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# Release of 2002 files at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



**PRONI**

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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 2002 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/1/24/14A* refers to the open part of a file, whereas *CENT/1/24/14* 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 4,000 public records comprising 17,000 pages of content on the troubles and political developments from 1968-1998. Documents from 1999 and some earlier years were added during December 2023. 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 (FOI) Act 2000 balanced against the need to protect personal information. The FOI Act 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 FOI 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 Northern Ireland (NI) Departments with terminal dates of 2002 are being brought forward for release during August 2024.

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

There are **731** files being deemed as suitable for release as “fully open”. A further **157** files are open but subject to blanking out and/or partial closure of some content. **28** files remain closed in full.

Some of the significant issues covered by the 2002 release include:

- **Northern Ireland Government:** Programme for Government, Executive Committee, Committee of the Centre, First Day Briefs, Ministerial Code, NI Departments, NICS.
- **Civic Forum**
- **North-South Issues:** Co-operation, North South Ministerial Council.
- **British-Irish engagements:** British Irish Interparliamentary Body, British-Irish Council, Four Nations.
- **Minorities and vulnerable groups:** Asylum Seekers, Older People, Women's Issues, Children's Issues, Race Strategy, Poverty, Promoting Social Inclusion, New TSN (Targeting Social Need).
- **Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Community Relations:** Holy Cross, Flags, Ulster Scots and Irish Language.
- **Conflict and Legacy Issues:** Victims, Bloody Sunday Inquiry.
- **Public Health and Social Issues:** Teenage Pregnancy, Emergency contraception, Adoption, Tobacco Advertising, Radiation Protection.
- **Health and Hospital Provision:** Acute Hospitals Review, Cancer Institute.
- **Transport:** Railways, Airports, Ferry Services, Cycling Strategy, Travel Survey.
- **Infrastructure:** Westlink Development, Railway Safety, Harbours and Ports.
- **Regeneration & Development:** Area Plans.
- **Energy Strategy and Utilities Legislation.**
- **Environment:** Air Quality Bill, Drinking Water Quality Report, Foot and Mouth.

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 2002 will be publicly available online on the PRONI website [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni) from Thursday 22 August 2024 and the files will also be available to view at PRONI from Thursday 22 August.



## 2002 Highlighted Files

### Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

DCAL/13/8	2002	<p><b>Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch Board Meetings 2002 - Part B.</b></p> <p>File includes letter regarding a proposed “Dictionary of Parliamentary Terminology” from Gavin Falconer, Hansard, Northern Ireland Assembly to Acting Chief Executive, The Ulster-Scots Agency, dated 24 June 2002.</p>
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Falconer notes that he has become aware that the Ulster-Scots Agency was “considering a joint venture to produce a dictionary of parliamentary terms for use in the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Scottish Parliament.” He expressed surprise at not having been consulted so far. Nevertheless, he welcomed the proposal, stating, “The fact that the agency is considering such a step is great news for Scots, since it implicitly recognises two truths: that Scots is fundamentally the same language in Ulster and Scotland; and that the relevant expertise necessary for development is mainly to be found in Scotland. ... A sensible parliamentary dictionary with a reformed pan-dialectal orthography could settle many of the outstanding issues, though I should point out that the Irish dictionary is not binding on Hansard editors, and I do not expect any Scots one to be either.”

Falconer noted that “most Scots used in the Northern Ireland Assembly comes from two Members, one of whom uses far more than the other.” He also stated, “...I feel obligated to point out that the agency may wish to consider a) whether the amount of Scots used warrants a dictionary and b) whether it might be prudent to await the results of the next Assembly elections to see whether Scots is likely to be used to any meaningful extent during its next term. Of course, the dictionary itself may act as a catalyst in that respect.”

<p>DCAL/14/1/1</p>	<p>1999-2002</p>	<p><b>Motorsports, Regional Motorsports Facility / Existing Facilities Review.</b></p> <p>File includes a lengthy response to the “Draft Strategic Plan for 2&amp;4 Wheel Motor Sport 2002-2007”, from Rev. Dr. R. T. William McCrea, MLA DC, dated 9 April 2002.</p>
<p>McCrea makes detailed observations regarding the Draft Strategic Plan, and its wider context. He writes, “You may be aware that following the tragic death in Estonia of motorcycling's greatest hero, the late Joey Dunlop, political interest was indeed, as your report specifies, “ignited”. I would however, wish to clarify the point that many political representatives have always had an earnest and long-term interest in motorsport in Northern Ireland and that at no time did we seek to exploit the loss of our racing legend for political purposes as has been suggested by some quarters.</p> <p>Together with my Assembly colleagues Mr. Ian Paisley Jnr. MLA and Mr. Wilson Clyde MLA, I sought to bring together the various strands and disciplines during several meetings at Parliament Buildings... What transpired from those meetings was a genuine and undeniable desire to move the sport forward in Northern Ireland, but that would mean moving forward all the disciplines and not promoting individual aims but adopting a cohesive approach from which all strains of motorsport would ultimately benefit. ...</p> <p>Motorsport in Northern Ireland has the potential to move forward, the death of Joey Dunlop has given the various disciplines a point of unification, and the focus must now surely concentrate on the future development, promotion and sustainability of the sport in all its guises. ...</p> <p>... Although I welcome the publication of the draft strategic plan I would caution that if the plan is not agreed and implemented then it will result in another paper wasting exercise gathering dust in the corner of someone's office. ...</p> <p>The road ahead is certainly not an easy one, many varying needs must be met and many different personalities will come into play in the development of a motorsport strategy in Northern Ireland. The aims included within the draft strategy are indeed high, but if achievable, will guarantee a bright and sustainable future for all disciplines.”</p>		



