of North Tipperary constituency executive, to Dineen, enclosing a list of names and addresses of the committees in the districts (10-28); notice of the annual convention for North Tipperary (36); report on the convention from Michael Lynch, enclosing a list of meetings in the districts (29-35); letter to Dineen from John Ryan expressing his views on why Fine Gael lost the election: 'the Irish people are sick and tired of politics and elections and they long for stability'. He gives reasons why they were elected in 1954 and why they failed once they were in government, and his view on what needs to be done in the future. At the moment they have 'a policy of squandermania' (39-42); letter in reply to John Ryan from Dineen stating the manner in which Fianna Fáil won the election and listing many of the beneficial schemes Fine Gael implemented while in government. 45 items
- 5** 1958 Schema of organisation of North Tipperary as at July 1958 (72-83), and as at 7 October 1957 (54-60); organisation of the Thurles district, giving the electoral areas and the amount of votes in each (90-93); list of those people who worked in the polling districts of Nenagh in the general election (94-107); list of secretaries for the branches in North Tipperary (40-49; 62-67); report of a meeting of North Tipperary executive on 29 August 1958, including a motion to expel an officer, stating the reasons for dissatisfaction with him (29-31); letter to

- 5 contd** Lynch asking him to collect funds as soon as possible, as money is needed most urgently (11); organisation of Roscrea, arrangements for meetings and the attendance of Michael Lynch and Oliver Flanagan at these (18-27); letter to Dineen concerning the need for a firm policy of retrenchment on taxation and budgets; letter to Dineen from Senator Gerry L'Estrange referring to an article in the *Nenagh Guardian* in late February which gave a verbatim report of the Fianna Fáil convention for North Tipperary, 'There you have criticisms from their own people more violent than Fine Gael's criticisms'.  
107 items
- 6** 1959 List of Roscrea supporters and subscribers (14, 15); report on a meeting in Nenagh on 5 May 1959 and Borrisokane on 4 May 1959 (19-20); report of the North Tipperary constituency executive meeting including the appointment of Edmond McGrath as director of elections and legal (23, 24); letter to Dineen from Tom Larkin, Chairman of Roscrea branch, requesting him to send Deputies Dillon and Flanagan to their meeting 'as it is very dead around here' (13-16); letter to Dineen from John Ryan expressing his regret at the resignation of General Richard Mulcahy, and his views on the need for new blood in the party (8-12); extract from a letter from Lynch to Dineen concerning the meeting of Thurles district executive to consider the constitutional referendum on proportional representation (25); note to Dineen concerning the position of the Templemore branch: 'it was never so low' and it needs 'vigourous reorganisation'; report to Dineen from Michael Lynch informing him of the possibility of a new branch being established in the constituency at Cloughjordan; letter to Dineen from James Costelloe, Cloughjordan, informing him of his efforts to set up a branch in this area (30, 31).  
32 items
- 7** [1960] File not present
- 8** 1961 Notice of a meeting in Templemore, which Gerry L'Estrange will attend (3-6); letter to Dan Morrissey from Dineen concerning the position of Nenagh: 'The town of Nenagh is very slack' (12); list of church gate and house to house calls for collections arranged for North Tipperary, with comments on the areas and the need for rallies (13-16); list of subscribers for Stolycross branch.  
29 items





