



**Public Record Office
of Northern Ireland**

POLITICAL PAPERS INDEX

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Introduction

Each of the main UK political parties has chosen a separate place of deposit for its papers - the Conservative Party in the Bodleian, the Labour Party (and the British Communist Party from 1943 onwards) in the National Museum of Labour History, Manchester, and the Liberal/Liberal Democrat Party in the Library of the London School of Economics. The National Library of Scotland holds the papers of the Scottish and Conservative Labour Parties, those of the Scottish National Party and those of various local associations. The National Library of Wales has similar holdings. The House of Lords Record Office, which now incorporates the contents of the former Beaverbrook Library, holds the papers of some prominent individuals who, among other things, were high-ranking party officials.

Due to the relatively small geographical area of Northern Ireland, PRONI holds a unique combination of 'national' and local material. Included are archives of political parties, significant local politicians, local associations and local solicitors who acted as registration or election agents. These archives contain a wide range of material, including constituency papers of MPs, election literature and other published material, correspondence and personal papers.

These are all privately deposited archives, and in some cases depositors have retained control over access to their papers. If you wish to request access to closed archives, please contact PRONI's Records Management, Catalogue and Access team.

Alliance Party of Northern Ireland (including the Ulster Liberal Party) Moderate, reformist, Unionist party, set up in April 1970	Date	Ref. No.
Election literature and correspondence of Addie Morrow and Siobhan Laird, Alliance candidates (Strangford and South Down respectively) in the (1987) Westminster Election.	1987	D230/15
Papers of the Ulster Liberal Party. They include: a survey of members, 1968; conference and campaign papers, etc, of the Northern Ireland Federation of Young Liberals, 1963-1966; election literature, 1959-1973; copies of Northern Radical, an Ulster Liberal publication, 1966-1973; minute book and membership list of East Down Liberal Association, 1962-1968, together with newspaper cuttings and correspondence, 1963-1964, relating to their support for the Liberal candidate for South Down in the 1964 Westminster general election.	1958-1973	D2951
Papers of the New Ulster Movement, established in February, 1969, and committed to the furtherance of a peaceful settlement of the 'Northern Ireland situation'.	1969-1975	D3159
Election literature and communications of the Alliance Party.	1973-1974	D3267/7/1-3B
Alliance Party papers contained within the J.E. King archive.	1972-1974	D3364/7
Papers of G.B. Newe, Liberal Minister in the Stormont Government. [Some parts of archive closed, please refer to list]	1971-1972	D3687
Papers relating to the Alliance Election Campaign for the Northern Ireland Convention in the County Fermanagh.	1975	D3793
Papers relating to the Alliance Election Campaign for the Northern Ireland Convention in the County Fermanagh.	1975	D3793
Election literature and correspondence of Lt. Col. D.A. Rowan Hamilton, Alliance candidate in the Northern Ireland Convention election (1975).	1975	D3989
Constitution, minutes and working papers of the East Belfast Branch of the Alliance Party. [Archive closed until 2016, access terms to be agreed]	c.1970-1980	D4012



Communist Party in Ireland (Northern area)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of Sean Murray.	1930-1961	D2192
Papers of Charlotte Despard, Co-Founder of the Women's Freedom League.	1922-1960	D2479
Miscellaneous papers of the Communist Party of Ireland.	c.1970	D2702
Papers of Denis Ireland, author, playwright and politician.	1920-1974	D3137
Papers of Col. Cecil (Hackett) L'Estrange Malone MP. (Malone was the brother of Lady Gore-Booth) He was elected as a coalition Liberal MP in December 1918, but resigned the whip in November 1919 and transferred allegiance to the British Socialist Party. In July 1920, he joined the Communist Party, though was elected Labour MP for Northampton 1928-1931.	c.1912-1965	D4131/P
Collection of Communist and Left Wing newspapers.	1971-1975	MOD3/3/1
Election literature, inc. posters and party papers of the Communist Party.	1974-1976	N/26
Recording of interview with J.B.H. Black of the British and Irish Communist Organisation.	1975	TP/5



