

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

24 March 2010

PRONI Self-Service Facility to move to Cregagh Library

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has announced that its Self-Service Facility will temporarily move to Cregagh Library from September.

The move is to allow for the relocation of PRONI from its current base on Balmoral Avenue to a new facility in Belfast's Titanic Quarter.

A popular family history resource, which includes church records, the Self-Service Facility allows researchers to look at the records via microfilm.

Director of PRONI Aileen McClintock said: *"Moving the Self-Service Facility is one of several measures PRONI is taking to allow uninterrupted access to a significant quantity of our records while we relocate to our new headquarters."*

In advance of the closure, PRONI is also taking steps to increase the volume and range of material available to researchers online. The 19th century street directories are now available through the website and additional sources for family history research will be uploaded in the coming months.

PRONI has worked with Libraries NI – the new single library service for Northern Ireland – to make sure these popular family history resources will continue to be available for research during this time.

This will further strengthen the commitment to strategic partnership between Libraries NI and PRONI who work closely together to provide access to heritage resources.

See www.proni.gov.uk or call 9025 5907 for more information.

Notes to editors:

1. The construction of the new Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast's Titanic Quarter is currently on programme for completion and handover in August 2010 – following that it will take up to eight months to move the archives to the new headquarters.
2. Cregagh Library is located near the upper end of the Cregagh Road, off Upper Knockbreda Road. It is a 10-minute drive from PRONI's current site at Balmoral Avenue and it is on a direct bus route (No. 6A) from Belfast City Centre. Customer parking is available on site and also in the surrounding area. There is full disabled access.
3. Media enquiries should be addressed to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Press Office. Tel (028) 9051 5047 or email press.office@dcalni.gov.uk. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.