Department of Economic Development

<b>DED/22/48</b>	<b>1993-2002</b>	<b>British / Irish Interparliamentary Body Committee Tourism Development.</b> File includes “bull-points” [sic], dated December 2000, prepared in advance of a visit by the BIIPB, on the North-South Tourism Company.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “Tourism offers golden opportunities to all sections of the community, North and South.</li><li>- New company, set up jointly by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Bord Failte will bring a focus to the promotion and marketing of island of Ireland on a world wide basis.</li><li>- Following Good Friday Agreement and the continuation of peace, there is a real potential for tourism, particularly in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Southern Ireland, reaching its full potential. ...”</li></ul>		



Department of Education

<b>DE/7/3</b>	<b>1996-2002</b>	<p><b>Sectarianism in Sport.</b></p> <p>File includes “Memo of meeting between Chief Inspector Jimmy O'Brien and Jack Palmer and Ciaran Mee from DCAL held at RUC Headquarters, Knock, Monday 26 March 2001”.</p>
<p>The meeting, requested by DCAL representatives, considered the issue of “RUC views on measures needed in Northern Ireland to combat unruly behaviour and sectarianism at sports events.” Chief Inspector O'Brien noted that many Irish League Clubs were “still totally dependent on the police for providing security and crowd control at fixtures”, at an estimated cost of c.£3 million per annum. He noted that the RUC would like to see the costs reduced and stated that clubs and organisers should take responsibility for crowd management issues. O'Brien also believed that legislation was needed “to govern behaviour at sports events, especially soccer matches in Northern Ireland.” However, he “did not believe that it was either necessary or desirable for Northern Ireland to duplicate wholesale the GB Football Offences Act 1991.”</p> <p>The file also includes “Minutes of [a] meeting on 10 September 1999 to discuss Sectarian Chanting at football matches in Northern Ireland”. The meeting, had been arranged following the football match Northern Ireland v France at Windsor Park, “when sectarian chanting blighted what otherwise would have been an enjoyable sporting event.” It was attended by representatives of SCNI, IFA, BCC, and DENI. Topics discussed included Sectarian Chanting, Stewarding, Legislation, Attitudinal Change, and the Way Forward. Regarding Attitudinal Change, “It was agreed that in the short term appropriate action should be taken to change the attitude of football fans. This would require a united campaign ... so that public opinion and peer pressure could be brought to bear upon grassroots supporters, players and clubs. ... It was agreed that an effective first step towards changing the image and attitude of football is to draw up a code of conduct which should be rigidly enforced at all levels and signed up to by all participating clubs.”</p>		

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<b>DE/7/4</b>	<b>1997-2002</b>	<p><b>Tobacco Advertising - Sports Sponsorship.</b></p> <p>File includes copy letter dated 4 June 1997 to Chris Smith MP, Secretary of State for National Heritage, from Michael Henson, Chief Executive, Ulster Orchestra.</p>
<p>Henson expresses concerns about the potential negative impact of the proposed ban on tobacco advertising in relation to the Orchestra's income. Henson states: "Gallaher Limited has substantially supported the Ulster Orchestra since 1980 and is in fact credited as one of our funding bodies, in partnership with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the BBC and Belfast City Council." He noted that sponsorship from Gallaher Limited equated to about 35% of the Orchestra's budget, and the company was a "crucial financial partner in establishing the Orchestra's independence from the Arts Council in 1980."</p> <p>Official correspondence in the file noted that whilst Ministers' observations had focused mainly on the impact to sports, there would need to be further consideration and recognition of the potential impact and implementation of any ban in relation to the arts.</p>		

<b>ED/45/9</b>	<b>April 1997 - October 2002</b>	<p><b>First Day Briefs.</b></p> <p>File includes Brief entitled "The Education Service in Northern Ireland", [2002].</p>
<p>The Brief covers the structure of the education system, education expenditure, the school system, youth services, community relations and equality, as well as human rights and inclusion. Regarding "Rationalisation of School Provision", it stated: "During the 2000/01 school year there were some 35,800 surplus places in schools in Northern Ireland – just over 23,600 places in the Primary sector and 12,200 in the Secondary sector. This figure represents an increase from 1999/00 when the figure was 34,400 places. ...</p> <p>The sectoral nature of the Northern Ireland education system makes action to remove surplus places difficult as it is necessary to retain schools of different types in areas to ensure equality of access. In addition, a significant proportion of the "surplus places" cannot sensibly be removed from the system – in most cases it is not practical to dispose of unused classrooms in an otherwise viable school."</p>		



Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

<b>DETI/5/28</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Harland &amp; Wolff PLC Vol. 2.</b> File includes draft Memorandum marked "Urgent" from Sir Reg Empey to [NI] Executive, dated 14 February 2002.
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The memo provided an update on the confirmed legal obligation of DETI to provide financial support to H&W PLC to meet Employers' Public Liability Insurance claims following insolvency of Chester Street Insurance Holdings Ltd. It recommended "that the Executive notes DETI's legal obligations, the extent of the liabilities, and the procedure for obtaining DFP approval to formally accept the contingent liabilities and offer a statutory guarantee."