Labour Party (Northern Ireland) Irish Labour Party was formed in 1912	Date	Ref. No.
Miscellaneous papers and printed booklets of the Commonwealth Labour Party, including its constitution and standing orders.	1945	D1195/5/1
Papers of Patrick Agnew, Trade Unionist and MP for South Armagh, 1938-1944. These include: 2 minute books of the Armagh branch of the Northern Ireland Labour Party, 1933 and 1946-47 as well as personal diaries and correspondence.	1933-1947	D1676
Papers relating to the Labour Party in Northern Ireland.	1905-194?	D2101
Papers relating to the Labour Party in Northern Ireland.	1936-1964	D2474
Minute book and other literature of the Falls Branch, Belfast, of the Labour Party.	1952-1953	D2474/1/3
Records of the N.I.L.P. Includes minutes, reports, correspondence, material re. annual conferences, policy statements, election manifestos, lists of members, publications, press releases and press cuttings. (Only partially listed).	1940-1975	D2704
Papers of Labour Party MP Jack Beattie.	1933-1958	D2784/22
Papers of Vivien Simpson MP, elected as Stormont MP for Oldpark in 1953.	1942-1976	D3233
Minute book of Central Women's Section.	1924-1932	D3311
Records relating to the political and trade union activities of Jack MacGougan.	1938-1982	D3699
Papers of Sam Napier, member of Bangor Borough Council and member and Secretary of the Northern Ireland Labour Party, 1938-1977. Included are records of the Northern Ireland Labour Party (1923-1969) and records of the Commonwealth Labour Party (1943-1948).	1923-1977	D3702
Personal and political papers of Harry Midgely.	1929-1957	D4089
Papers relating to the Labour movement in Belfast.	1892-1902	T1241



Liberal Party and Politicians	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of William Kirk, Liberal MP for Newry, 1852-1859.	1853-1854	D1185/2
Papers of O'Rorke, McDonald & Tweed, who acted as election agents for Liberal candidates on Co. Antrim constituency elections.	1880-1938	D1242/24
Papers of the North Antrim Liberal Association.	1886-1902	D1426
Papers of Robert James Tennent, Liberal MP for Belfast, 1847-1852.	1803-1880	D1748/C
Papers of L'Estrange & Brett solicitors, including the papers of C.H. Brett, who acted as election agent for several Liberal candidates in Co. Down elections. C.H. Brett also acted as election agent for Thomas McClure, who was Liberal MP for Belfast, 1868-1878.	1868-1880	D1905
Papers of R.R. Cherry, eminent lawyer, academic and politician, who was Attorney General for Ireland, 1905-1909, and Lord Justice of Appeal, 1909-1914. Cherry was Liberal MP for Exchange Division, Liverpool between 1906 and 1909 when he had to resign his seat on becoming Lord Justice of Appeal for Ireland.	1882-1938	D2166
Papers of Thomas (later Lord) O'Hagans, Liberal MP for Tralee, Co. Kerry, from May 1863-February 1865, when he was appointed a Judge of the Common Pleas in Ireland.	1857-1869	D2777/6
Papers of T. Teggart who acted as election agent for several Liberal Party candidates in the North Antrim Westminster constituency seat. Candidates for whom they acted as agent included William McAfee, Sir William Baxter and R.G. Glendinning (Liberal MP for North Antrim 1906-1910). Also included are the records of the North Antrim Reform Association.	1893-1915	D2868/D
Leinster papers, including papers of the 3rd Duke of Leinster, leader of the Irish Whigs.	1809-1874	D3078
Papers of R.G. Glendinning, Liberal MP for North Antrim.	1906-1923	D3208
Papers of Rev. A.H. McLroy relating to his career in the Non - Subscribing Presbyterian Church and the Ulster Liberal party.	1915-1973	D3342

Liberal Party and Politicians	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of William Sharman Crawford, Liberal MP for Co. Down, 1852-1857.	1844-1900	D856
Crawford papers, including those of W.S. Crawford, Liberal MP for Dundalk, Co. Louth.	1733-1902	D856/D
Adair papers, which include Liberal Party papers.	1878-1879	D929
Papers of J.N. Richardson, Liberal MP for Co. Armagh.	1880-1885	MIC214 D1006



