



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Release of 1994 files at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



PRONI

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
1994 Highlighted Files	8
Central Secretariat	8
Department of Economic Development	18
Department of Finance and Personnel	20
Department of Education	21
Department of Environment.....	22
Department of Health and Social Services	23
Northern Ireland Office	24

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 1994 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/1/22/25A* refers to the open part of a file, whereas *CENT/1/22/25* refers to the part of that file withheld under certain exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Copyright

Most public records in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland are subject to Crown Copyright. Crown copyright information previously available for re-use under waiver conditions can now be re-used under the terms of the Open Government Licence. The Open Government Licence was introduced in 2010 as a simpler set of terms and conditions for the re-use of a wide range of information covered by Crown Copyright. For further details of information covered by the licence, please see What the Open Government Licence covers at:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/re-using-public-sector-information/uk-government-licensing-framework/open-government-licence/>

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 2300 public records comprising 9,700 pages of content on the troubles and political developments from 1968-1990. 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 the Act, and the Data Protection legislation.

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 1993 were brought forward for release during August 2018 and the records of 1994 are being brought forward for release during December 2018.

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 Data Protection legislation.

Records Released

517 files being deemed as suitable for release as “fully open”. A further **158** files are open but subject to blanking out of some content. **26** 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.

Some of the significant issues covered by the 1994 release include:

- Peace Envoy (U.S.) for Northern Ireland
- Talks and political developments between the Northern Ireland parties and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Prime Minister's visit to Belfast
- Ceasefires
- *SECRASP* papers (Social, Economic and Community Relations Aspects of Security Policy)
- Cross border economic cooperation
- Security legislation (including ministerial consideration of Emergency Provisions and Special Category)
- US / Northern Ireland relations, specifically fair employment (the MacBride principles)
- Anglo Irish Intergovernmental Conference
- Police Matters
- Secretary of State's briefings on various NI issues
- Child abuse
- Fisheries
- Industrial development
- Rural tourism
- Youth training
- Paramilitary activity
- Rural development
- Civil emergencies

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 Data Protection legislation.

The catalogue of files for 1994 will be publicly available online on the PRONI website www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni from Friday 28th December and the files will also be available to view at PRONI from Friday 28th December.

These files are available to the media in advance of their release to the public on the strict understanding that **there is an embargo on publication or broadcast until 00.01am on Friday 28th December 2018.**



1994 Highlighted Files

Central Secretariat

CENT/1/22/25A 1993-1994 Talks: US Government – TPU [Talks Process Unit]

File details a wide variety of papers, notes and reports relating to meetings and talks between US, UK and Irish officials.

Ulster Unionist leader James Molyneaux MP sent a letter to the President-elect Bill Clinton in January 1993 following reports of a White House representative being sent to Northern Ireland. The appointment of President Bill Clinton led to much speculation that the US administration would appoint a special envoy to Northern Ireland. James Molyneaux MP in his letter stated:

'I am wondering if it would be helpful for one of my Party Colleagues to visit Washington to clarify the position resulting from the termination of the Talks at the end of the agreed period of six months', dated 6 January 1993.

The speculation of a special envoy had drawn much criticism as mentioned in a letter from Jonathan Powell, FCO official to David Brooker, NIO, he explained its purpose was not to "stick it to the Brits". He goes on describe how former Congressman Bruce Morrison, Head of "Irish Americans for Clinton" envisaged the envoy:

'He did not envisage an Irish American filling the role: an Irish American like Flynn would have too much baggage. He envisaged instead someone completely independent, like Jimmy Carter, or someone in the same mould but of lower profile', dated 6 January 1993.

A statement from the Friends of Ireland noted:

'On this St. Patrick's Day, the Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress join with all Irish Americans..... in calling for renewed efforts to achieve peace, reconciliation, and justice in Northern Ireland. We welcome the Prime Minister of Ireland, Taoiseach Albert Reynolds, to Washington and look forward to working closely with him, with the Deputy Prime Minister, Tánaiste Dick Spring, and with their British counterparts, in

seeking ways to achieve these ends over the coming years', dated 15 March 1993.