- 18** 1971 Letter from Billy Crowe, Thurles, to Sanfey, asking for a copy of John A. Costelloe's speech at the Ard Fheis (1, 2); notice from Pat Cleary, secretary of North Tipperary executive committee, to all branches appealing for subscriptions as they are 'entirely dependent on voluntary subscriptions to fight our election campaigns' (7-9). 22 items
- 19** 1972 List of affiliated branches as at 6 March 1972 (36); notice of the annual dinner dance to be held in the Ormond Hotel, Nenagh, on 2 December 1972, where Liam Cosgrave will speak (1-9); request for a leading spokesperson to attend a meeting in Roscrea; notice of Roscrea meeting on 27 November 1972, Deputy Patrick Cooney will attend; notice of a special convention in the Hibernian Hotel, Nenagh on 1 May 1972 to discuss the E.E.C. campaign (21, 22); letter to Peter Denny, honorary secretary of Templemore branch, from Sanfey, answering his query on the magazine *Fine Gael Two*, which was first published by the Oireachtas party in 1971; letter to Sanfey from Pat Tully concerning the issuing of ballot papers at the Ard Fheis, claiming that they were not even asked for this passes (33, 34); letter to Sanfey from William Corbett, chairman of Drombane branch, concerning the position of the branch: 'This branch is in a very healthy condition and the area is very capably represented by John Dunne T.D., whose popularity remains undisputed' (37); letter to Sanfey from Pat Cleary asking for a list of subscribers in the area, which cannot be provided as the subscribers are promised total anonymity; schema of organisation of North Tipperary constituency executive, Roscrea district executive, Borrisokane district executive, and Nenagh district executive (28). 41 items
- 20** 1973 Letter to William Crowe from Sanfey concerning the difficulties of getting Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries to attend branch meetings (1, 2); request from Austin Sheahan for a biography of Costello (3-6); letter to Crowe from Sanfey informing him that the Minister for Education will be a little late for the meeting as he must stop off at Rockwell College to present prizes (20-35); letter to Peter Denny from Sanfey informing him that Dr Garrett FitzGerald will not be able to attend their dinner dance (49-51); letter from William Corbett to Dineen on the position of the constituency; with Tom Dunne at their head they should 'win a large majority for T.F. O'Higgins and thereby make amends for our disgraceful showing in the last Presidential Election due to the complete lack of effort ...' (43). 62 items

- 21** 1974 Copy of the brochure *Members 300 Club*, which was officially launched on 6 December 1974 in the presence of Patrick Donegan, Minister for Defence (1-3); letter to Ailbe Allen, chairman of Templemore branch, informing him that there had been purposely no publicity for the regional conference and that the Taoiseach was late because he had to deal with the milk dispute in Cork (12, 13); request from Crowe for information on the *National Observer*, a monthly journal published by Fine Gael in 1958 (20, 21); letter to Sanfey informing him of the re-activation of the Aglish branch (15); list of the names and addresses of the Thurles Urban District Council as at 2 July 1974; letter to Donal Creed from Sanfey asking him to attend a dinner dance in Roscrea/Templemore on 1 February 1974 (59). 71 items
- 22** 1975 Requests for posters; letter to William Crowe from Sanfey informing him that no decision has yet been made on a women's conference, and giving him the details of the Ard Fheis on 15 and 16 May 1975 in the Seapoint Ballroom, Galway (1-3); schema of organisation of North Tipperary as at July 1969 (25, 26); notice of the women's conference to be held on 19 October 1975 in Waterford (6-9); letter to Austin Sheahan from Sanfey concerning money collected at church gates; there is no rule concerning payment to headquarters, and payment to constituency executives varies (18, 19). 44 items



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## **TIPPERARY SOUTH CONSTITUENCY, 1954–75**

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In the period 1923–47, the two administrative counties of Tipperary North and South Riding formed a single seven seat constituency. In the constituency revision of 1947 each of the Ridings became a separate constituency, North having three seats and South four.

Further revisions in 1961, 1969 and 1974 saw parts of Tipperary South included in the North Tipperary constituency.

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## TIPPERARY SOUTH CONSTITUENCY, 1954-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

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| <b>1</b> | 1954 | Lists of officers of Ballingarry (13, 14) and Clonmel (1, 2) branches; letter from Col Dineen to John Shee, chairman, Clonmel branch, pointing out the confusion arising from having two branches called New Inn, one in Cashel, the other in Cahir (3, 4).<br><br>18 items                                    |
| <b>2</b> | 1955 | Cuttings from the <i>Kilkenny People</i> on branch elections in Ballingarry (8); material concerning local election results in the Ballingarry electoral area and party successes (3, 4); letter to Col Dineen on the postponement of a meeting in Clonmel, the hall not being available (11).<br><br>13 items |
| <b>3</b> | 1956 | Schema of organisation of South Tipperary in June 1948 (19-30) and July 1956 (8-18); list of secretaries of South Tipperary branches (33); notice to all branch secretaries reminding them of their affiliation fees (32); letter to General Richard   |