Nationalist Political Parties and Politicians	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of John Pinkerton, including correspondence with John Mitchell.	1834-1874	D1078
Staples papers, including the political papers of Sir Robert Ponsonby Staples, Protestant Home Ruler and member of the United Irish League.	1853-1943	D1567/F/9/14
Papers of Dr E.C. Thompson, surgeon to the Tyrone County Hospital. Unsuccessful Unionist candidate in mid-Tyrone, then Nationalist MP for North Monaghan (1906-1920).	c.1870-1930	D1711/1/1
Papers of Rev. J.B. Armour, Presbyterian minister and prominent Home Ruler.	1860-1930	D1792
Personal and political papers of A.J. Mulvey, Nationalist MP for Fermanagh-Tyrone, when it was a two seat constituency (1935-1950) and Mid Ulster (1950-1951) inc. constituency correspondence and political correspondence with other Nationalist MPs Cahir Healy and Eddie McAteer.	1935-1955	D1862
Papers of Mathew Keating, Nationalist MP for South Kilkenny.	1910-1918	D1919
Papers of Jeremiah Jordan, Protestant Home Ruler and MP for South Fermanagh.	1885-1909	D2073/2-3
Letter book of the Home Rule League.	1873-1878	D213
Personal and political papers of Joseph Connellan, Nationalist MP for South Down.	1905-1958	D2355
Political papers of Patrick O'Neill, Nationalist MP for Mourne Division, Co. Down.	1921-1943	D2720
Personal and political papers of Cahir Healy, Nationalist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone (Westminster 1931-1935 and 1950-1955) and Stormont MP for Fermanagh 1925-1965).	1900-1970	D2991
Papers of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) founded in 1970. [Archive closed]	1973-1983	D3072
Papers of the Nationalist Democratic Party.	1965-1970	D3079
Papers of the County Armagh Anti – Partition League.	1945-1959	D3184

Nationalist Political Parties and Politicians	Date	Ref. No.
Political, including constituency papers of Bernadette McAliskey (née Devlin). [Closed]	1973-1977	D3254
Papers of the Irish Anti-Partition League.	1921-1973	D3257
Typescript BBC Radio interview with contemporaries of Nationalist MP for West Belfast, Joe Devlin.	1959	D3358/2
Papers of Paddy Devlin, trade unionist and Belfast City councillor (SDLP).	1930-1978	D3909
Correspondence, sketch pads and newscuttings of or relating to Constance Countess Markievicz, (née Gore-Booth) 1883-1994.	1900-1994	D4131/K
Papers of John Carron, Nationalist MP at Stormont for South Fermanagh, 1964-1972 and Frank Maguire MP at Westminster for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, 1974-1981. [Partially Closed]	1964-1981	D4215
Constituency papers of Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh. [Closed]	1964-1998	D4219
Printed pamphlets, books and leaflets concerning Sinn Féin.	1918-1920	MIC141
Correspondence of Joe Devlin, Nationalist MP for Belfast West, 1921-1929, and Belfast Central (Stormont), 1929-1934. (Devlin left strict instructions with his sister, that in the event of his death, all his papers were to be destroyed.)	1910-1934	T2257, T2424 & T2307
Papers of the Lurgan branch of the United Irish League.	1908-1909	T2530/5
Papers of the Nationalist Party.	1968-1970	T3062/1-4



Republican Political Parties	Date	Ref. No.
Material relating to the Republican movement in Belfast.	1971-1974	D2879
Papers of People's Democracy and the Civil Rights and Republican organisations.	1969-1973	D2933
Miscellaneous political papers regarding People's Democracy, Ulster Liberal Party and the Students' Representative Council.	1966-1973	D3219



