



Department for

**Communities**

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# Release of 1990 files at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



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## ***Using the documents***

When using the documents held at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), please ensure that you acknowledge PRONI's custody of the original files and give the full PRONI document reference number.

Please note that in the 1990 file list; any file reference bearing 'A' at the end denotes the open part of a file which has been partially closed.

For example, the file *CENT/3/27A* refers to the open part of a file, whereas *CENT/3/27* refers to the part of that file withheld under certain Exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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## ***PRONI ON CAIN***

PRONI on CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet) is a joint project between the Ulster University and PRONI which has resulted in digitised images of key documents from previous PRONI file releases being made freely available to view online for researchers and students. PRONI on CAIN includes over 1700 public records comprising 7,300 pages of content on the troubles and political developments from 1968-1987. For further details of the documents available, please visit

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/proni/index.html>



## Introduction

The files are being released under the 30/20 Year Rule.

The annual release of selected official files continues against a background of greater public access through the Freedom of Information Act balanced against the need to protect personal information. The FOI Act (2000) created a new access to information regime and all records were reviewed in accordance with both that Act and the Data Protection Act.

Annually since 1976, official records held by PRONI which were 30 years old have been reviewed with a view to making them publicly available (“the 30 year rule”). In September 2011, the Assembly accepted a Legislative Consent Motion to reduce the time limit for release from 30 years to 20 years (“the 20 year Rule”). This is underpinned by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the amendments made to it by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The 20 Year Rule is being phased in over 10 years, with two years worth of records being reviewed and released each year. This year, the records of NI Departments and the NIO with terminal dates of 1989 were released during August 2016 and the records of 1990 are being brought forward for release during December 2016.

This process involves the referral of the files to the Responsible Authority for sensitivity review. This entails a page by page examination to ensure that a record contains nothing sensitive as defined by the FOI Act and DP Act.

### **Records Released**

**759** files being deemed as suitable for release as “fully open”. A further **232** files are open but subject to blanking out of some content. **72** files remain closed in full, the bulk of which are individual prisoner files and Honours files.

The main file series being released includes Central Secretariat and Northern Ireland Office files.

Some of the main issues covered by the 1990 release include:

- *Head of Civil Service NI* (HOCS) files on various high level matters, including Short Brothers / Harland & Wolff, political protests (and contingency planning for expected strike action), Political Development Group updates, Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council (A.I.I.C), MacBride Principles (workplace discrimination), and De Lorean papers.
- Anti Racketeering activities
- European Convention on Human Rights cases
- Secretary of State / Ministerial meetings with politicians
- Economic cooperation and negotiations (involving Ireland, UK, USA and Europe)
- The MacBride Principles (workplace discrimination, including individual files on US State employment legislation and UK Disinvestment)
- Privatisation of NI electricity (includes examination of Kilroot power station, 'Phase II')
- Fisheries and Irish Sea issues
- Local Government protest action in the wake of the Anglo-Irish Agreement
- Increasing incidence of drug abuse
- Child care and repercussions of abuse investigations
- Community group funding and political links
- The Arts (including Ulster Folk and Transport Museum)
- Civil Defence / War Planning

Records may be closed either fully or in part only. Blanking out involves the removal of a limited number of papers from the file that have been deemed as exempt from the right to know under FOI. To facilitate the release of as much information as possible, redaction can be used to blank out sensitive data within individual documents that would otherwise prevent release. All information which is withheld in

the manner outlined above, however, must be retained in accordance with the exemptions contained within the FOI Act. In the majority of cases, the reason for extended closure was the application of section 40 – the *personal information* exemption – of the FOI Act. This means that personal information is exempt from the right to know if it would breach the Data Protection principles.