<b>DETI/2/59</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>DETI - National Trust (N.I.) Giants Causeway.</b> File includes "Note For the Record" entitled "Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre Meeting in Ballycastle on Thursday 20th June 2002."
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Attendees included MLAs P. Doherty (Chair), S. Neeson, and J. Wells, members of Moyle District Council, representatives from Seaport Investments, National Trust, NITB and DETI. The respective parties were invited to outline their positions on development of the Visitor Centre site. Reference was made to a meeting between Sir Reg Empey and the Council in February 2002, and the DETI position was clearly stated: "All interests should work in partnership to deliver a facility which must be sustainable, in social and economic terms. Decisions on the future of the site are a matter for Moyle Council and the Department stands ready to support whatever decisions are taken." Following "lengthy and detailed discussions", including a private session for the Councillors present, proposed next steps were agreed, subject to "legal clearances and to ratification by the full Council". Among the next steps, the National Trust and Seaport Investments were to consider developing a joint proposal based around a long term lease of the site from the Council.



Department of Environment

<b>ENV/32/1/52A</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<p><b>Parliament Buildings / Stormont Estate - Proposed change of image.</b></p> <p>File includes details of applications to hold events, permissions granted, and practical arrangements.</p>
<p>Stormont Estate hosted the International Cross Country Challenge Run on 23 January 1999. Maurice Henry, Construction Service, Estate Maintenance and Advisory Division, wrote to Barney McGuigan, Accommodation, Construction and Fire Division, noting that NICSSA hosted the event in collaboration with Estates, and with help from the NI Athletics Federation. There were around 1,000 competitors and 2-3,000 spectators, including the Secretary of State, “who mingled with the competitors and spectators at the Maynard Sinclair pavilion frontage.” Broadcast coverage was provided by the BBC and RTÉ. Henry noted that “Despite the very wet weather conditions over the past months, the circuit was in as good as [sic] condition as we could get for this time of the year.” However, the “BBC buggy...did cut up the grounds a bit, but balanced against the excellent coverage and portrayal of the Estate, this is not significant.”</p>		

<b>ENV/34/10/3</b>	<b>2000-2002</b>	<p><b>Northern Ireland Cycling Strategy.</b></p> <p>File includes letter from Denis O’Hagan, Head of Transportation Unit, to Mr John Ritchie, Director for Road Safety &amp; Transport Licensing, dated 16 August 2000.</p>
<p>O’Hagan writes, “The Strategy contains a range of measures that will aim to improve conditions for cyclists and that will encourage a pro-cycling culture in Northern Ireland, and represents a significant commitment to cycling by Government, District Councils and statutory and voluntary sector organisations. ...</p> <p>It is important that we now maintain this pro-cycling momentum. The Northern Ireland Cycling Forum will soon be meeting to consider how best to promote implementation of the Strategy. I am keen to maintain strong links with each of the main cycling contributors and look forward to hearing in future about your initiatives to promote cycling.”</p>		



Department of Finance and Personnel

DFP/19/250	1999-2002	<p><b>Euro Division - Bloomfield Report / Victims Issues.</b>                  File includes letter from Chris Capella, United Kingdom Representation to the European Union, to Jack Layberry, DFP NI, dated 5 April 2000.</p>
<p>The subject is "Victims Groups (The FAIR Group) and the Structural Funds." Capella notes that he met with about 15 representatives of victims groups and wished to "report the degree of resentment and frustration they feel (rightly or wrongly) about accessing the structural funds." He concluded, "They appeared to me to be a group of essential decent and highly motivated people ... incapable at present of competing on equal terms. ... Giving them a hearing may be the prudent response and informing them what the structural funds can (and cannot) support."</p>		

DFP/28/12/3	2001-2002	<p><b>ECPD - Foot and Mouth Disease - 2001 Outbreak (Employment Conditions Personnel Division).</b>                  File includes update memo from Bríd Rodgers, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to Executive Committee, dated 26 March 2001.</p>
<p>In relation to "The Border", it states, "The measures which we have undertaken at the Border are under considerable scrutiny... For presentational reasons, there would be an advantage in maintaining an official presence at all 175 recognised border crossing points. We estimate that ... would require around 2000 people. Even if we monitored only the most important ones on a 24-hour basis – and there are perhaps 35 of these – we would still require of the order of 600 people. This would have huge implications for the provision of other public services throughout Northern Ireland. ... such an extension of our activity on the Border will not be effective, simply because fixed checkpoints can be easily by-passed over fields or through forests if someone really wants to move animals or other goods illegally.</p> <p>... it is impossible to seal the border, and the only real advantage of this course of action is presentational. I believe that we would do better to concentrate our efforts in the immediate area of the outbreaks, and <b>I therefore recommend to Executive colleagues that we adopt this approach, which I am convinced is fully defensible.</b>"</p>		



Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

DHSSPS/2/3/212	2000-2002	<p><b>Secondary Care Branch, Advisory Group on the Ethics of Xenotransplantation.</b></p> <p>File includes minute from Dr Glenda Mock, Principal Medical Officer, DHSSPS to CMO and Des Browne, dated 14 November 2002.</p>
<p>Under the heading "Publication of the Fourth United Kingdom Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority (UKXIRA) Report", the minute notes that David Lammy, Under Secretary of State for Health, had asked for agreement to the publication of the report. Whilst the report was not anticipated to generate much local interest, some coverage in the national newspapers was expected. It further noted that, "The definition of xenotransplantation within the United Kingdom is to change and bring the UK into line with international developments. ... This change in definition has already been agreed in Northern Ireland. ..."</p>		