Mulcahy T.D., Minister for Education, concerning the organisation in the Lattin area (36-39); letter to Dineen from Philip Thornton, chairman of Ballyheen, informing him that the national collection has not been held yet due to illness; letter to Dineen from Jim O'Dwyer reporting on the annual general meeting of the Clonmel branch, where the collection was down on previous years 'due to the absense of political activity' in the area as there is no district executive in Clonmel (6). 43 items

- 4** 1957 Organisation of South Tipperary in July 1956 (27-33) and 11 September 1957 (13-26); letter sent to all branches concerning the drafting of a new register and instructing them on the details that need to be noted and who is eligible to be placed on the register (3, 4); letter to Jim O'Dwyer from Dineen enclosing a list of names and addresses taken from the cards at the Ard Fheis on 29 September 1957 (6-10); letter to O'Dwyer from Dineen concerning the re-establishment of the Cullen branch (51-53); letter to Dineen from O'Dwyer informing him of the election of Sugeon Hogan to the National Council (11); letter to Dineen from Richard Mulcahy reporting on a meeting held of all eight districts, at which it was decided to set up a fully responsible executive for the constituency as a whole (37-45). 60 items
- 5** 1958 List of officers of Clonmel branch elected on 5 April 1958; list of affiliated branches in 1957 and 1958; national collection totals, detailing each branch's contribution, and the final total for the years 1953-56 (45); memo of a meeting of South Tipperary constituency executive on 28 March 1958, enclosing a list of meetings of the district executives (21-25); report of the constituency executive special district meeting, including a list of South Tipperary district delegates and the districts 'key-men' (26-44); letter to all branches on the forthcoming referendum on proportional representation, detailing the means by which the branches should canvas to defeat the motion and requesting a list be made of people in the areas who are known to be reliable active supporters of Fine Gael (2-4). 55 items
- 6** 1959 Newspaper cuttings; list of affiliated branches in Offaly in November 1959 (8); letter to Dineen from Patrick O'Connor, chairman of Clonmel branch, informing him of the resignation of their secretary, James McCormack (9,10); correspondence concerning the re-organisation of

- 6 contd** Ballypatrick branch; letter from Mulcahy reporting on a meeting in Cashel on 20 November 1959; letter from David Carroll to Dineen explaining that he is no longer chairman of the Ballypatrick branch, and has in fact been a member of Sinn Fein for two years (14, 15); letter to Dineen from Surgeon Hogan stating his opinion that the appointment of an organiser/collector would be a good solution to the problem of the collection of money in branches (17-21).  
31 items
- 7** 1960 File not present
- 8** 1961 Letter to Dineen from Agnes O'Shea, chairman of Lismore branch, concerning the re-organisation of the branch (10-12); notice of the South Tipperary/West Waterford convention in Clonmel on 26 June 1961 (14); list of Waterford polling districts transferred to South Tipperary as a result of constituency boundary revision (15); invitation to William Foran M.C.C., to attend a meeting in Cappoquin on 8 May 1961, to discuss the transfer of districts (20-23); letter to Con Carroll, secretary for Killenaule branch, from Dineen, informing him of the names of chairmen and secretaries of Rathcormack and Fermoy branches (32, 33). 33 items
- 9** 1962 List of officers of Cappoquin executive and Tournameena as at 10 May 1961 (17); letter to Dineen from the Drangan branch informing him of the change in secretary from John Clancy, who held the post for 19 years, to James O'Dwyer (5, 6).  
22 items
- 10** 1963 Organisation of South Tipperary as at 11 July 1957 (24-36); organisation of South Tipperary/West Waterford constituency as at 27 August 1963 (10-24); officers of Clonmel and Bansha branches (4); report of O'Dwyer on the meetings at Clonmel and Bansha which were being re-organised; letter to Dineen from Sean [Henehan], secretary for Fethard district, informing him of his resignation from the Fine Gael party due to the remarks made by James Dillon about the selling of property to the Germans and other continentals, which has been [Henehan's] livelihood for many years (45).  
45 items