## 1990 Highlighted Files

### Central Secretariat

<b>CENT/3/100</b>	<b>1990-1990</b>	<b>Political Developments in N.I.</b> <p>File contains detailed papers on United Kingdom / Republic of Ireland Government ministerial meetings, talks with Northern Ireland political parties, revealing fascinating insights gleaned from the numerous pre- and post-meeting briefings, previously secret assessments of the various party 'players' motivation, their perceived position (and where there might be any potential room for manoeuvre with regard to these respective positions), their rationale and the overall parties' philosophies in terms of the developing multilateral political talks. This includes meetings with the SDLP leader, John Hume and note of a discussion with various politicians such as Peter Robinson and Sammy Wilson, of the DUP, 8-11 June 1990. There is also analysis of the Upper Bann by-election result and the death of Cardinal O'Fiaich.</p> <p>One official with the Political Affairs Division, Northern Ireland Office at Stormont House (in a regular briefing to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, assessing various senior Northern Ireland politicians and their respective stances) commented:</p> <p>'Mr Maginnis ended by warning me that the NIO should not, in any circumstances, involve themselves in any "jiggery-pokery" with Sinn Fein as this would most certainly put an end to any prospect of any dialogue on their side. He gave as his reasons for raising this topic recent speculation of a debate within Sinn Fein which he believes is intended to suck the Government into an unproductive dialogue...', dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1990.</p>
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- CENT/3/107**      **1983-1989**      **Harland & Wolff Correspondence**
- File contains papers on the ongoing NIO ministerial consideration of the future of the shipyard and the wider British Shipbuilders yards, including privatisation negotiations. In his secret report to the steering committee on economic strategy, Kenneth Clarke (in his role as the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) recommended an end to subsidy for ship building contracts from the UK Government (via the Intervention Fund support for the yards).
- ‘I believe we all know that there is no long term future in shipbuilding...’, dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 1988.
- 
- CENT/1/18/4**      **1989-1990**      **Visit by the Congressional Friends of Ireland led by Congressman Donnelly 17-19 January 1990**
- File covers the visit by Congressman Brian Donnelly, chairman of the influential Irish American *Friends of Ireland* group, highlighting a number of contentious issues (including proposed fair employment legislation, security policy and counter terrorism and the continued deployment of the Ulster Defence Regiment, which Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Brooke vehemently defended as being committed to justice, decency and democracy) which were raised by his visit. One NIO official noted in their report to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland:
- ‘I had a long talk on 24 January with Werner Brandt, the senior staffer (from Speaker Foley’s office) who accompanied Congressman Donnelly on last week’s visit to Northern Ireland. He was emphatic that no damage had been done by the vigorous nature of the discussion at lunch on 18 January. Mr Donnelly had got to know Northern Ireland ministers well and felt able to have a frank discussion with them. Hard talking between politicians was to be expected and did not indicate any

deterioration in the relationship, or any shift in Mr Donnelly's sympathies. What had disconcerted Mr Donnelly was the involvement of officials in such hard talking – but I got the impression from Mr Brandt that this was partly because officials were seen (by Donnelly) to be defending the indefensible (the UDR)...', dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 1990.

**CENT/1/19/38      1989-1990      **Petrol Smuggling from Northern Ireland to the Republic****

File covers UK and ROI Government attempts to tackle the major issue of paramilitary fuel smuggling, including legislative 'incentives' to coerce reluctant oil companies to add identifying markers to the petrol.

**CENT/1/19/39      1990-1990      **Anglo-Irish Conference and Permanent Under Secretary's Steering Group - September 1990****

Papers deal with a number of contentious areas facing both UK and ROI Governments, including extradition, political developments, Irish language, energy, cross border trade, the Stevens report, British withdrawal of funding for *Glor na Gael* (specifically the West Belfast committee of the all-Ireland Irish language / culture body), changes to the Emergency Provisions Act and security in Northern Ireland.

