



Department for

Communities

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Release of 1993 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 1993 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 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, GDPR 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 1993 are being brought forward for release during August 2018 and the records of 1994 will be 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, GDPR and the DP Act.

Records Released

527 files being deemed as suitable for release as “fully open”. A further **227** files are open but subject to blanking out of some content. **35** 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 main significant issues covered by the 1993 release include:

- Political developments and talks between the Northern Ireland parties and the Secretary of State
- *SECRASP* papers (Social, Economic and Community Relations Aspects of Security Policy)
- Cross border economic cooperation
- US / Northern Ireland relations, specifically fair employment (the MacBride principles)
- Anglo Irish Intergovernmental Conference
- British/Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body
- Political Development Group papers
- Secretary of State's briefings on various NI issues
- Child abuse
- Fisheries
- Historic Monuments
- Industrial development
- Rural tourism
- Youth training
- Paramilitary racketeering
- Rural development
- Forensic Science laboratory explosion
- Police matters
- 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 GDPR and the Data Protection principles.

The catalogue of files for 1993 will be publicly available online on the PRONI website www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni from Friday 24th August and the files will also be available to view at PRONI from Friday 24th August.

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 24th August 2018.**



1993 Highlighted Files

Department of Agriculture

AG/80/49A 1992-1993 Rathlin Island

File details papers and correspondence relating to the regeneration of Rathlin and associated background information.

Subjects vary from the Rathlin water supply, Church Bay new build scheme, Rathlin electrification and the Ballycastle-Rathlin ferry service. Discussions revolve around the viability of specific projects and the associated costs, this is reflected in a letter from the Department of the Environment to the Rathlin Development and Community Association, it is noted,

'Some time ago an investigation was carried out into the feasibility of providing a public water supply to the west end of the Island.....I regret that due to the very high cost the Department is unable to provide a water supply at this time. The future installation of mains electricity would reduce the cost of the pumping station but the overall cost would still be well in excess of the cost yardstick', dated 10 December 1991.



Central Secretariat

CENT/1/17/42 1988-1989 Irish Language (Vol IV)

File details papers on the promotion of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and the ongoing debate over the practicality and viability of implementing changes to legislation and policy.

The papers highlight that this is a difficult matter for the UK Government, affecting many aspects of society, from the use of Irish names in dealings with the government, correspondence in Irish for use in official Government business, acceptance of Irish place names in official documents, bilingual street names, funding for traditional arts, Irish language education, broadcasting and prison etc. The complexity of the issue is reflected in a letter from D.C. Kirk in relation to 'education reform proposals',

'If we turn down the request for an Irish language publication, certainly if we turn it down entirely, we shall cause some irritation to the Irish language enthusiasts concerned, who may stir some controversy on the Nationalist side of the community. If we agree with the request, this will certainly delight the Irish language enthusiasts and, if there is much publicity, there is, I suppose, a risk that those who dislike the Irish language will be annoyed and seek to make political capital of the decision', dated 27 June 1989.

CENT/1/18/68A 1989-1990 First Day Briefs – July 1989

File contains the 'First Day Briefs' for any new NIO Minister who may be appointed in the future.

The brief covers a number of different areas focusing on the economy, security, political gains, Anglo-Irish relationship, community relationships, public expenditure, US and other international issues, the constitutional framework and political parties, major current issues in NI departments, agriculture, health, education, etc.

CENT/1/19/49A 1990-1992 Access to Government

File contains details of ongoing discussions over the restrictions on political and paramilitary organisations.

The discussions outline access to government finance, broadcasting, ministers and their future relationship moving forward.

In a letter from D A Hill of the Economic and Social Division, he describes the 'merit in lumping Sinn Fein and, the UDP into the same category...advising that Ministers and Officials do not have personal dealings with any of these parties', dated 21 September 1992.

The file also contains a letter from Gerry Adams MP to the Director of Prison Regimes enquiring about an incident regarding Pauline Quinn in Maghaberry Prison.

It was noted,

'I understand that Ms Quinn was forcibly strip searched (following a compassionate visit) following this incident an enquiry was conducted by the Prison Governor', dated 19 August 1991.

CENT/1/19/52A 1990-1991 Political Development – Meetings with the Irish

File details a large number of high level papers on the party political talks, including many briefings and 'notes' in relation to Anglo-Irish meetings.

Throughout the file there is much discussion over the arrangements of a 'Three Stranded' approach to initiate fresh talks involving the four main parties and the two governments.

In a draft letter from the Secretary of State to Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP, Foreign Secretary, it is noted,

'My Secretary of State also endorses the Ambassador's view of the importance of promoting contacts between North and South at all levels. He agrees that there is a

surprising, indeed damaging degree of ignorance of Northern Ireland in the Republic – and vice versa’, dated 12 September 1991.

The HM Ambassador emphasises the importance of cross border co-operation and details in a letter,

‘Security remained a matter of deep concern. We are grateful for the co-operation we already got from the Irish, and the Garda and RUC were held in great respect. But there was more that could be done, and we welcome any ideas the Irish had. Enhanced co-operation would have the added bonus of encouraging trust among unionists in the Anglo-Irish Agreement’, dated 19 September 1991.