- 15** 1968 List of affiliated and non-affiliated branches in South Tipperary in September 1968 (24-26); notice of the annual general meeting of Ballingarry branch; letter to Surgeon Hogan concerning the state of finances in the constituency and suggesting better methods of keeping records (35-42); request from T.P. O'Meara, Cahir, for photographs of Michael Collins, of which there are only two, one where he is in uniform and the other in 'mufti' and are the property of the organisation (47, 48); letter to Dineen from Kevin Fennessey, Clonmel referring to the enclosed newspaper article from the *Sunday Mirror* on 7 April 1968, concerning Frank Aiken's speech on the pattern of emigration, the shrinkage of American industry in Limerick and the Vietnam War, communism and its effect on Ireland (50-52); letter to Dineen from Brendan Griffin concerning the national collection and the state of Irish politics in general (64-66). 72 items
- 16** 1969 Requests for copies of the party's policies; list of affiliated branches in January 1969 (84); notice of Touraneena branch annual social; notice of general election convention on 29 April 1969 (15-21); organisation of South Tipperary in 1965 (54-66) and March 1969 (22-45); notice of a new branch and its officers, Kilross; letter to all branches stating that the draft register for 1970-71 has been prepared and detailing who should receive copies and where it should be displayed (1, 2); notice to all branches of Liam Cosgrave's decision to appoint Surgeon Hogan to the front bench as Shadow Minister for Local Government, replacing Oliver Flanagan, who recently retired, and giving a short history of Hogan's career so far (7); letter to Surgeon Hogan from Dineen giving information on those branches affiliated for the year and for 1968, and informing him when the affiliation year and levy year begins (88-92); series of letters concerning the re-organisation of Knockanore branch (49-53). 92 items
- 17** 1970 Notice concerning the draft register for 1970/1971 informing the branches of what needs to be done (1); letter of congratulations to Sanfey from Liam Cosgrave for his work in the bye-elections (2-6); letter to Hogan from L'Estrange concerning the problems of circulation of the party's magazine (8); letter to Hogan from Donal Creed warning him of a possible attempt to blow up the Collins memorial at Béal na Bláth (14-16); letter from Brendan Griffin to Dineen enclosing a newspaper cutting from the *Sunday Mirror* entitled 'Britain's Tax Agency', 1 March 1970, which he feels may be of use (45-48). 56 items

- 18** 1971 List of affiliated branches in 1970 (69) and February 1971 (30); condolences on the death of General Richard Mulcahy; organisation of South Tipperary/West Waterford constituency as at 2 April 1971 (47-63); reports on the movements of Surgeon Hogan during August and September (22); letter to Donal Creed from John Ryan giving his opinion on the programme. 'The Politicians', in which Deputy Clinton participated. In Ryan's view, he did not argue enough with Minister Colley on the state of agriculture in the country (4-10); letter to Sanfey from Seamus O'Riordan, chairman of Carrick-on-Suir branch, requesting the presence of Deputy FitzGerald or Declan Costelloe at their meeting, as 'our organisation locally needs a really good boost' (11-16); letter to Hogan from Sanfey concerning the eligibility of candidates for the National Executive (17-18). 86 items
- 19** 1972 Requests for copies of party policy documents; list of affiliated and unaffiliated branches as at 3 May 1972 (23, 24); organisation of South Tipperary in January 1969 and April 1972 (30-51); memo on the a.g.m. of Cahir on 3 December 1972, and Clonmel on 4 December 1972 (1, 2); letter of thanks to Brendan Griffin from Sanfey for his vote of confidence in Liam Cosgrave (3, 4); letter from Brendan Griffin to Sanfey enclosing a list of all branch, district executive and constituency executive meetings held in South Tipperary/West Waterford during the year (86, 87); letter to Sanfey from O'Dwyer concerning the state of the districts in South Tipperary and West Waterford (58-78). 91 items
- 20** 1973 Letter to William Crowley from Sanfey informing him of the establishment of a new branch, Darmody; letter from John Buckley to Sanfey concerning his visit with his son to Head Office and his report to the Minister for Education, including comments on the work of the inter-party government (11, 12); letter to Sanfey from the Tullow branch in connection with the possibility of setting up a youth group in the area (15-21). 49 items
- 21** 1974 Lists of affiliated and unaffiliated branches in South Tipperary in February 1974 (93-98); organisation of South Tipperary/West Waterford in December 1972 (19-36) and December 1973 (38-62); letter to John Cooney, Clonmel, from Sanfey informing him that 'no candidate can describe