The latter was a regular item on the Anglo-Irish Secretariat agenda, focussing on general 'security' updates / issues raised by the Irish or British sides, including complaints against security forces, prison incidents, UDR deployment, but also detailing a number of military or police ground / helicopter border incursions (whether by accident or in 'hot pursuit' of suspects). At one such post-meeting de-briefing, it was noted that Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins had voiced unhappiness at being 'lectured to' by RUC officers, and

British officials were clearly keen to recover the situation, noting how differently the Irish side viewed what the British saw as merely routine security briefings, dated 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September 1990.

In an earlier update, officials had noted that Mr Collins was 'feeling the strain of world events', recognising most notably his recent involvement in the release of Brian Keenan from captivity in Lebanon, which clearly had taken its toll, dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 1990. This acknowledgement highlighted the fact that many of the 'players' on the Northern Ireland stage (whether Irish, British, American, etc.) had other commitments, often on the wider global political stage.

**CENT/1/18/59**

**1990-1990**

**Secretary of State meeting with Seamus Mallon**

File focuses on the delegation representing Newry and Mourne area, led by Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP, which met with Under Secretary of State Richard Needham and Secretary of State Peter Brooke. The delegation sought Government investment and assurances on a variety of important agenda items such as youth employment, health, rural development, cross border roads and security. A number of initiatives were considered, including the promotion of industrial development and tourism links with the US Eastern coast. Officials noted that Mr Mallon was extremely dissatisfied with the high levels of security measures in the predominantly Nationalist areas (such as road closures, disruption to civilian life, but also a perceived slow police response to certain paramilitary incidents). He demanded an urgent 'on site' meeting with the Minister to let the circumstances speak for themselves. 'He repeated in strong terms the accusation that the Security Forces slowness to respond was purely and simply a measure of their dislike for the Nationalist

people, with the very clear implication that the Security Forces still discriminated covertly, regardless of any disclaimers... Mr Mallon returned to the point about the inadequacies of policing in this particular area...', dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 1990.

**CENT/1/18/64      1989-1989      AI Conference – Meetings of Conference & PU's Steering Group Vol. 1**

In a similar vein to CENT/1/19/39 (above), this file deals with a number of key issues which the Government, specifically NIO (and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office), faced in their negotiations with the Irish.

Sometimes termed 'Iceberg Watch' in such files, these were agenda items which were likely to 'cause problems' for Government (in this case, potentially jeopardising Anglo Irish relations). Potential 'icebergs' identified by the NIO included the Prevention of Terrorism legislation, Fair Employment legislation, major extradition hearings (including those of Owen Carron and Dermot Finucane), the Stalker Sampson report (investigation into an undercover RUC unit's fatal shootings of suspected paramilitaries), and political developments (or lack of) on both sides of the border. The United Kingdom Ambassador to Dublin, Sir Nicholas Fenn, made some candid observations in his Annual Review of the Republic of Ireland for 1988 (sent to FCO / NIO and copied to his fellow HM Ambassadors at Washington, the European Community and the Holy See):

'Anglo Irish relations improving on everything except Northern Ireland... We should get on well with the Irish if it were not for history...But history will not go away. Two "litanies of horrors". Upsurge in terrorist violence. British security measures in response...

The heart of the matter, of course, is the politics: the

aspiration to a united Ireland, the determination of a million Irishmen to remain British and the self exclusion of the constitutional parties from the governance of Northern Ireland. The Anglo Irish Agreement commits both governments to the principle of consent and to the search for devolution. Mr Haughey reiterates his view that no solution is possible within the confines of Northern Ireland. Influenced by John Hume, he hankers after direct talks with the Unionists and is elaborately sceptical about devolution. The Northern Ireland Secretary is in touch with the Parties – and they with each other – with a view to moving “to or towards” devolution. At the year’s end this policy has not yet succeeded. Neither has it failed. It is a tender plant which should be nurtured...

The Intergovernmental Conference enabled British and Irish ministers to speak their mind forcefully in private while continuing useful work in other areas. This must be the way forward. It will not be easy. We shall continue to want Irish support for security measures disliked by the nationalist community in the north and therefore too often by the government in the south...There are no shortcuts. But there are some signposts...