Department of Regional Development

<b>DRD/1/5/8</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<p><b>Drink - Drive Campaigns.</b></p> <p>Memo from John Ritchie, Road Safety and Vehicle Standards Division, to PS/Minister, entitled 'Anti-Drink/Drive Campaign – Summer 2001', dated 3 July 2001.</p>
<p>The memo noted that the summer campaign would run from 2 July – 12 August 2001. Also included was a draft press release which stated: 'In launching the campaign Environment Minister Sam Foster MLA said: "I don't want to be a killjoy when it comes to young men enjoying the summer. But, I encourage them to drive responsibly. Drink and drive and you risk your life; you risk killing or maiming others. ... Remember, if you get behind the wheel after having consumed alcohol you become a potential killer. Could you live with the shame?"</p>		

<b>DRD/6/23</b>	<b>2002-2002</b>	<p><b>Ballycastle / Campbeltown Ferry Service.</b></p> <p>Memo from E Gunning, Air and Sea Ports Division to PS/Minister, dated 30 April 2002, regarding the Ballycastle/Campbeltown Ferry.</p>
<p>The memo noted that the Scottish Executive Minister Wendy Alexander was likely to make an early announcement about the next stage of the plan to re-establish the Ballycastle/Campbeltown Ferry under a Public Service Obligation. It stated, "Time is pressing for the Scots on this matter as their First Minister is committed to the official opening ceremony for the Vestas factory at Campbeltown on Monday next," and noted that the Minister should have a statement ready, in case of queries from the local press. The memo advised, "The Minister can welcome the progress. However, he will not wish to 'talk-up' public expectations about the re-establishment of the ferry, particularly as some doubt remains about the ability of the private sector to meet the service requirements within the subsidy limit of £1m per year."</p>		

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<b>DRD/8/2A</b>	<b>2000 - 2002</b>	<b>Transport Policy and Support - Free Fares for the Elderly.</b> File includes a Memo from Paul Sweeney, Deputy Secretary to PS/Minister, dated 10 October 2000.
<p>This issue is, "Report on meeting convened by OFMDFM regarding Free Travel." The memo notes that Sweeney and Walsh, DRD officials, attended a meeting convened by OFMDFM on 9 October 2000, where Sweeney "made clear the Minister's view that this was an issue where DRD had lead responsibility." The meeting was surrounded by "political sensitivities", and officials from DFP, DOE, DSD, DARD, DHFETE, DETI and DCAL, each stated the views of their Department at the outset. Following discussion, Tony McCusker, Director of OFMDFM, suggested the preparation of a policy memorandum by DRD as a "pragmatic way forward". The memo concluded by noting that "The [DRD] Minister has concerns that OFMDFM may be seeking to usurp his responsibilities for taking the lead on free fares. Notwithstanding this there may be merit in preparing a policy memorandum...</p> <p>I suggest that the Minister reviews a policy memorandum to be prepared by DRD officials and agrees to use this as the basis of myself reconvening a meeting of the interdepartmental group in Clarence Court. This doesn't entirely ensure that DRD are in the lead but would shift the initiative back to the Department."</p> <p>File also includes correspondence between Mark Durkan, MLA, Minister of Finance and Personnel, and Gregory Campbell MP, MLA, Minister for Regional Development, regarding the introduction of a free travel scheme, and some controversy arising from a radio interview by Gregory Campbell on 8th February 2001.</p>		



Department of Social Development

<b>DSD/10/2/2</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<p><b>Executive Committee Papers.</b></p> <p>File includes response from Nigel Dodds, Minister for Social Development, to Mr Loughran, Secretary to Executive Committee, dated [17] April 2002.</p>
<p>In the response, Mr Dodds notes his comments on papers due for consideration by the Executive Committee Meeting on 18 April 2002. Regarding the Executive Programme Funds Review, Dodds stated, "I note the proposals for changes to the structure of the Executive Programme Funds. Whilst I welcome a number of the improvements proposed... I still believe that the objective of establishing a closer correlation between the allocation of resources and priorities in the Programme for Government could be achieved through the mainstream Budget process." Regarding the Acute Hospitals Review, Dodds stated, "I note the proposals for the future of acute hospital services and wider structures in the health and social services, which are to form the basis of a draft consultation paper to come to the Executive at a later stage. I do not believe the Executive should commit itself as this stage to the scale of funding which has been identified in the paper. Such decisions should only be taken in the light of other spending priorities and the available resources."</p>		



Ministry of Finance

FIN/18/48/20	1954-1968	<b>Forestry Parks - (1) Proposal to treat Tollymore Park, Newcastle as a Public Park (2) Issue of Forestry Park Guide Book (3) Provision of Museum and Cafe Buildings etc.</b>
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File includes letter dated 1 January 1954, from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Finance, noting that Tollymore Park, Newcastle was set to become the first state forest park in Northern Ireland, under the Forestry Act 1953. It stated: "Tollymore Park is beautifully situated and is in an area frequented by large numbers of tourists. Moreover it contains in a very compact area a number of fully grown trees and shrubs, many of which are comparatively rare in this country. ..."

Three main sections were proposed for the new park: (1) "an area of more or less open land" with recreational facilities and amenities, (2) "an area devoted to specimen trees and shrubs", and (3) "an area which has been systematically planted under normal forestry conditions." It was intended to be educational and informative, as well as enjoyable: "Since one of the main objects of forest park schemes is to make the public forest conscious, all specimen trees will be suitably labelled not only with their names, but with information as to their habits, growth and original derivation."

