

Reference No: E109/28/28; **Date:** 20/12/1929

Circular 49/1929:- Use of Government Offices or other premises for functions organised by the official staffs

A Dhuine Uasail,

I am directed by the Minister for Finance to inform you that he has had before him the views of the Civil Service Representative Council in regard to the use of Government Offices or other official premises for functions organised by the staffs of Departments and that, while reluctant to lay down detailed instructions in the matter, he thinks it well, in order that uniformity of action may be ensured, to indicate generally his view for the information and guidance of Heads of Departments.

2. On the understanding that the Board of Works are consulted beforehand and are satisfied as to the safety of the premises as regards risk of fire, etc., and that no expense to State funds is involved, and subject to such conditions as the Head of the Department may in any individual case lay down, the Minister sees no objection generally to the use of Government premises for the purposes of staff association meetings or general meetings of staffs. He considers it undesirable, however, that, even if no danger to the premises and no expense to public funds are involved, similar facilities should be provided for purely recreative purposes such as the holding of dances or bridge parties. In most cases the buildings are not suitably adapted for such functions. The risk of fire and wear and tear and, in certain cases, the safeguarding of the buildings otherwise have also to be considered. There is the further objection to which the Minister must have regard, that the use of Government premises in such circumstances is open to unfavourable criticism from outside sources.

3. Subject to the foregoing, it appears to the Minister that the action to be taken, on applications for the use of official premises for other than official purposes should fall to be decided on their merits by Heads of Departments after reference to the Board of Works and, if necessary, to the Department of Finance.

Mise, le meas,
H.P. Boland