

NATIONAL ARCHIVES**IRELAND**

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Northern Ireland Refugees

Social Welfare Benefits

Children's Allowances

When this problem arose in 1969 arrangements were made with the Northern Ireland Ministry of Health and Social Security so that Northern Ireland Family Allowance orders could be cashed at Post Offices here. The amounts paid by Post Offices were refunded in due course by the Northern Ireland Ministry. It was hoped to introduce similar arrangements on this occasion but the Northern Ireland Authorities refused to agree to any arrangement whereby their family allowance orders might be cashed in Post Offices here.

The Department has therefore decided to pay children's allowances under Department of Social Welfare legislation in cases where the whole family is here subject to the completion of the usual application form. When this problem arose in 1969 it was found that members of families remaining behind in Northern Ireland continued to cash family allowance orders there. Also on that occasion members of families in Gormanstown Camp went by train to Northern Ireland at intervals to cash allowance orders and returned to the camp on the same day.

Retirement Pension; Widow's Pension

In the normal course Northern Ireland pensions are payable to persons resident here. In the case of the refugees the Northern Ireland authorities were not disposed at first to agree to the cashing of pension orders in Post Offices here. When it was pointed out to them however that these pensions were already payable to persons living here they reluctantly agreed. To receive payment here a pensioner must have the Post Office of payment on the pension book changed to the Post Office nominated for payment here. This may be done by returning the pension book to the office of issue giving appropriate details of the new Post Office at which payment is desired. The arrangement however applies

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further help or guidance that may be required.

The camps visited are

Coolmoney Camp,	Co Wicklow
Military Barracks,	Kildare
" "	Kilkenny
" "	Waterford
" "	Ballymullen, Tralee
Camp in Gardai Training Depot, Templemore	
Kilworth Camp,	Co. Cork

Arrangements have also been made to have centres visited in Sligo, Carrick-on-Shannon and Leitrim where refugees are being looked after by local authorities in each area.

According to information received from the Department of Defence on 13 ^{August} ~~September~~ 1971 there were a total of 1,550 refugees in Army camps comprising 82 adult males, 356 adult females and 1,112 children. The position is however changing daily and more up-to-date information about numbers will be available when reports are received from officers of the Department who visited the camps.

19 August 1971