Unionist Political Parties and politicians (including Official Unionist Party)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of the Unionist Party in Cookstown, Co. Tyrone.	1874-1947	D1132/5
Papers of R.H. Coulter, member of the Ulster Unionist Council.	1911-1953	D1207
Papers of Carleton, Atkinson & Sloan, solicitors, Portadown, Co. Armagh, who acted as election agents for numerous Conservative candidates in North Armagh elections.	1865-1885	D1252
Papers of the East Down Unionist Association.	1902-1945	D1255
Papers of Joseph Cunningham, Unionist Senator at Stormont.	1890-1965	D1288
Papers of the Ulster Unionist Council, UUC, including UVF material, 1912-1920, UUC and sub-committee minute books, 1909-1981, financial, press cuttings and electoral and constitutional papers, 1914-1982, printed matter, 1886-1982, correspondence of successive Secretaries to the UUC, 1906-1982, records of the Ulster Unionist Labour Association, 1917-1968, and Parliamentary Party and constituency papers, 1921-1986. Includes c.100 boxes which contain the signatures of the Ulster Covenant. [Partially Closed]	1886-1986	D1327
Papers of the Ulster Unionist Council, UUC.	1912-1992	D1327 & D972
Papers of Falls & Hanna, who acted as election agents for numerous Conservative and Unionist candidates in the Fermanagh constituency, including John Bloomfield, E.M. Archdale and G. Fetherstonhaugh Esq. K.C. Senior members of the firm included J. Whiteside Dane, secretary of the Fermanagh Unionist Association and Major Sir Charles Falls, MP for Fermanagh and Tyrone, 1924-1929.	1885-1910	D1390/26
Craigavon Papers. The papers of James Craig, Lord Craigavon, include an exceptionally good run of press cutting books maintained by Lady Craigavon.	1790-1950	D1415
Papers of Sir Edward Carson.	1891-1973	D1507

Unionist Political Parties and politicians (including Official Unionist Party)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of Martin, King, French & Ingram, solicitors, which include the papers of the Mid-Derry Unionist Association.	1946-1949	D1550
Papers of Liberal Unionist Association.	1902-1907	D1866
Papers of the Liberal Unionist Association.	1902-1907	D1866
Papers of Colonel R.H. Wallace, East Down Unionist Councillor and 'leading citizen in many walks of Ulster life'.	1893-1923	D1889
Papers of the South Tyrone Unionist Association.	1930-1934	D1927
Papers of R.N. Wilson, Unionist MP for East Antrim in Stormont.	c.1960	D1933/12
Papers of Martin & Henderson, solicitors who acted as election agents for several Conservative candidates in Co. Down elections.	1840-1899	D2223
Papers of W.E. Ball, secretary of the Non-Conformist Unionist Association.	c.1950-1970	D2396
Election communications from Jack Magennis, Unionist Party candidate for Armagh in 1953.	1953	D2567/12
Papers of the Ulster Women's Unionist Council.	1892-1975	D2688 D1098
Papers of the Ulster Women's Unionist Council.	1892-1975	D2688 & D1098
Poster for the Protestant Unionist Party.	1964	D2704/3
Correspondence of Richard Ferguson, relating to his period as Unionist MP for South Antrim.	1968-1972	D2890
Papers of North Armagh Unionist Association.	1906-1927	D2899

Unionist Political Parties and politicians (including Official Unionist Party)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of Brigadier R.J.C. Broadhurst.	1957-1976	D2931
Political papers of W Basil Mclvor, Stormont MP for Larkfield, South Belfast (1969-1974) and Minister for Community Relations (1971-1974). Mclvor retired from politics after the introduction of Direct Rule in May 1974.	1968-1974	D2962
Printed pamphlet by Ian Paisley entitled 'A Call to the Protestants of Ulster'.	1974	D2966/44/1
Brooke Papers. Including the diaries (1943-1963) of Captain John Brooke, 2 nd Viscount.	1952-1975	D3004
Papers of Sir Douglas Savory MP, Unionist MP for the Queen's University Constituency, 1940-1950, and South Antrim, 1950-1955. He was secretary of the Ulster Unionist Party at Westminster, 1950-1955.	1900-1970	D3015
Correspondence, press releases, statements, reports, etc., of the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland.	1958-1981	D3061
Papers of H. Montgomery Hyde, barrister, author, historian, intelligence officer, Unionist MP for North Belfast in the 1950s and former private secretary to the Marquess of Londonderry.	1795-1989	D3084
Papers of the 7th Marquess of Londonderry, and his wife, including letters from Wilson, Hungerford (secretary to the UUC) in his capacity as Clerk to the Lieutenancy for Co. Down, c.1930s.	1861-1962	D3099
Speeches of Unionist MP Enoch Powell.	1974-1993	D3107
Papers of R.A. Parke, election agent for the Unionist Party in Co. Fermanagh.	1920-1949	D3110
Papers of the North Antrim Women's Unionist Association.	1946-1970	D3121
Papers of Londonderry and Foyle Unionist Society.	1935-1962	D3289
Papers of the Belfast Unionist Society.	1942-1977	D3292