- 21 contd** himself as Fine Gael unless he received from me a certificate of political affiliation' (68, 69); letter to Sanfey from Patrick Power, Carrick-on-Suir, giving his views on the White Paper on taxation (72-75); letter from John Buckley to Sanfey enclosing a memorandum on current affairs, age of voting, election day practices, peace commissions and the proposed amendments to the instructions for the presidential officers (82-84); letter to Sanfey from Joe Brennan, chairman of Killenaule branch, stating his strong objections to the move of Killenaule branch from South Tipperary to North Tipperary (105-107); letter to Sanfey from Pierce Butler requesting an audience with the Taoiseach 'in private and confidence on the appointment of Chief Executive, Cómhlucht Siúcra Éireann Teo (112-113). 132 items
- 22** 1975 Handwritten schema of organisation of Cashel district in May 1975 (20-28); South Tipperary/West Waterford constituency bye-election organisation scheme, detailing polling districts, voters, booths and various contacts needed (60-82); letter from James Lonergan, a farmer from Cahir, to Sanfey, setting out the inadequacies of the Land Commission as he sees them (5-7); letter to Leonard Meskell, Cashel, informing him of the decision to have two branches in Clonmel due to previously unsatisfactory results (14-16); letter to Sanfey from Hubert Burke, mayor of Clonmel, introducing himself (17). 82 items



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## **WATERFORD CONSTITUENCY, 1954–75**

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Since 1923, County Waterford has constituted a single constituency. The number of deputies returned has varied with the addition of parts of Cork in 1935; their removal in 1947; the transfer of parts of Waterford to South Tipperary in 1961; and their return in 1961. The number has varied between three and four.

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- 3** 1956 Material relating to a report made by Percy Kirwan to Patrick F. Dineen about the dwindling numbers of the Kilmacthomas branch due to the opening of a Young Farmers' Club, whose members will not join Fine Gael as they are a non-political body. Dineen refers the problem to Senator Jack Butler (28-31); material relating to complaints and criticisms made by James Quinlan who says the constituency is very disorganised: 'there is absolutely no organisation worth speaking of, meetings are called in the most haphazard way and nothing of any importance is even discussed' and that 'not one businessman or professional has been in Waterford City branch for at least ten years'. Includes criticism of the bye-election system: 'the election of a girl of twenty one, while taken as good politics is looked on as a dangerous precedent'. (32-36)  
40 items
- 4** 1956-57 Letter from Harold K. Courtenay informing Patrick F. Dineen of A.P. O'Brien's resignation as honorary secretary of B.M. Redmond branch and that Courtenay will replace him (1); affiliation material from the Waterford City branch referring to the dying out of 'Ward branches' (2, 3); material concerning the national collection, referring to the need for funds and that Dungarvan has had the most successful collections over recent years. (4-13)  
22 items
- 5** 1958 Material related to a letter of complaint from Michael Casey, Modeligo branch secretary, concerning the lack of funds and enthusiasm in his area, complaining that Fianna Fáil can successfully arrange meetings in small towns as compared to Fine Gael's efforts. (5-8)  
14 items
- 6** 1959 9 items
- 7** 1960 File not present
- 8** 1961 Request from James Quinlan for a copy of the Agricultural (Eggs) Bill (3); letter from William Thompson, Rathgorman/Windgap branch secretary, to Patrick F. Dineen thanking James J. O'Dwyer, party organiser, for his beneficial work in

- 8 contd** strengthening the organisation of the area (10, 11); material relating to the organisation of Waterford constituency and the first preference votes in the general elections from 1954, including letter to Gerald Sweetman T.D. from Dineen concerning the forthcoming convention and Fianna Fáil's strong position in Waterford (12-20). 24 items
- 9** 1962 10 items
- 10** 1963 Letter from Michael O'Donnell, Social Study Group of Carrick-on-Suir to Patrick F. Dineen requesting lectures on Fine Gael's policy (1-11); request from Theodore Lynch to Dineen for G.A.A. tickets (12-14). 18 items
- 11** 1964 10 items
- 12** 1965 5 items
- 13** 1966 Material related to the establishment of the West Ward branch of Waterford City (5-8); report and related material from James Joseph O'Dwyer to Patrick F. Dineen concerning his reorganisation of Waterford constituency (16-29). 38 items
- 14** 1967 Results from general elections for the Waterford constituency for 1961 and 1966 (8); report by James J. O'Dwyer of a meeting in Tramore summoned to select candidates for the county council (39-40). 55 items
- 15** 1968 Motion from the National Council stating that constituency executives should be consulted before major decisions are taken (18); request from Terence White, honorary secretary of University College Cork Youth branch, for help in obtaining a pass into the Democratic Convention while in Chicago (36, 37); report by Oliver J. Flanagan on the Dungarvan convention, discussing the financial situation of the party