The year ends, as it began; two peoples who have much in common are glaring at each other across the Irish Sea in mutual incomprehension. We must try again in 1989...’, dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1989.

**CENT/1/19/15      1990-1990      CCRU (Central Community Relations Unit) Equality – Fair Employment Review Part 2**

File focuses on the continuing Government debate on the subject of equality of opportunity in employment in Northern Ireland (set against the backdrop of the MacBride principles). Standing Advisory Commission on

Human Rights (SACHR) had issued its report on this subject, forcing a great deal of deliberation by government officials on fair employment (and what officials termed the 'unemployment differential') and the increasing number of high profile cases submitted to the Fair Employment Agency. As one official observed: 'There is another point which worries me, and I know others. We may be right to characterise those outside critics who will castigate the failure – if such it proves to be - of the fair employment legislation to rectify the unemployment differential as irrational and simplistic. I fear that, with some justice, they will argue that Government has some responsibility for stimulating this false expectation. Moreover, they will say that we are simplistic and naive if we think concern about this will go away. And if the fair employment legislation cannot put matters right – and if on our arguments it was always clear that it could not – then we should have been getting on with something else instead. And in fact I know that we are, insofar as the problem is susceptible of Governmental action.....', dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1990.

**CENT/1/19/19**

**1990-1990**

**Market Testing: "Control Of Racketeering"**

File details the Government activities to counteract possible paramilitary exploitation of 'Market Testing'. Paramilitary groups were deemed to be using four distinct methods to use contracts for their own gain – to intimidate the competitors in a contract tender renewal, to win a 'legitimate' contract to set up a company to launder illegal profits, to extort cash or favour from companies on private services contract to Government and to employ individuals to engage in social security fraud (thus to minimise wages and maximise the chances of the contract being awarded to the paramilitary group). Government officials considered it

naive to think that counteraction in the area of contracts alone would eliminate the problem, but they suggested that it formed the basis for solid action and at the very least provided early warning flags of such illegal activity.

**CENT/1/17/33A 1988-1990**

**Confidence In the System of Justice**

File details a comprehensive NIO study of public confidence in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland, touching on key issues such as policing both in Catholic and Protestant areas and the alienation of communities. The author recommended significant reforms including repeal of Armed Forces power of arrest, introduction of an offence of unlawful killing, the encouragement of rehabilitation of political prisoners into their community and the establishment of community police liaison committees.

**CENT/3/144A 1988-1989**

**Political Developments in Northern Ireland**

File contains detailed papers on United Kingdom / Republic of Ireland Government ministerial meetings, talks with Northern Ireland political parties (including the developing situation with regard to the SDLP / Sinn Fein talks) and most notably including the detailed and candid briefings of Ministers and the NIO's Constitutional and Political Division / Political Affairs Division.

In one confidential memo (23<sup>rd</sup> June 1989) to Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Tom King from Under Secretary of State Richard Needham, he states: 'Certainly the present position in Northern Ireland is more stable, both politically and economically, than at any time since I have been a Minister. It is easy to forget the fear, stress, and uncertainty that surrounded us in the first two years after the signing of the Anglo Irish Agreement. This clearly makes it more likely for a

political initiative designed to bring local politicians into positions of power and power-sharing to succeed. But Northern Ireland's recent history is littered with the reputations of Secretaries of State who have tried to impose political initiatives on doubting, weak and devious local politicians. How can we be sure that any new attempts will be likely to succeed where past efforts have failed? Is there any evidence that Mr Molyneaux or Mr Paisley are ready to gamble on taking over the reins of power in partnership with Mr Hume and Mr Mallon? ... If power-sharing and localisation of power is to work, it can only do so when the local politicians want it to. When they feel they are strong enough in their own communities to take risks which will not cut them off from their support when the going gets tough...It may be a long way off – it may not. What we cannot do is impose a solution. There are enough failed politicians in Northern Ireland, enough failed past initiatives without adding another "failed" Secretary of State.'