Unionist Political Parties and politicians (including Official Unionist Party)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of W.F. McCoy, Unionist MP for South Tyrone (1945-1965) and Speaker of the House at Stormont (1956).	1904-1975	D3333
Pamphlets, leaflets etc. produced by the Ulster Unionist Council.	1943-1950	D3441
Papers of the North Down Unionist Association.	1929-1949	D3453
Papers of Sir Robert Lynn MP, Unionist Member at Stormont for Woodvale (1918-1922), North Antrim (1929-1945) and Westminster MP for West Belfast (1922-1929).	1901-1945	D3480/59
Personal and political papers of Lord Faulkner including constituency correspondence and ministerial papers. Also included is correspondence with Captain Terence O'Neill. [Some parts of archive closed, please refer to list]	1946-1977	D3591
Papers of M.K. Kyle, member of Ulster Unionist Party and later (after the fall of T. O'Neill), the Alliance Party.	1960-1974	D3601
Ellison Macartney papers. Included are the political papers of John William Ellison Macartney (Unionist MP for Co. Tyrone, 1874-1885), and Sir William Grey Ellison Macartney (Unionist MP for South Antrim, 1885-1913).	1851-1914	D3649
McFarland papers, including the political papers of Sir Basil McFarland.	c.1930-1979	D3703
Papers of Harold McCusker, Westminster MP for Upper Bann, 1983-1990. [Archive closed]	1974-1990	D3716
Papers of Senator Henry Bruce Armstrong, Unionist MP for Mid-Armagh at Westminster, 1921-1922, about local politics in Co. Armagh.	c.1900-1939	D3727
Papers and leaflets issued by the Official Ulster Unionist Council, QUB Unionist Association and Larne Divisional Unionist Association.	1979-1993	D3794
Papers of the Official Ulster Unionist Party following the party split in 1974, to the Unionist Party of Northern Ireland.	1970-1974	D3816

Unionist Political Parties and politicians (including Official Unionist Party)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of the Unionist Anti-Partition League.	1920-1923	D4125
Personal and political papers (including constituency affairs) of Sir James Kilfedder MP. Sir James was MP for West Belfast (1964-1966) and North Down (1970-1995). James Kilfedder launched his own party, the Ulster Popular Unionist Party in 1980.	1964-1995	D4127
Personal and political papers of Prof. J.K. Lindsay, Vanguard member for South Antrim in the Northern Ireland Convention, 1975-1976. [Archive closed]	1948-1996	D4175
Constituency papers of Ken Maginnis, Westminster MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, 1983-. [Archive closed]	1979-1996	D4177
Political and personal papers of Roy Bradford.	1888-1998	D4211
Papers of Beryl Holland.	c.1970s	D4238
Papers of Senator Robert Armstrong.	1891-1965	D4242
Downshire papers, which contain correspondence about Conservative election strategy and the establishment of an anti-repeal petition.	1834-1868	D607
Abercorn Papers including newscutting book and other papers of Lord Hamilton, later 3rd Duke of Abercorn, as MP for Derry City, c.1910.	1610-1967	D623
Papers of William Johnston [of Ballykilbeg].	1842-1902	D880
Papers of Joshua Peel, political agent to J.B. Lonsdale, Unionist MP for the Mid-Division of Co. Armagh, 1900-1910 [see also D2303].	1886-1933	D889
Papers of the Irish Unionist Alliance, Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union and Southern Irish Loyalist Relief Association.	1883-1963	D989