- 15 contd** and the need for levy payments (62-64); material relating to grants for the drainage of land belonging to James and Thomas Corcoran, Coolnaswear branch secretary (71-78).  
83 items
- 16** 1969 Material concerning the confusion felt by Waterford City district executive over the position of delegates to the National Council and whether the scheme of organisation has been ratified (1-3); material relating to a decision by the City executive not to publicise any Fine Gael policies in the *Waterford News & Star* even though Fianna Fáil and Labour promote their own policies in the paper (70, 71); material related to a request for information from J.A. Gaugh on behalf of a friend on the tax implications of having Irish investments in Britain (102-104).  
104 items
- 17** 1970 Letter from Commandant James W. Sanfey, general secretary, to Edward McCarthy, honorary secretary of Waterford city executive, concerning his request for Frank Aylmers services for proposed seminars (23); letter of complaint from Terence White to Sanfey about the apparent lack of democracy at Ard Fheiseanna due to the dismissal of a motion dealing with new rules (35-37).  
83 items
- 18** 1971 Memorandum including extracts from the minutes of National Executive meeting for 28 October (71, 72); resolution from the youth branch concerning the need to emphasise party policies in order to attract younger members (112, 113).  
131 items
- 19** 1972 Letter of congratulations from John C. Ryan to be conveyed to Liam Cosgrave for his work in the Dáil (December 1972) (3-5); material related to problems at the Luggacurren national school over a campaign to use English at the school, including an article in *Hibernia* entitled 'Language Freedom Movement' (14-18); material concerning the involvement of Fine Gael in youth activities and requests from Edward McCarthy for information on projects around the country (60-62).  
68 items





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## **WEXFORD CONSTITUENCY, 1954–75**

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With the exception of relatively minor adjustments in the constituency revisions of 1947 and 1961, the constituency has been coterminus with the administrative county since 1923, and has returned five members.

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| <b>13</b> | 1966 |  | 7 items  |
| <b>14</b> | 1967 | Material involving Anthony Esmonde and Tom Considine, Blackwater, concerning a dispute over the use of the Adamstown national school hall and objections made by the local Fianna Fáil club (22-29).   | 34 items |
| <b>15</b> | 1968 | Letter from Jim Jenkins, Mayor of Wexford, asking Patrick Dineen about the salary of a T.D. and whether it is subject to income tax (1, 2).  | 34 items |
| <b>16</b> | 1969 | Letter to Commandant James W. Sanfey, general secretary, from John Quirke, concerning the raising of funds for the repair of the local church (22); material from the Wexford branch concerning difficulties in the payment of levies, including information on the establishment of a junior branch (25-29).  | 38 items |
| <b>17</b> | 1970 | Congratulations from Wexford constituency executive to Liam Cosgrave on his actions during the crisis in May (27-28); resolution of Wexford district executive concerning Fine Gael's need to 'express forcefully its views and opinions' on the many national problems (51-53); material from Gerard A. Hunt, secretary and director of organisation, concerning the death of Gerard Sweetman T.D. (54-57).   | 61 items |
| <b>18</b> | 1971 | Material concerning the resignation for personal reasons of James, Sean and David Kavanagh, and of B. Webster of the Michael Collins Youth branch (24-29); circular thanking party members for their nomination of Richard Burke, chief whip, as vice-president a nomination he declines (32-34); material concerning questions as to why levies have been raised (35-37); resolutions submitted by Wexford constituency executive for the Ard Fheis concerning proposed reforms in local government (46-48) | 72 items |