Northern Ireland Office

NIO/12/708

1987-1989

**Prisons – Ministerial Briefs on Prison Matters and Meetings with the Ministers**

File details the myriad of complex issues facing the prison system in Northern Ireland, including papers of ministerial meetings with interested parties, dignitaries and church leaders, such as Church of Ireland Bishop for Derry and Raphoe, James Mehaffey. Briefing notes for the Minister, dated July 1989, noted the fact that 60% of the prison population (rising to 90% in HMP Maze) was known to have paramilitary affiliation, which posed particular problems in terms of how such 'prisoners of war' (as the various paramilitary groups termed their own prisoners) should be treated. Beyond the prison walls, deep rooted community support for the prisoners caused its own set of problems for the authorities including wider street protest, disruption, acts of violence and ultimately threat of death against those serving with (or otherwise working for) the Prison Service and the Prison Officers Association. The Government in its regular 'Bull Points' (defensive lines to take for UK diplomats / ministers when questioned by media, etc.) held a firm line on the issue of political prisoners, refuting the notion of 'political' status for its prisoners and highlighting their humane treatment. One such bull point noted that 'there are no political prisoners in Northern Ireland: no-one is imprisoned without due process of law and there are no prisoners detained under executive detention... daily exercise and association with other prisoners...regular opportunities for physical recreation, leisure activities, education and training...violence in Northern Ireland prisons is low. No

prisoner has ever been killed by a prison officer; prison officers do not carry firearms in prison establishments. In stark contrast, no less than 25 prison staff have been killed by terrorists...’, dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 1989.

**NIO/12/695**      **1986-1989**      **Prisons – Human Rights in the Irish Republic / Briefing Material for the United Kingdom Delegation to the Anglo Irish Intergovernmental Conference**  
File contains papers examining progress made to date since the signing of the Anglo Irish Agreement, including Irish language, Fair Employment (NI) Bill, parades and incitement to hatred, community relations and emergency legislation. Also detailed, various human rights issues in the Republic of Ireland, such as gender, marriage and abortion.

**NIO/12/687**      **1985-1989**      **Prisons – Secretariat Special Category Issues**  
File covers in some detail the issue of Special Category prisoners in HMP Maze and includes a paper produced by UVF leadership in agreement with UDA (NIO officials noted ‘that PIRA would subscribe to its content also...’ dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 1989.  
The paper was spoken to during discussions with paramilitaries at the prison with John Steel (then Controller of Prisons), and it gives revealing insights into the rationale of the struggle, life on the inside (education, discipline, morale, etc.), alleged low reoffending rates of released prisoners, the effect of the closure of the Compounds and the opening of the H Blocks and the assertion that most (‘99%’) of political prisoners would not be within prison walls if not for the ‘Troubles.’

It also concluded that their recognition of the futility of violence and their condemnation of it ('that violence is morally wrong, it has achieved nothing...') 'does not stem from fear of prison or for the sake of getting out...'

**NIO/10/9/16**

**1989-1990**

**The Accompaniment Working Group**

File looks at the issue of security forces operations in the context of the Anglo Irish Intergovernmental Conference, focussing on the role of the military and a suggested increase in police accompaniment on their patrols, with particular emphasis being placed on the role of the Ulster Defence Regiment. The latter unit's deployment (as is noted in several CENT files) had been raised as a point of concern by the Irish Government during the course of ongoing Anglo Irish Intergovernmental Conference, with the Irish calling for its disbandment or at the very least, fundamental reform. The resultant compromise was that the unit would undergo increased security vetting of new recruits, improved training, welfare procedures to help soldiers under stress or to identify 'undesirable elements' and RUC joint patrols (where the UDR soldier would only 'in extremis' resort to his own powers of arrest – leaving that job to the police officer).

