

Confidential

20 Garville Avenue

Rathgar

Dublin 10 April 14 [1914]

Dear Capt. [Captain] Barrows

I see a statement in the Irish Times today that the 2 suffragettes are hunger striking in prison.

The Board as you know have issued no general directions as to whether artificial feeding is to be resorted to in such cases and if so, when, so that the matter rests in the hands of the med. [medical] officer. They expect however that when the medical officer has resorted to or foresees the likelihood of him having to resort to artificial feeding in order to preserve life or health he will report accordingly.

Dr. Stewart might like to know that the most recent course taken in such cases in Mountjoy Prison has been to try to persuade the prisoners to eat and drink by leaving before them tasty food but to abstain from artificial feeding for some days reporting daily to the Board. In some such cases the govt. [government] has then stepped in and ordered discharge, thereby avoiding artificial feeding altogether.

This is merely however for Dr. Stewart's information & is not to be understood as in any degree fettering his discretion, which he must exercise according to the merits of the cases.

Dr. Edgar Flinn has gone to Llandudno for the weekend should you or DrS [Dr. Stewart, medical officer, Belfast Prison] wish to speak to us tomorrow you can do so by telephone.

Yours faithfully

PHD [PH Douglas, Secretary to the General Prisons Board]

H.M. [His Majesty's] Prison

Belfast

11.4.14 [11 April 1914]

Dear Mr Douglas

When you telephoned me at the Prison, I was in the town where I had to go to get in communication with you, as all efforts in the Prison were futile.

I return enclosed your letter of the 10th inst. [instant] since receiving which, I have received a telephone message from the Vice-Chairman stating that the Lord Lieutenant has ordered that the suffragettes are not to be artificially fed but the Doctor is to try & induce them by offering them dainties to break their fast.

I have communicated by wire and telephone with the Vice Chairman consequently.

Yours faithfully

W. Barrows [William Barrows, Governor of Belfast Prison]