The file also includes some correspondence between officials about use of the park for official hospitality. On 22 June 1959, Bateman, Ministry of Agriculture wrote to Shimeld, Ministry of Finance, to enquire about hospitality provision and expenses at Tollymore in connection with "business and professional associations, public bodies, etc., visiting Northern Ireland under official auspices." Shimeld accepted that hospitality would be needed in some circumstances but noted that "in the case of a park which exists primarily for the enjoyment of the public I should have thought that those occasions would be rare." He suggested allowance of up to £25 per annum which did not please Bateman. Bateman replied: "Frankly, I feel that the suggestion of a £25 limit is out of keeping with the idea behind the proposal, and I suggest that it would be reasonable to leave the choice of recipients of this hospitality to the good sense of the senior officers concerned. After all, the scale of hospitality will not be overwhelming - no double Scotches [sic] are on the menu... Furthermore, a record of the recipients will be available which should minimise any risk of abuse on this occasion."



Ministry of Home Affairs

<p><b>HA/9/2/959A</b></p>	<p><b>1968-1993</b></p>	<p><b>Criminal Lunatic, Gordon Ian Hay, Holywell Mental Hospital.</b>                  File includes a 25 page concise summary of "The Curran Murder Case".</p>
<p>The summary appears to have been prepared for the Minister, as a result of some correspondence from members of the public and calls for the case to be re-examined at the end of 1968. It includes a brief history of the facts of the crime, notes on the trial, overview of evidence, summary of representations on Gordon's behalf, and an overview of press coverage. The introduction states: "The only undisputed fact in this case is that Patricia Curran was stabbed to death 37 times sometime between 5.20 p.m. on the 12th November, 1952, when she was seen getting off the bus at Whiteabbey, and 2 a.m. the following morning, when her body was found in the grounds of her home.</p> <p>Who the murderer was, how, when and where the murder took place, and even the circumstances under which the body was actually found, are all questions that still seem to worry journalists, lawyers, doctors and, not least, the general public. It is remarkable that so much doubt should still exist sixteen years after Iain Hay Gordon, the 20-year-old Scottish National Serviceman stationed at the time in Whiteabbey, was found guilty but insane."</p>		



Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

<p><b>NIASC/4/1</b></p>	<p><b>2000-2002</b></p>	<p><b>Admin arrangements during suspension.</b> Minute from R. Flanagan, OFMDFM to R. Crawford [NIAC], dated 21 April 2000, entitled "Briefing for Secretary of State's Meeting with Lord Alderdice".</p>
<p>The Minute notes: "My understanding is that the 5 May meeting was arranged to allow the Secretary of State and Lord Alderdice to review the position of the Assembly during suspension. As things currently stand, it seems likely that the political situation will remain unresolved at that time and, accordingly, it would be premature to consider or assess particular options for the future of the Assembly. If the meeting is to go ahead on 5 May we should brief the Secretary of State, and Gerry Cosgrave should, in parallel, brief Lord Alderdice, on the basis that the current arrangements for the Assembly should remain in place pending future political developments, with a pragmatic approach being taken to dealing with Assembly staff who are unoccupied during suspension. This could be done on the basis that those staff would remain in their posts in the Assembly, but might undertake work for their parent Departments as appropriate. This would ensure that the Assembly could return to full operation immediately in the event of restoration."</p>		



Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

OFMDFM/3/1/35	2001-2002	<p><b>Assembly - General.</b></p> <p>File includes Draft Statement to Assembly on Legislative Programme by the [Acting] First Minister / Deputy First Minister on legislative priorities of the Executive for the New Assembly session up to July 2002.</p>
<p>The statement outlines proposed new Bills on Budget, Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries, Fur Farming, Education, Special Needs and Disability, Health and Personal Social Services, Personal Social Services (Amendment), Children Leaving Care, Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, Game (Amendment), Local Government (Best Values), Local Government (Finance), Dangerous Wild Animals, Railway Safety, Strategic Planning, Children's Commissioner, Social Security Fraud, and Industrial Development.</p> <p>“In all, this Statement provides an outline of 23 Bills that the Executive proposes to progress this Session. ... Other Bills could come forward. For example, Ministers may during the year wish to bring forward other policy initiatives that require legislative authority. ... Likewise, although the Legislative Programme we have set out today constitutes current priorities it is always possible that one or more pieces of legislation may not come forward during the Session.</p> <p>I hope you will agree that the Bills we have announced this morning for the new session represents a worthwhile and challenging Programme of legislation [sic] with emphasis on legislative commitments given in the Programme for Government.”</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/1/36</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<p><b>Committee of the Centre Vol. 2.</b></p> <p>Note of a meeting between Mr Poots, Chairperson of the Committee of the Centre and Junior Ministers Haughey and Nesbitt on 18 June 2001.</p>
<p>It was noted that the Committee had invited the First and Deputy First Ministers to discuss Budget Proposals 2002-03 with them on 20 June, but the meeting had been delayed. 'Mr Poots expressed concern that the Committee will not have an opportunity to input to OFMDFM proposals until after these have been considered by the Executive and announced in the Executive Position Report. This made it difficult for the Committee to fulfil its statutory role to advise and assist with the formulation of policy.'</p>		