The counterpoint to these recommended changes inevitably came from the security side, where the GOC (General Officer Commanding) and Chief Constable had raised concerns, thence contributing to a draft speaking note for Secretary of State (in his forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1989), about the ramifications of such changes: 'real cost to the overall effectiveness of our anti-terrorist effort...I am not willing to see any weakening of what,

especially in recent months, has been a notably successful containing action by the security forces...’  
In his briefing note to SoS ahead of this meeting with the Irish side, one official stated:  
‘Secretary of State will wish to convince the Irish that we share their Irish concern at the importance of confidence in the security forces...The Irish are extremely ready to assume that we are insincere about our concern on confidence issues...They see confidence issues as a nationalist grievance about the security forces and the system of justice... Make it (pleasantly but firmly) clear that no other measures are presently on offer...Even after all this, the Irish will still want more. Mr Collins may stamp his feet again and say that the very foundations of the Anglo-Irish Agreement are being rocked. If that is so, it is only because Irish Ministers are doing the rocking...’, dated 4<sup>th</sup> October 1989.

**NIO/17/29**

**1985-1990**

**A Critique of the Northern Ireland Justice System**

A brief file, but which contains some interesting papers on (as NIO officials from the Law and Order Division termed it) a ‘warts and all’ self appraisal by NIO of the Justice system, dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 1985, which was intended to contribute in a positive way to the ongoing Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental talks. Clearly, some officials felt that there was room to be more honest about the failures or shortcomings of criminal justice as it was, if any solid progress with the Irish was to be accomplished at the talks. An official stated that the honest critique:

‘would appeal to the Irish as a fair analysis of the system of justice in NI: the present draft perhaps paints too rosy a picture so any legitimate points of criticism

you or others can think of would be welcome. I am wondering, for example, whether to incorporate a passage on lack of any offence – such as the unreasonable lethal use of lawful force – which might be used to mount prosecutions against the security forces in a greater number of cases...it is to HMG's credit – and evidence that we realise the law must not be oppressive – that all anti-terrorist legislation in Northern Ireland is, in our view, compatible with the ECHR (albeit, in one case, after a derogation)...’ dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 1985.

Also referred to, the SDLP conference, where Seamus Mallon, Alex Attwood and others had voiced their own criticism of the system. Officials noted that:

‘As often with the SDLP on security matters, the mood is more important than the substance (although their views are not to be discounted on that account). Nor, as Mr Mallon's contribution to the Second Reading Debate showed, is he at his best on legal matters. Hence the need in our private dealings with constitutional Nationalists always to seek to bring their hearts and their heads into a more intimate relationship...’

‘One would not want to deny Mr Mallon the pleasure of criticising alleged inconsistencies on the part of his political opponents...there need be no inconsistency in principle between subscribing to a Bill of Rights on the one hand, and derogating from it in exceptional circumstances. Indeed, an intelligent Unionist could argue that it is precisely because they wish to preserve the rule of law in Northern Ireland, and not impose on the criminal justice system excessive, and ultimately damaging burdens that, faced with a terrorist threat of the magnitude that now confronts us – and which constitutional Nationalists North and South still

sometimes seem unhappy about facing up to – that an extreme remedy such as executive detention might regrettably be necessary...’ dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1990.

**NIO/12/792**

**1988-1990**

**Matters Relating to Sinn Fein**

File deals with the NIO policy on limitations to contacts with those seen to be supporting violence (or refusing to sign up to the declaration of non violence). Initially this policy stated that communications to Sinn Fein should be ‘curt’ and ‘avoiding any appearance of friendliness’. However, officials conceded upon reflection that these comments should be omitted from latter guidance, merely requiring that NIO communications be ‘brief and formal’. It was felt to be more dignified ‘should the guidance become a discoverable document at any stage’...