The file also refers to the US visa offered to Gerry Adams on the condition that, 'Sinn Fein and the IRA are committed to ending the conflict in Northern Ireland on the basis of the Joint Declaration', and that he renounces 'violence and will work to that end', dated 27 January 1994.

There was much opposition from UK government officials over the decision to admit Gerry Adams to the United States. Documented in the speaking notes of a meeting between the US Ambassador and the Prime Minister's Private Secretary, it states:

'Unless Mr Adams's visit is followed by a rapid and permanent end to the IRA's violence, there is no question that it will have done huge damage to the Declaration. We warned of this ahead of the visit, in the strongest possible terms'. Speaking notes for meeting with US Ambassador, dated 1 February 1994.

CENT/1/22/26A 1993-1993 J. Smyth Extradition – Deposition

File contains depositions, transcripts, notes and papers relating to the extradition hearing in San Francisco of James Joseph Smyth who escaped from the Maze Prison in 1983.

Bernadette McAliskey who testified on behalf of the defence argued against the extradition on the grounds of human rights violations against Catholics in Northern Ireland, she states:

'Sinn Fein representatives are not allowed to speak in locals Councils', 'areas like West Belfast have been economically punished for voting Sinn Fein', 'community and self-help groups who employ Republican ex-prisoners are politically vetted and more often than not have their state funding reduced until they are prepared not to employ these people', and 'Northern Ireland has significantly the worst housing stock and worst housing conditions in Western Europe', dated 11 October 1993.

**CENT/1/22/44A 1993-1994 Central Government Relations Unit (C.C.R.U) –
Equality – Intergovernmental Conference Issues
(I.G.C)**

File contains a large number of confidential papers, including many internal plenary records, notes and briefings relating to the Intergovernmental Conferences held in Belfast and Dublin in 1993 and 1994.

Issues discussed vary from cross-border roads, treatment of fugitive offenders, inland fisheries, broadcasting, Irish language broadcasting, fair employment, changes in police structures, lethal force and cross border co-operation.

One draft defensive briefing for the Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew, noted the government 'line to take' in relation to Irish language broadcasting, it stated:

'Government recognises that the Irish language is perceived by many people in Northern Ireland as an important part of their culture heritage.....encourage interest in it and appreciation of it, to highlight the contribution which it has made to the cultural heritage of the whole community and to respond positively where practical', Draft Defensive Briefing Note for Secretary of State, dated 21 October 1993.

**CENT/1/22/16A 1993-1994 Central Community Relations Unit (CCRU) Ulster
Scots**

File details letters, draft papers and proposals relating to the Ulster Scots Language Society and the need for an Ulster-Scots Academy to ensure the 'survival' of the minority language.

'300,000 people in Ulster have a fair degree of competence in the spoken language, and we estimate that as many as 100,000 may use it as their first or only tongue.....However, there are no grammar text books, school courses, university or college departments or academic qualifications in Ulster Scots', Proposal to Establish an Ulster-Scots Academy.

**CENT/1/23/6A 1994 Social Economic and Community Relations Aspect
of Security Policy (SECRASP) Vol. 9**

File contains a wide variety of notes, letters and restricted papers relating to security policy in Northern Ireland.

Subjects vary from Amnesty International reports into killings in Northern Ireland, cross border security cooperation, Garda views on security issues, publicising security forces' successes, Irish Extradition (Amendment) Bill 1994, and updates on security forces injured since 14 December 1993.

Additional information includes reference to the Committee on the Administration of Justice's pamphlet, 'Adding Insult to Injury'. The report detailed:

'The lethal force issue (and is critical of the security force) its main thrust is to document harassment and other alleged abuses by security force members before and after the use of lethal force by soldiers or police', dated 4 February 1994.

**CENT/1/23/26A 1993-1994 Central Community Relations Unit (C.C.R.U.) –
Equality Homelessness**

File details policy, notes and papers relating to proposals to change the homelessness legislation and the allocation of fair social housing.