<b>OFMDFM/3/2/48</b>	<b>2001 - 2002</b>	<p><b>Executive Committee Part II.</b></p> <p>File includes "Comments on Agenda for Executive Meeting 28 March 2002."</p>
<p>Under Item 5: "Programme for Government: Progress Report and Arrangements of End Year Annual Report", it was noted, "A number of Ministerial Representatives indicated that they had not yet seen the paper..." Furthermore, "Dr Smith advised that the First Minister was concerned that very few targets had been met and that consequently consideration should be given to departments setting more realistic targets in future. The presentation and layout of this report should also be considered."</p> <p>Under Item 8: "Ex-Prisoners - Employment and Employability", it was noted that a draft paper had been circulated to Ministers and, "There had been general agreement that the group should be set up, however, the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment had raised some reservations about the terms of reference and has indicated that he would raise them at the Executive meeting. The Mister [sic] of Finance and Personnel had suggested that the words "politically motivated" should be removed from a heading and Mrs Bunting was currently waiting for a response from DEL, the lead department on this suggestion. Mr Green and Mr A McAteer advised that their Ministers would argue for the retention of the current wording which related solely to "politically motivated prisoners"."</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/2/49</b>	<b>2001 - 2002</b>	<p><b>Review of Community Relations Policy Papers from 03/12/01.</b></p> <p>File includes a minute from Dr G Mulligan, Senior Principal Statistician, to Mr MacCann, dated 10 December 2001, entitled "Review of Community Relations Policy."</p>
<p>The minute summarises challenges associated with attempting to measure the additional costs associated with a divided and polarised society.</p> <p>The file also contains a draft report entitled "Public Expenditure Impact of Polarised Society". In the introductory paragraph it states: "Northern Ireland is a deeply divided society. The most obvious expression of this division is the violence and civil unrest which has blighted the province since 1969. Three decades of political unrest have created two distinct and separate communities in Northern Ireland. Each community has its own separate education system, bus routes, community centres and doctor surgeries. The polarisation within these communities is often surprisingly extreme, a recent study in Belfast found that some mothers were prepared to forgo antitnatal [sic] care for their children in order to avoid attending a clinic located within an area populated by a different religious group."</p>		

<b>OFMDFM/3/2/50</b>	<b>2001 - 2002</b>	<p><b>Committee of the Centre Meeting 19-Jun-02, Background Briefing for Officials.</b></p> <p>File includes paper headed "NI Executive Response to the Disability Rights Task Force Committee of the Centre Response."</p>
<p>The Committee welcomed many of the NI Executive proposals, and it also suggested some further actions. Regarding "Employment", the paper stated, "The Committee notes the anomaly in the present provisions which allows justification for treating disabled employees less favourably than other employees when compared to other prohibited grounds of discrimination. The Committee believes that this general defence of justification of discrimination should be removed and replaced with specific grounds such as health and safety or an inability to perform essential functions of the job even with reasonable adjustments."</p>		

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OFMDFM/3/2/59	2002	<p><b>Emergency Contraception - Judicial Review.</b></p> <p>File includes draft letter from Bairbre de Brún, Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, to Dr John Reid, Secretary of State for N. Ireland, [5 March 2002].</p>
<p>The letter states, "The judicial review seeks to quash the Order laid in December 2000, and signed jointly by Yvette Cooper and me, which allowed emergency contraception to be sold over the counter in pharmacies, on certain conditions. The case brought by SPUC [Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child] is that emergency contraception is a method of abortion, and therefore anyone who administers or supplies it is committing a criminal offence under the Offences against the Person (OAP) Act 1861. ...</p> <p>An adverse judgement could apply not only to the supply of emergency contraception ... but may also extend to any form of contraception which might affect implantation...</p> <p>As part of its contingency plans the DOH(L) is proposing that an amendment would need to be made to the OAP Act to define a "miscarriage" as only taking place post implantation, and to make clear that the supplier of emergency or other forms of contraception is not committing an offence if implantation has not occurred. ...</p> <p>You will be aware that the OAP Act 1861 comes under the heading of criminal law and is therefore a reserved matter. Thus while the policy matter in question here is one of health i.e. the availability of contraception, the means to secure continued availability depend upon an amendment to an Act that lies within your bailiwick, i.e. criminal law. My purpose in writing to you at this time is, therefore, to ask you to take the appropriate steps to ensure, if necessary, that the provisions of the Emergency Bill which may be brought forward by the DOH(L), extend here. ...</p> <p>In short whatever you do, you (and I) will be criticised but there is no way to avoid this if the judicial review outcome is adverse. Consultation followed by the introduction of primary legislation to ensure continued access to contraception, if such could be devised, is not something that in the circumstances we have the time to do. There is, therefore really no alternative to extending the Emergency Bill here, if indeed it becomes necessary for the DOH(L) to seek to have it passed at Westminster."</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/2/86</b>	<b>2002</b>	<p><b>PIU - PPP (Public Private Partnerships) - British-Irish Council - Transport Sector.</b></p> <p>File includes document entitled “British Irish Council Transport Sector: Comments on Transport Papers” from Jersey, [July 2002].</p>
<p>In response to “Irish Government Paper on Integrated Transport Policy”, Jersey noted that, “The concept of a work programme on integrated transport has the potential to be most useful ... Jersey is very interested [in] ... ”... <i>the integration of land use and transport policy in practice...</i>” Indeed, the relationship between land use, planning and transport is fundamental to the island and this is a principal component of the Island Plan's spatial strategy. ...</p> <p>Jersey has significant potential to secure a more integrated and sustainable pattern of transport, but there has been and is a limited ability to pursue this...</p> <p>That said, Jersey would be pleased to learn from other BIC administrations that have had more advanced, innovative approaches in both policy and practical terms...and welcomes this significant opportunity. It may be possible then to raise the significance of transport integration as an issue amongst our own administration.</p> <p>Finally, whilst Jersey is interested in these issues, it should be noted that it is not part of the European Union for TENs [Trans-European Networks].”</p>		

