

# EUGENE F. COLLINS

SOLICITORS

61 FITZWILLIAM SQUARE  
DUBLIN 2

ANTHONY E. COLLINS  
EUGENE MURPHY  
MICHAEL W. CARRIGAN  
MARGARET BURKE-STANTON  
DAVID ENSON  
TERRY LEGGETT  
GERARD COLL  
BARRY O'NEILL

SIMON MCCORMICK  
MARY E. BARRETT  
SUSAN RYAN  
LEONORA MALONE  
DAVID CANTRELL  
RUTH FINLAY  
JOHN COSTELLO

OUR REF. MEB/GH/JK

YOUR REF.

30th August 1993

## BY COURIER

For the attn. of Colm Keanan and Jim Lillis

Secretary,  
The Department of the Environment,  
Local Services Section,  
Department of the Environment,  
Customs House,  
Dublin 1.

Re: Exhumation Licence for Grave Ground at High Park Convent

Dear Sirs,

We, Solicitors for the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, hereby make application for a further Licence for the exhumation of remains of deceased persons from graves located in the grave ground at High Park Convent, Drumcondra delineated in red on the map attached hereto in which they are interred and for their removal for purposes of reinterment or cremation and we certify that the particulars given below are true in all respects. If the application is granted, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity will agree to carry out any conditions contained in the further Licence.

We would refer you to our application for an Exhumation Licence made 12th May 1993. In that application we set out the background to the grave ground at High Park, the names (christian and surname or religious) of the 133 remains which we believed was the total number of remains interred in the grave ground at High Park. At the time of our making the application and on receipt of the Exhumation Licence and right up until Thursday, 26th August 1993, our clients, the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, and ourselves believed that 133 remains represented the total amount of interred bodies in the grave ground.

On 25th May 1993, the Department of the Environment issued us with a Licence to exhume 133 remains located in the grave ground at High Park. On foot of the Licence being granted, we notified the relevant ~~Local~~ Authorities and contracted Patrick Massey & Company, Undertakers, to carry out the exhumations. Exhumations commenced on Monday, 23rd August.



On Thursday, 26th August, the Undertakers, in carrying out the exhumations under the supervision of Dublin Corporation, became aware that there were a number of remains interred in the grave ground not included in the original Exhumation Licence or accounted for in the convent records.

There are 86 plots in the grave ground at High Park Convent, Drumcondra and from grave markings and convent records, it appeared that there were in some cases two remains per plot and in other cases only one remain per plot. During the course of the exhumations on Thursday, 26th August, it became apparent to the Undertakers that there existed remains for which there were no convent records and which were not indicated on the grave markings. The Undertakers have so far accounted for 14 extra remains.

As we indicated in our application of 12th May 1993, the convent records from 1942 to 1968 were lost or destroyed and as a consequence, it was only possible to identify the remains in the grave ground for that period by the grave markings. It would appear that the records for the 1970's and perhaps part of the 1980's were also lost or destroyed and it would further appear that the grave markings themselves are inaccurate and do not in all cases fully indicate the number of remains interred.

It is our clients' belief that the additional remains are remains of former residents of the convent who would have been placed with the Sisters of Charity for various reasons and remained in residential care until their death. We can confirm that Sister Ann Marie Ryan, Superior, consents to the making of this application for the exhumation of the newly discovered remains.

Finally, it is intended that the additional remains of the deceased will be cremated in the Crematorium in Glasnevin Cemetery and reinterred there.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eugene F. Collins", is written over a horizontal line.

Eugene F. Collins

## PART 2

**CERTIFICATE OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY CARE AND MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

Name of Health Board:

I hereby certify that the above exhumation and removal can be carried out without danger to public health or breach of public decency.

Signature:

Director of Community Care and Medical Officer of Health

Date:

20/8/93

### PART 3

CONSENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY OR OTHER AUTHORITY CONTROLLING THE BURIAL GROUND

Name of Authority:

I hereby consent to the above exhumation and removal.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_