- 19** 1972 Note from Major F.B. Boyd of Taghmon, complaining about 'irresponsible party politics' and the failure of the party to support the Anti-Terrorist Bill (1); correspondence between James W. Sanfey and Gerard A. Hunt concerning an invitation sent to Hunt from Wexford Sinn Féin Cumann to a meeting, which Sanfey advises against attending (4-6); correspondence between Sanfey and Robert K. Doyle who complains about not receiving replies to his letters and about allegations made in the *Sunday Independent* that there was Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil collusion in the appointment of rate collectors, as he has been a Fine Gael supporter for many years and finds such actions very disappointing (9, 10); copy of a letter concerning arrangements for Béal na mBláth ceremonies (13); correspondence between Sanfey and Ian English concerning the voting rights of Ennis branch members, reopening to Rule 6 and 7 of the party constitution (17, 18); material informing Wexford town branch that the application fee has been increased from 2 to 3 (31-34).  
42 items
- 20** 1973 Congratulatory note from T.J. Hayes, urban district council member, to Sanfey, on his being appointed a senator (7, 8); letter of congratulation from Thomas Hayes, president of the Wexford constituency executive, to Liam Cosgrave on the results of the general election, and his high hopes for the coalition government (18, 19); material concerning debts incurred by the Ferris branch during the election (20); letter from James Timmons Forrestal to Sanfey concerning the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act (January 1973), complaining that Liam Cosgrave should have voted against it, discussing what should have been done, and referring to the cost to the State of the Northern Ireland troubles (46-48); material relating to the death of Annie M. Bennett, Cushianstown, and the resignation of Robert Bennett, her brother, who had been Chairman of the Cushianstown branch (52-55).  
57 items
- 21** 1974 Report from Michael Lynch, national organiser, to James W. Sanfey, concerning the New Ross district, discussing farmers' confusion over EEC agricultural grants as no information can be obtained, and farmers' objections to the wealth tax. He asks Sanfey to clear up the situation before 'underground propaganda' begins to influence opinion (48-50); copy of motions proposed at the county convention (83, 84); material related to a circular sent by Sanfey to constituency and district executives concerning the strict enforcement of Rule 25 of the party constitution stating that only affiliated

- 21 contd** branches registered six months before a convention, can vote, including a letter from Michael Kennedy, Ferris branch, who feels the rule is not truly enforced in Wexford and that the situation with non-paying branches should be resolved (76-78); request from J. Jenkins to Sanfey for information and debating points to use in forthcoming local election, needing especially a summary of social services legislation and government achievements in Brussels (99, 100); material relating to a request from the Wexford constituency executive for an organiser for South-East Wexford, which seems to be a particularly active Labour stronghold and the weakest Fine Gael area in the county, and the need to regain support there before the local elections (101-114). 124 items
- 22** 1975 Letter to James W. Sanfey from Senator Michael Kennedy stating that Sanfey should clarify the position of affiliation of branches with the constituency executive, clarifying what the fees will mean (30-32); letter from Nicholas Kavanagh, constituency honorary secretary, to Sanfey, concerning motions passed at the convention on 9 March, concerning the general organisation and affiliation of branches and suggest a 'sliding scale of charges' depending on the financial means of a parish (40-43). 56 items

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## **WICKLOW CONSTITUENCY, 1955-75**

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With the exception of relatively minor adjustments in the constituency revisions of 1935 and 1974, the constituency has been coterminus with the administrative county since 1923, and has returned three members.

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## WICKLOW CONSTITUENCY, 1955-75

Standard and recurrent material in constituency files may include:

- Lists of officers in constituency and district executives and branches;
- Lists of branches, and material relating to the formation of new branches, registration and the payment of affiliation fees;
- Copies of branch annual reports and material relating to membership, finances and activities, and the party's constitution and rules;
- Correspondence between the constituency executive and party headquarters on the level of organisation locally, and occasional reports from national organisers visiting the constituency;
- Documents relating to the election of executive and branch officers, the holding of meetings and conventions and the selection of election candidates;
- Material relating to the organisation and conduct of local and general election campaigns, presidential election campaigns and constitutional referenda;
- Constituency representation at Ard Fheiseanna; with material relating to motions, resolutions, delegates and reports;
- Form letters to constituents noting representations made by local T.D.s in respect of public works and improvements, transport and housing;
- The organisation of social and fund-raising functions and collections.