<b>OFMDFM/3/2/92</b>	<b>2002</b>	<p><b>Civic Forum Report on a Regional Strategy for Social Inclusion.</b></p> <p>File includes a submission entitled “Launch of Civic Forum Report on “A Strategy for Social Inclusion in Northern Ireland”,” dated 30 May 2002.</p>
<p>It noted that Sharon Haughey had invited the Deputy First Minister to the report launch on 12 June at Lisburn Civic Centre. It recommended attendance and advised that, “This launch would provide an opportunity for Minister to acknowledge the importance of civic participation in the system of governance and welcome the Civic Forum's contribution to this. Ministers may also wish to use this opportunity to mention the Civic Forum's involvement in consultation surrounding the PfG [Programme for Government] process. ... Ministers might wish to acknowledge the importance of building a more inclusive society and welcome the Civic Forum's contribution to the debate.”</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/2/95</b>	<b>2002</b>	<p><b>Children's Fund General.</b>                  Email dated 9 October 2002 with briefing information on the Executive Programme Fund for Children, one of four Funds operated by the Executive.</p>
<p>It states, "The Children's Fund provides support for children in need and young people at risk. It will distribute £32m over the three years from 2001/02-2003/04 to programmes and projects that will have a direct impact on children and young people. The first tranche of allocations was announced in April 2001, providing £10.5m over three years to 12 departmental projects, with a further allocation of £10.1m made in July 2002 to support 14 projects. ... Following a decision by the Executive that the voluntary and community sector should be able to bid directly to the Fund for support, an invitation to bid was issued to the sector in June. Over 320 applications were received...these are now being assessed and it is hoped that further allocations will be announced by the end of the year."</p>		

<b>OFMDFM/3/2/97</b>	<b>2002</b>	<p><b>Children's Issues.</b>                  File includes press release entitled "Minister announces new initiative to help organisations better protect children", dated 2 October 2002.</p>
<p>It noted that the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Ms Bairbre de Brun, had announced an important new booklet, "Safer Organisations Safer Children" which was designed to promote good practice within community and voluntary organisations and to "help them offer better protection for children in their care." The booklet was compiled by representatives from DHSSPS, Department of Education, HSS Boards and Trusts, Education &amp; Library boards, NSPCC, Barnardo's, the Volunteer Development Agency and Community Sector Training.</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/4/14</b>	<b>2000-2002</b>	<b>Commissioner for Children.</b> File includes a "Note for the record" from Peter May, Principal Private Secretary to Mr Mallon, entitled "Children's Commissioner: Meeting with the Secretary of State" dated 9 August 2001.
<p>It states: "At the conclusion of the meeting, Sir Reg Empey indicated they would take away the Secretary of State's concerns and consider them. Mr Mallon stressed there were 3 [sic] main elements. Firstly politically, where the proposals had the support of all the parties in the Executive, and the Committee of the Centre had reached similar conclusions to those in the consultation paper. That level of support was practically unprecedented in the next new? [sic] devolved arrangement. Secondly, there were the legislative requirements regarding the role of the Northern Ireland Office and the Secretary of State in approving any legislation which has to be introduced. That was not in dispute. Thirdly, there was the legal assessment of the capabilities in the document around which there may be a dispute. This was a matter on which specific legal advice would be needed.</p> <p>Mr Mallon stressed the desire of Sir Reg and himself to avoid a turf war, but noted that the production of the consultation paper had been undertaken after significant engagement with all relevant organisations connected to children's rights, and with widespread agreement within the Assembly.</p> <p>The Secretary of State concluded by saying the issue for him was how the arguments were presented in the paper not whether the issues should be aired. Sir Reg Empey asked if there was any specific language the Secretary of State would wish to have considered. The Secretary of State agreed to consider the matter. Both Sir Reg Empey and Mr Mallon noted this would be helpful but did not constitute agreement to amend the document."</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/4/17</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>The Committee of the Centre.</b> File includes Submission entitled, "Review of Public Administration: Executive Paper and approach by the Committee of the Centre" from Peter May, Head of Strategy Unit to PS/First Minister and PS/Deputy First Minister, dated 11 April 2002.
<p>It states, "Since the Assembly Debate, there have been regular requests from the Committee of the Centre about when the First Minister and Deputy First Minister will be able to talk to them about the Review. ... We have been seeking to delay the meeting until there is substantive progress to report. The revised ToR [Terms of Reference] are certainly one element of that progress, but the Committee are also likely to press on the issue of independent experts and composition of team.</p> <p>The Committee have been insistent that they see the ToR before the Executive finally approved them. To hold out against this would potentially sour the Committee's approach to the Review, and little would be gained in any event. It is therefore proposed that Ministers agree to release the draft revised ToR once noted by the Executive.</p> <p>We will not have full information for the Committee by the dates they have proposed, but significant delay is likely to result in criticism of Ministers by the Committee. It will also add fuel to the concerns already raised about delays in getting this far, and may be used to criticize [sic] the decision not to complete the exercise before the election."</p> <p>The Submission recommended that Ministers put a single paper covering all issues to the Executive on 2 May, and that a meeting with the Committee should follow soon after, "on the basis that issues should have advanced sufficiently by that time."</p>		