A policy in confidence letter from John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, mentions the 'proposals represent a significant shift in our policy on rented housing', noting:

'They reverse the existing situation whereby someone who is "homeless" can require a local authority to rehouse him without taking any steps to find accommodation himself.....authorities will have more scope to allocate subsidised housing to people with the best claim to it', dated 2 December 1993.

It is further noted by Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, the need for reform who suggested the 'current arrangements can be manifestly unfair'.

'We need to strike a proper balance between the requirement for an effective safety net for the genuinely homeless, and the need to ensure that procedures for allocating social housing are fair', dated 17 December 1993.

CENT/1/22/33A 1993-1994 Criminal Justice Consultative Group

File contains reports, notes and papers relating to the establishment of the Criminal Justice Consultative Council (CJCC) and Criminal Justice policy reviews.

One such review resulted in a consultation document which was published in March 1993. The 'Crime and Community' publication was 'the first time the Government had produced a strategy away from the emergency provisions', submission from J.M. Lyon, dated 1 November 1993.

Over 40 bodies and individuals responded to "Crime and the Community", reviewing key areas such as community safety, mediation, cautioning, remands, the sentencing framework, adult penalties and juvenile penalties.

CENT/1/23/31A 1994-1994 Helicopter Crash

File details statements, letters and papers relating to the Chinook helicopter tragedy which crashed on the Mull of Kintyre on 2 June 1994, killing 29 people.

A personal statement from the Prime Minister, John Major states:

'These officers and officials from the RUC, the Army, the RAF, the Northern Ireland Office and other Departments were all, in their different ways, carrying out work of vital importance to Northern Ireland. As I know from meetings during my visits to the Province, they made light of the risks in their daily lives. Their skill and determination had helped to save many lives in Northern Ireland', dated 3 June 1994.

CENT/1/23/23A 1990-1994 Glor Na nGael

File details a variety of papers, notes and letters relating to the Secretary of State, Peter Brooke's decision to withdraw funding from the Belfast based Irish language organisation "Glor Na nGael".

'Decisions in such cases are taken by the Secretary of State in line with Government policy as set out in the Parliamentary Statement of 27 June 1985 by the Secretary of State Mr Hurd', dated 15 August 1990.

This controversial decision was highlighted in a document titled, 'Attack Against the Irish Language in Belfast', it states:

'This scandalous decision contravenes many international agreements (the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, Helsinki agreements, Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe, International Pact relating to Civil and Political Rights) and constitutes additional proof of the discriminatory and racist attitude of the British Government towards its Irish language population', dated September 1990.

CENT/1/20/77A 1991-1994 DUS Stocktaking

File details a number of confidential papers and notes relating to the DUS (L) stocktaking meetings from 1991-1994.

A wide variety of issues were discussed and noted in relation to the Irish Extradition Amendment Bill, the Bill of Rights, international issues, Anglo-Irish matters, political talks and security issues including reference to the prosecution of police officers involved in the Guildford Four case.

CENT/1/22/46A 1993-1994 Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference – General Volume 12

File contains a wide array of papers and issues discussed at the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental conference.

Subjects vary from the impact of border road closures, Christmas parole arrangements for prisoners, allegations of harassment by security forces, lethal force by security forces, a review of the 1993 marching season, broadcasting, fisheries, proposals for the Belfast City Hospital Trust and the Royal Group of Hospital Trust to be reconstituted as a single trust, and the treatment of fugitive offenders (extradition).

Additionally, there was much focus on cross-border co-operation on arts and culture. In one management in confidence paper it was noted that Michael Ancram MP met the Republic of Ireland's Minister Michael D Higgins TD in December 1993, it stated:

'The extensive cross-border co-operation between the various cultural institutions in Ireland in a variety of areas including visual arts, music, drama, film, heritage, broadcasting and Irish language and culture. The Ministers noted the excellent relations which exist between the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and An Chomhairle Ealaion', dated 3 December 1993.