Also, the political Ulster Democratic Party (with links to the proscribed Ulster Defence Association) was to be treated in the same ‘arms length’ manner:

‘There is also the possibility that any legal challenge to our stance on Sinn Fein could raise the question of evenhandedness of our approach and we must have a viable defence. I believe there may also be a case for adopting the same approach to the Progressive Unionist Party (although Mr Daniell will know more accurately Mr Hugh Smyth’s connections). On that front, I fear we may have been stymied by Northern Ireland departmental Private Offices who have included Mr Smyth in delegations to Ministers without consulting us...’ dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 1990.

<b>NIO/12/785</b>	<b>1988-1990</b>	<b>Dermot Finucane – Backing of Warrants in Republic</b> File covers in great detail the legal appeal launched at Dublin Divisional Court by Maze escaper Dermot Finucane against an Extradition Order by British Government. This appeal was rejected in April 1989 by a 3-0 majority.
<b>NIO/12/824</b>	<b>1990-1990</b>	<b>Capital Punishment Bill December 1990</b> File covers the Government debate about the restoration of the death penalty. The question of abolishing the capital sentence was focused mainly on crimes of treason or piracy, the former being recognised in practical terms as applying only in time of war. However, the negative effects on security in Northern Ireland, of introducing the capital sentence, were starkly acknowledged by (previous RUC Chief Constable) Sir John Hermon, in a report he had prepared in 1983 (and subsequently reproduced by NIO 5 <sup>th</sup> December 1990 for the purposes of the ongoing debate). The then current Chief Constable Hugh Annesley had concurred with the views of his predecessor.  'No sound reason can be found for the re-introduction of capital punishment that could be supported at the present either by logic or argument...the main perpetrators of these crimes are terrorists claiming political motivation and they are most unlikely to be influenced by any fear of death as a legal consequence of their actions. Indeed they are much more likely to see and use the 'death penalty' as a vehicle by which to extend their political influence and to attract support both nationally and internationally to their 'cause.'... 'Many terrorists are on the fringe of 18 years of age...the death penalty could be avoided by increasing the 'use' of young persons by terrorist organisations...'

<b>NIO/17/31A</b>	<b>1988-1990</b>	<b>Royal Prerogative of Mercy Remission Granted at Christmas and Other Occasions</b> A brief file, but which highlights the Government view on the granting of Christmas home leave to 'SoSP' (detained at the Secretary of State's Pleasure) or Life Sentence prisoners. NIO officials viewed the scheme as a 'useful incentive to good behaviour and one of the positive features to which the Government can point when international attention is focused on the Northern Ireland prison system. It helps maintain family ties and to prepare a prisoner, in the last year of his sentence, for his return to the community...' They also acknowledged that: 'In the past the Christmas home leave scheme has occasionally generated one or 2 headlines of the "Christmas at home for terrorists" variety. But in recent years the scheme has given rise to little comment; this may be due to the long period over which the scheme has operated and the wide measure of support for it among political and church leaders, and in both parts of the community in general...' dated 29 <sup>th</sup> September 1988.
<b>NIO/12/565A</b>	<b>1986-1989</b>	<b>Prisons – Conference – Prison Matters – Representation by the Irish through the Intergovernmental Conference</b> File details the various (prison) issues that were raised by the Irish side at the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference. This included the early release of life sentence / Secretary of State's Pleasure cases, where, as an NIO official pointed out: 'there are many people, including some who were very young at the time, who became caught up in the violence of the early and mid-70's, ended up serving

indeterminate sentences and now bitterly regret what they did. This special consideration is taken fully into account when cases are reviewed...' dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1986.

Also covered, the contentious and continuing debate about the human rights implications of strip search protocols. The Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, had raised with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the case of a pregnant woman committed to prison for non payment of fines, who was strip searched without a hospital officer present, and who subsequently suffered a miscarriage.