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| <b>1</b> | 1955 | Extract from a letter from Michael Donnelly, secretary of the county executive and the Roundwood branch, concerning branch meetings and Fine Gael representatives on county council boards (12); material relating to the needs, problems and organisation of branches including reports from Kelly, letter from Major James Cranney who is being sued by the Bray courts for local election debts incurred by [Edward J.] Mason, Dr. [Brendan] Donnelly and [Norman] Walker and his requests for assistance to avoid bad publicity for the party, and other related material (16-32); letter from Kelly to Colonel Patrick F. Dineen, general secretary, concerning replies to a questionnaire sent out by Dineen and matters relating to a conference at Ashford (60-61).      72 items |
| <b>2</b> | 1956 | Request from Michael Kelly for <i>The Policy for Production</i> (2-4); report from Kelly on the county executive a.g.m. which went quite well, but he points out that there are large financial problems and a need for 'new blood', also relates that he was   |

- 2 contd** made a peace commissioner (5-8); material from Kelly to Patrick Dineen concerning the bad situation in the county and the need for a revival of effort (9-14); material relating to the fading out of the Newtownmountkennedy–Ashford–Newcastle branches and the need to generate support in these areas by using some good contacts, the situation is referred to Mark Deering M.C.C. by Dineen (31, 32); letter from Kelly concerning the North Kerry elections and the need for funds (33). 35 items
- 3** 1957 Material concerning an annual convention on 27 October including requests from Michael Kelly to Patrick Dineen to transfer some of his business ‘... to someone ready to take over books and documents for me. I have been very much annoyed about having everything on my hands ...’ (9-25); letter of resignation from [Georgia] Whelan, secretary of Bray branch, as she is emigrating to Canada (39-41). 73 items
- 4** 1958 Material relating to a vacancy on the Bray urban district council due to the emigration of Dr Brendan Donnelly M.C.C. to Trinidad and requests that Austin P. Kane, secretary of Bray branch, nominate someone to replace him (5-9); letter from Michael Kelly to Patrick Dineen concerning the leadership of the Roundwood branch (11-12). 12 items
- 5** 1959 File not present
- 6** 1960 Letter from Patrick Dineen to John Grattan Esmonde concerning Mary Walsh’s first organisation of a Knockananna branch meeting and her need of support (2); extract from Dineen’s diary from 1960 mainly concerning Esmonde (3); Wicklow constituency voting results for general elections in 1954, 1957 and local elections of 1955 and 1960 (8); material relating to the organisation of a second branch in Bray by H.A. O’Brien and a Bray electoral area meeting that was reported by Mrs Beddowes as being poor (9-14). 15 items



- 9 contd** Hugh J. Sweetman as Secretary to the Irish Friesian Breeders Club, and how badly the effects of the severe weather in Wicklow were handled by the government (48-51).  
52 items
- 10** 1964 19 items
- 11** 1965 12 items
- 12** 1966 Letter from Kathleen Ryan to Patrick Dineen informing him of the formation of a branch at Enniskerry (4-5); newspaper cutting (2 April 1966) from the *Leinster Leader* concerning the election of Wicklow Fine Gael county executive members (15); material relating to the resignation of William A. Scraggs as Bray secretary and his replacement by Frank Kelleher who asks Dineen for Fine Gael policy on local administration and councils (16, 17).  
22 items
- 13** 1967 Material concerning the loaning of a banner to M.W. Louis of Blessington to display at a branch dinner (2-3).  
34 items
- 14** 1968 Copy letter from Commandant J.W. Sanfey, general secretary, to Sister Roberts of Our Lady's, Rathnew, giving details about the register of electors (4, 5); resolution adopted by the Bray and District Trades Union Council condemning the Criminal Justice Bill for giving power to the police to make arrests without warrants and to ban demonstrations and public meetings, also for the proposed abolition of the unanimous jury verdict, allowing the state to appeal acquittals and the introduction of new evidence in criminal trials (9, 10); material relating to a complaint made by Mr Houlihan from Rathdrum, about a general lack of organisation within Fine Gael in Wicklow and the lack of preference being given to local men in the E.S.B. scheme (13-15); newspaper cutting of the death notice of T.J. Campbell, chairman of a local branch and the East Wicklow executive (34).  
73 items