Unionist Political Parties and politicians (including Official Unionist Party)	Date	Ref. No.
Papers of Adam Duffy, a Belfast Liberal Unionist.	1886-1925	MIC127
Papers of Col. Saunderson MP for North Armagh, and founder of the Ulster Unionist Party at Westminster.	1882-1910	MIC281 & T2996
Papers of Thomas Bunbury, Conservative MP for Co. Carlow 1841-1846, and his successor W.B. McClintock-Bunbury, 1846-1862.	1832-1866	MIC632
Papers of the Prime Ministers of Northern Ireland. N.B. Although this is an official Prime Minister's Office series, the small scale of Northern Ireland and the 'informality' of government, particularly in the early years of the state, means that a certain amount of correspondence of a constituency or party-political nature is included.	1921-1972	PM
Papers of J.J. McCarroll, MP and Alderman Frank E. McCarroll for the Foyle Division of Londonderry.	1919-1952	T2712
Ashbourne papers, including political, papers of 1st Baron Ashbourne.	1869-1913	T2955



List of privately deposited archives containing material of political interest

The Abercorn Papers (D623)
The Aldborough Papers (T3300/13)
The Ashbourne Papers (T2955 & MIC264)
The Campbell Allen Papers (D1558)
The Anglesey Papers (D619)
The Annesley Papers (D1503, D1854, MIC538, MIC610, T3774, etc.)
The Armstrong of Deans Hill Papers (D3727)
The Belmore Papers (D3007)
The Brownlow Papers (D1928)
The Caledon Papers (D2431-D2433)
The Carson Papers (D1507)
The Castle Stewart Papers (D1618)
The Castlereagh Papers (D3030)
The Chatsworth Papers (T3158)
The Clanwilliam Meade Papers (D3044)
The Conolly Papers (D2094, D1062/1, D663, T2825, MIC435, etc.)
The Dartrey Papers (D3053 and D526/2)
The De Ros Papers (D638 and MIC573)
The Downshire Papers (D607 and D671)
The Dufferin Papers (D1071, D1231, MIC22 & T3636)
The Dunraven Papers (D3196)
The Ely Papers (D496, etc.)
The Fitzgerald (Knights of Kerry) Papers (T3075)
The Fortescue of Dromiskin Estate Papers (D4074)
The Foster/Massereene Papers (D207, D562, D1739, D4084, T2519/4, MIC618)
The Gosford Papers (D1606 and D2259)
The Hart Papers (D3077)
The Cahir Healy Papers (D2991)
The Hervey/Bruce Papers (D2798, D1514 and T2960)

The Howard Bury Papers (T3069)
The Montgomery Hyde Papers (D3084)
The Leinster Papers (D3078)
The Leslie Papers (MIC606 and T3827)
The Lissadell Papers (D4131)
The 7th Marquess of Londonderry Papers (D3099)
The Londonderry Estate Office Papers (D654)
The Macartney Papers (D572, D1062/2, D2225, D2731, etc.)
The Aiken McClelland papers (D3815)
The McPeake Papers (T3048, T3071-2 and D3736)
The O'Hagan Papers (D2777)
The Rossmore Papers (T2929)
The E.J. Saunderson Papers (T2996 & MIC281)
The Schomberg MacDonnell Papers (D4091)
The Shannon Papers (D2707)
Lady Spender's Diaries (D1633)
The Staples Papers (D1567)
The Stewart of Killymoon Papers (D3167 & D2966/92/B)
The Stewart-Bam/Stewart of Ards Papers (D4137 and D2784/19)
The Templehouse Papers (MIC590)
The Emerson Tennent Papers (D2922)
The Tighe Papers (D2685)
The Tipping Papers (D4160)
The Turner Papers (D4123)
The Ulster Unionist Council Archive (D1327)
The Verner/Wingfield Papers (D2538)
Villier-Stuart Papers (MIC464 and T3131)
The Sir Robert Wilmot Papers (T3019)
The George Wyndham Papers (T3221)