NIO whilst acknowledging the tragic nature of this case, countered the overall criticism of strip search policy (not only from the Irish, but from SACHR), arguing that in Northern Ireland the higher percentage of female paramilitaries warranted more robust security measures. (Researchers note: see following file **NIO/12/672A**, for continued discussion on the wider SACHR / strip search debate)

<b>NIO/12/672A</b>	<b>1984-1989</b>	<b>Prisons – Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR) Transfer of Prisoners Between Great Britain and Northern Ireland</b> File contains very detailed papers on the SACHR examination of a variety of key prison issues, including the transfer of prisoners from custody in UK / elsewhere to Northern Ireland prisons, to be closer to their families, Prevention of Terrorism legislation and strip searching of prisoners.
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<b>NIO/12/767A</b>	<b>1986-1990</b>	<b>Access to Prisoners and Prisons Judicial Review Effect of Elected Authorities (NI) Act 1989</b> File examines the Government debate and legal opinions surrounding Sinn Fein access to prisoners, and the wider notion of the party's legitimacy, set against the perception by some that they should be treated not as elected representatives but merely as ordinary members of the public when attempting to visit prisoners, due to their support for violence.
<b>NIO/12/769A</b>	<b>1986-1990</b>	<b>International Committee of Red Cross Prisons Visits</b> File covers the ICRC visits to various prisons in Northern Ireland, and the responses to their summary report recommendations. Reports focused on 'Material conditions' of the prisoners detention (such as hygiene, food, space, lighting, heat, furnishings), the 'Psychological conditions' of detention (such as work, education, recreation, contact with the outside world through newspapers or television, visits, home leave and the wider issue of prisoner treatment and discipline) and the 'Health and medical care' of prisoners (including perceived humiliating treatment, psychiatric cases).
<b>NIO/10/9/17</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>Reports of Politically Sensitive Issues to No. 10</b> The file contains reports of politically sensitive issues for No. 10 from the NIO. The reports detail the event, date, reason for sensitivity and speaking notes. They include: meetings with politicians, and the Stevens Inquiry.
<b>NIO/12/822</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>NIO Ministers Case from April – May 1990</b> The file contains correspondence about segregation and conditions in HMP Belfast from Dr Ian Paisley MP, Gerry Adams MP, Clare Short MP, Paddy Ashdown MP and Seamus Mallon MP.

**Department of Education**

<b>ED/45/2</b>	<b>1984-1989</b>	<b>Women Together</b> File contains correspondence and reports from Women Together and details of their ongoing activities, requests for funding and their work with the Peace People and Protest and Catholic Encounter (PACE)
<b>ED/13/2/1247</b>	<b>1986-1988</b>	<b>Education and Training Provision in HMP Maze – Report of a Survey – April 1986</b> The file contains the drafts and final report of a survey undertaken by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education at the request of the NIO on the extent to which education and training at the Maze reflected good practice in adult education and the standards of work achieved by the students. The Report covered resources, students, learning programmes and the range of subjects and training provided.



**Department of Finance & Personnel**

<b>DFP/19/113</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Harland &amp; Wolff Vol (VI) – Privatisation</b> File contains papers relating to the privatisation of Harland & Wolff. It includes correspondence between the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland dated 20 March 1990 and 10 Downing Street dated 21 March 1989, confirming the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher was pleased to note the progress and was fully content with the proposed agreement with the management/employee team and the Fred Olsen companies.
<b>NIO/12/767A</b>	<b>1986-1990</b>	<b>Access to Prisoners and Prisons Judicial Review Effect of Elected Authorities (NI) Act 1989</b> File examines the Government debate and legal opinions surrounding Sinn Fein access to prisoners, and the wider notion of the party's legitimacy, set against the perception by some that they should be treated not as elected representatives but merely as ordinary members of the public when attempting to visit prisoners, due to their support for violence.



**Department of the Environment**

**ENV/37/1**

**1989-1990**

**Political Protest Action**

File contains monthly reports for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the state of play of the continuing political protest action by Unionists against the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The Report dated 14 May 1990 proposed that further reports were no longer required. The Secretary of State agreed.