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<b>OFMDFM/3/4/21</b>	<b>2001-2002</b>	<p><b>North Belfast Initiative – Sectarian Attacks.</b></p> <p>File includes note entitled “North Belfast Initiative” from Chris Stewart, Community Relations, Human Rights &amp; Victims Unit, to PS/Sir Reg Empey and PS/Mr Mallon, dated 9 August 2001.</p>
<p>The note provides an update on “latest developments” in the aftermath of a meeting on 6 August. Under the sub-heading “Access to schools”, it states that the Department of Education report: “indicates that the authorities are aware of the issues, and are supporting local efforts at achieving a resolution, focusing in the main on Holy Cross Primary School. Mediation Network are already involved [and] ... is hopeful of a resolution by September.” The advice from the education authorities and local community groups was “that this initiative should be allowed to proceed.” However, it was noted that “it would be wrong to focus efforts solely on the access to schools issue, as it is a symptom of underlying tension.”</p> <p>In regard to “Ministerial participation”, the note stated: “My assessment...is that the personal interest taken by Ministers is warmly welcomed, but that the time is not right for high profile participation, as the arrangements for dialogue are have [sic] yet to fully crystallise. However, this should be kept under review in relation to the scope for Ministers to add impetus to the process at a future point.”</p>		

<b>OFMDFM/3/4/25</b>	<b>2001</b>	<p><b>OFMDFM – First Day Briefs.</b></p> <p>File provides an overview of the structure and work of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister arranged under seven main headings.</p>
<p>The main headings were, 1. “Purpose and Objectives”, 2. “Departmental Structure” (Including an organogram and overview of x7 main Directorates, 3. “Resources” (i.e. finance), 4. “Legislative Programme” (for 2001-02), 5. “Departmental Committee Structure”, (i.e. The Committee of the Centre and its members), 6. “Current Issues”, and 7. “Urgent Business Related to the Institutions” (x11 issues related to the Executive, the Assembly, BIC and NSMC, and the Civic Forum, were identified as requiring “early consideration.”).</p> <p>Section 6. “Current Issues” was further sub-divided as follows:</p> <p>6.1 Equality Directorate: Community Relations, Commissioner for Children, Human</p>		

Rights, Victims, Peace II, Single Equality Bill, Executive Response to Disability Rights Task Force recommendations, Gender Policy and Strategy, Mainstreaming Equality - An Outline for European Union Structural Funds, New TSN [Targeting Social Need], Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI), Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

6.2 Executive and Corporate Services Directorate: Appointments to Public Bodies in Northern Ireland, Emergency Planning

6.3 North/South Ministerial Council Secretariat

6.4 Executive Information Service: Corporate Identity

6.5 Economic Policy and Public Service Directorate

6.6 Legal Services

Paragraph 6.2.3, in relation to "Emergency Planning", noted "Since the events of 11 September in the USA the Central Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU) has been monitoring the situation closely to ensure that any actions taken in Northern Ireland mirror those being taken in the rest of the UK. CEPU has asked NI Departments and infrastructure providers to revisit their emergency planning arrangements, including those relating to IT systems and processes to ensure that they are robust, up to date and can cater for the widest range of possibilities so that services could be delivered as normal should the need arise."

Paragraphs 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 outlined issues in relation to "Corporate Identity". The Brief noted that "Up to now a real sense of corporacy [sic] has been lacking in the activities of the Executive. That must be remedied if the public is really to believe that the Executive is "working together" and "making a difference". Accordingly, it would be extremely beneficial if the Executive could endorse the proposed corporate identity...

If the new identity can be signed off as soon as possible there will be presentational benefits in relation to events after Christmas such as the official openings of the Brussels and Washington offices. These events will allow us to use our new corporate identity to push home our message on the international stage. There is also a strong argument for having an advertising campaign at home...to get across what the Executive is doing for its citizens and the new government brand. This will be essential in raising public awareness and acceptance of the value of the new political structures in Northern Ireland."

In relation to "Legal Services", a priority issue was, "Resisting the challenge by DUP Ministers to the withholding of Executive papers by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister."

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<b>OFMDFM/5/7</b>	<b>2002</b>	<p><b>North Belfast C.C.T.V.</b></p> <p>File includes copy letter to Jane Kennedy, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, from David Trimble, First Minister and Mark Durkan, Deputy First Minister, dated 25 April 2002.</p>
<p>Trimble and Durkan wrote: "We are fully aware of the heightened tension and violence in North Belfast over recent months. We trust that the installation of CCTV cameras at flashpoint interface areas will lead to improvements in the security and safety of the entire community. We also appreciate your concern that work should begin immediately...so that they are in place as soon as possible before the summer period. It would be helpful if we could be kept informed of the impact that the cameras have in improving the situation on the ground."</p>		

<b>OFMDFM/5/9</b>	<b>2002</b>	<p><b>Holy Cross Dispute Feb 02.</b></p> <p>File includes copy letter to Lord Hylton, from David Trimble, First Minister, and Mark Durkan, Deputy First Minister, dated 12 February 2002.</p>
<p>Trimble and Durkan thanked Hylton for his letter which contained "kind remarks about our efforts in relation to North Belfast." They noted, "We very much welcome the suspension of the protest at Holy Cross Primary School, and the beginning of dialogue..." They also highlighted measures which had been put in place "to tackle social, economic and community issues in these areas", including a Community Action Project.</p> <p>Trimble and Durkan further stated, "Sadly, the recent return of street violence and the sectarian murder of Daniel McColgan have demonstrated that there is much work still to be done. We will therefore continue our efforts to support dialogue between the two communities with the aim of building up mutual confidence and trust. Finally, we note with interest your helpful suggestion that outside facilitation could be made available, and we shall bear this in mind as we move forward."</p>		