CENT/1/23/33 1994-1994 First Day Briefs 1994 Working Papers

File contains the working papers and 'First Day Briefs' for any new NIO Minister who may be appointed following a possible cabinet reshuffle.

The brief covers a number of different areas focusing on the communal divide, economic and social matters, public expenditure, economic issues, fair employment issues, cross-border economic co-operation, international fund for Ireland, Irish language, community groups, education and transport services.

CENT/1/23/41 1994-1994 Irish Republican Army (IRA) Prisoners (Release Of)

File contains media transcripts, restricted documents and notes relating to the Irish government's announcement to release nine IRA prisoners early, before Christmas 1994.

This was a contentious decision which divided popular opinion. In a note made from a telephone conversation between John Hume MP and the Private Secretary D. McIlroy, Mr Hume stated:

'He was a bit concerned about the speed with which Dublin was moving on the prisoners issue.....Mr Hume had been repeating publicly his view that those were all things that needed to be settled down the road', dated 9 November 1994.

CENT/1/23/39A 1994

Prime Minister's Visit and Speech

File contains papers and correspondence relating to the visit of the Prime Minister, John Major, to Belfast on 21 and 22 October 1994.

It includes a letter dated 17 October 1994 from Roderic Lyne, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street to the NIO, describing a meeting between the Prime Minister and James Molyneaux MP covering a range of subjects including the surrender of weapons, exploratory talks with loyalist paramilitaries, border crossings, etc; draft speech to be given by the Prime Minister in Belfast, and a letter dated 17 October 1994 from 10 Downing Street to the NIO, asking for further work on a number of themes in the draft speech.

CENT/1/22/43A 1993-1994

**Central Community Relations Unit (C.C.R.U) -
Equality – Meetings with Cardinal Daly**

File contains correspondence between Cardinal Daly and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland relating to issues concerning Catholic schools.

It includes: a letter from Cardinal Daly to the Secretary of State, setting out a range of issues relating to Catholic schools, dated 2 September 1993; briefing for a meeting between the Prime Minister and Cardinal Daly to be held on 11 November 1993; and a note of a meeting between Michael Ancram MP, NIO Minister and Cardinal Daly on 1 June 1994 in Armagh, which included discussion of the recent political developments.

CENT/1/22/37A 1994

North West Study Vol. 8

File highlights the ongoing work of the North West Region Cross Border Group, preparations for a visit by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and a speech to be given at a Cross Border Conference in the Guildhall on 19 November 1993 with an emphasis on cross border cooperation.

CENT/1/21/40 1992

TPU [Talks Process Unit] Implementation: General papers

File contains papers relating to the ongoing political talks process and planning for the implementation of an agreement. This includes topics such as:

How to sell an agreement, lessons learnt from 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, legislative requirements, machinery of government changes, potential for a full referendum on the 'Heads of Agreement', and coordination with the Republic of Ireland, etc.

CENT/1/22/3 1993-1994

Good News Compendium Vol 4

File contains regular digests of good news stories provided by the Northern Ireland departments.

CENT/1/23/40 1994-1994 Liaison Group

File contains a note of a meeting between British and Irish officials in London on 1 November 1994 about North/South institutions and a related draft proposal for joint memorandum of the British and Irish Governments on North/South institutions.



Department of Economic Development

DED/22/15 1994 Peace Dividend

File contains drafts and a final version of a paper to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, dated 7 September 1994, entitled Peace Dividend.

The paper from Tim Smith, NIO Minister for Economic Development states: 'For some time now my officials have ... been working up a paper on the employment effects of a cessation of violence ... Prepared before Wednesday's ceasefire, it concludes that there are four major areas in which peace will impact on employment ...'; response from NIO Minister, Michael Ancram, dated 8 September 1994, 'The Minister believes that it could most efficiently be so used as a lever on the those who may seek to undermine the process at a sensitive stage'.

DED/3/830 1992-1992 Linfield Football Club

File contains documentation, notes, grants and fair employment practices associated with Linfield Football Club.

Father Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus in the US raised concerns regarding the 'MacBride Campaign' and fair employment practices within Linfield Football Club. He highlighted 'the absence of Roman Catholics amongst the Club's playing staff'.

Officials at Linfield Football Club 'reiterated the Club's policy.....the Club does not have a policy to exclude from its staff anyone by reason of colour, race or religion'. It is further noted in the discussions between R. J. Minnis, Vice Chairman Peter Lunn and Secretary Derek Brooks that:

'Until the present "troubles" Catholics have regularly featured in Linfield teams.....The problem in effect has been that Catholics who had otherwise been attracted by the Club's record of success.....have been unprepared to expose themselves to the dangers inherent either in travelling to and from Windsor Park', dated 10 April 1992.



Department of Finance and Personnel

DFP/6/48A 1970-1975 Employment of Women – Maternity Leave

File details notes, letters and papers relating to maternity leave for married and unmarried women civil servants.

Married women were treated differently to unmarried women in terms of their maternity leave allowance. This controversial issue was tackled in a letter from W.R. McCullough from the Civil Service Management Division, it stated:

'It has been decided that with effect from the date of this letter the regulations governing maternity leave for married women civil servants, embodied in CSC 22/70, paragraphs 12-16, should also apply to unmarried officers', dated 24 March 1971.



Department of Education

ED/13/2/1133 1991-1994 Curriculum Branch – Child Abuse

File deals with Government attempts to increase awareness in dealing with child abuse within the education sector.

The file contains papers, guidance and procedures focusing on mainly teachers who in 'their day to day contact.....are in a unique position to identify and help children at risk', Child Protect, a Guide for Teachers.



Department of Environment

ENV/34/1/1 1990-1994 British Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body

File contains reports, notes, and papers in relation to matters discussed by the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body.

Subjects vary from British-Irish transport links, transfer of prisoners, closed border roads, environmental issues affecting the UK and Ireland, police primacy, report on freight transport, ports and shipping, Dublin to Belfast railway and the railway network across the island of Ireland.



Department of Health and Social Services

HSS/13/51/87 1994 Family Policy Branch – Abortion 1994 Papers

File contains papers, notes, restricted policy and submissions focusing on ongoing discussions in relation to abortion law in Northern Ireland.

The Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR) raised in a number of consultation papers and reports that the abortion law in Northern Ireland was not fit for purpose. It detailed in a published consultation paper from February 1994 that, 'Northern Ireland's Law on abortion is chronically uncertain to the point where the European Court of Human Rights would strike it down for failing its test of legal certainty'.

Baroness Denton, NIO Minister, following the SACHR annual report sent a restricted policy document to the Secretary of State. This documented noted:

'I share your concern, and that of colleagues, that the risk of Government action on such a sensitive element of social reform could send the wrong signals about the prospects of a devolved administration in Northern Ireland. There may, however, be ways around this problem. We might for example, preface any consultation document with a statement that HMG would wish to see the matter considered by a future devolved administration', dated 18 October 1994.



Northern Ireland Office

NIO/14/20 **1992-1994** **Briefings – Ministers First Day Briefing**
File contains the working papers and ‘First Day Briefs’ for any new NIO Minister who may be appointed.

Topics include criminal law, the criminal process, crime and the community, Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, remand delays, publication of Criminal Justice (NI) Order 1993, miscarriages of justice, case of Neil Latimer, case of Patrick Kane, Michael Timmons and Sean Kelly, Royal prerogative of mercy and mentally disorder offenders.

NIO/14/21 **1992-1994** **Committees – Committee on Security Forces and the Community (CSFC)**
File contains confidential notes of the meetings held by the ‘Committee on the Security Forces and the Community’.

Issues discussed vary from lethal force, cross-border roads, Carlingford Lough, Cloghoge, harassment by security forces, holding centres, security forces handling of parades, patrol identification cards, rising bollards/sharks teeth and perceptions of the security forces.