CENT/1/20/25 1991-1993 Telegrams – FCO, Vol. 1

File contains ‘telegrams’ providing briefing from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office about the Republic of Ireland political situation from late 1991 to 1993. It

includes: reports on the retirement of Charles Haughey as Taoiseach and potential successors, dated 31 January 1992; summaries of meetings between the Prime Minister, John Major, and the Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, dated 3 March 1992; analysis of the Irish General Election results in November 1992, dated 30 November 1992; and brief comments on Sinn Féin activity in Brussels, dated 25 October 1993.

**CENT/1/20/71A 1991 Anglo-Irish Conference and Steering Group Papers
From June 1991**

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

Subjects vary from the allegations of ill-treatment in police custody, local government boundaries, the North/South Interconnector, rural development, the use of lethal force by security forces, a barrier between the Army and GAA at Crossmaglen, parades and demonstrations relating to internment, the Apprentice Boys and the ending of the hunger strike, hazardous waste proposals for Maydown, illegal drinking clubs, Irish helicopters

straying over the border and publicised incidents involving Royal Marines Commandos allegedly harassing vessels on Carlingford Lough.

One letter from the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party to the Secretary of State registers the DUP's 'strongest protest' at the conference. It was further noted that:

'This meeting in particular epitomises the hold over the affairs of N Ireland that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has given the Dublin Government, and the detrimental effect which that interference has held', dated 16 July 1991.

CENT/1/20/74A 1991

Political Talks (Vol. 5)

File details a large number of high level papers on the political party talks, including many briefings and 'notes' drafted by the Secretary of State and NIO officials tasked with choreographing and interpreting the extremely complex political situation, from the UK Government side.

A 'Three Stranded' talks process is noted in a government briefing which 'overtly envisages the direct involvement of the Irish Government at appropriate stages'. This approach to the 'Three Stranded' process was aimed to help initiate fresh talks involving the four main parties and the two governments. Although the supplementary briefing later goes on to speak about the involvement of Sinn Fein in the political talks and it is noted:

'All participants in the process are agreed that by their open support for violence and their contempt for the democratic process Sinn Fein have forfeited any right to be involved in the process', dated 12 December 1991.

Additionally, the file also contains speeches by both Rev Ian Paisley MP and Peter Robinson MP held at a DUP conference on 30 November 1991. The speeches touch on a variety of subjects for example; the disbanding of the Ulster Defence Regiment, the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the EEC, political party talks, etc.

'The Union, our Province, our people and our future can never be safe while that parchment of treachery continues to be implemented. The diktat and our Province cannot co-exist. One will destroy the other and we are more determined than ever to utterly

destroy the Anglo Irish Agreement', Rev. Ian Paisley MP, dated 30 November 1991.

The tone of the conference was further cemented by Peter Robinson MP who announced, 'there is no role for Dublin in Ulster's internal affairs', which was in reference to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. He went on to comment,

'In this struggle for the survival of unionism, there be a man amongst us who does not think the Anglo-Irish Agreement is destructive of the union he is misplaced and ought not to be with us', Peter Robinson MP, dated 30 November 1991.

**CENT/1/20/72 1991 Political Development Talks – Steering Group
(Vol. 2)**

File contains confidential papers relating to the 'talks' process in relation to strands 2 and 3 and the difficulties in identifying a Chairman who would be accepted by all sides; it also includes a letter from the Rev. Ian Paisley MP to Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State, about the talks process and his desire for them to move forward and to ensure that Peter Robinson is kept informed, dated 1 June 1991.

**CENT/1/21/10A 1992-1993 Information Strategy Group (ISG) Official and
Political Vol. 3.**

File contains minutes of the ISG comprising of officials, RUC and Army representatives reviewing the counter terrorism situation and reaction to incidents.

There are also a number of confidential documents entitled 'Themes to hurt Sinn Fein' and 'Themes to hurt the Loyalist Paramilitary Organisations, dated 14 December 1992; and a confidential paper entitled 'Terrorist Incidents: Media Handling by Ministers', dated 9 December 1992.

CENT/1/21/11A 1992-1993 Police Matters (Vol 1)

File details a variety of confidential papers relating to

police matters mainly focusing on the inquiry into police responsibilities and rewards, overtime expenditure, complaints against the RUC and Army, holding centres, crime levels and sickness.

Audio/Video taping of terrorist suspects held in Northern Ireland is discussed throughout the file but with much resistance, it was noted by S.J. Leach from the Security Policy and Operations Division:

'Suspects would be less prepared to offer vital information to the police if they believed a permanent record was being made of their co-operation', dated 21 August 1992.

Additionally, a 'Brief for Prime Minister' document in relation to the McElwain Inquest is contained within the file. A number of key points were highlighted for the Prime Minister to make, it is noted:

'The incident was fully investigated by the police.....there should be no prosecution of soldiers'.

'If asked: there is no "shoot to kill" policy', dated 13 January 1993.

CENT/1/21/28 1992 Constitutional Issues

File contains confidential papers developed in relation to the different strands of the political talks. This includes a paper on the Government of Ireland Action 1920 and the various contrasting positions, dated 18 June 1992; paper on Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution, as briefing for NIO Ministers, dated 18 June 1992; note of talks between Sir Patrick Mayhew MP, Secretary of State and Mr David Andrews, Minister for Foreign Affairs, '... The Irish had spent a long time spoon feeding Dr Paisley but he had detached himself from the talks process. The Secretary of State said that he had written Dr Paisley off for the moment ... though Mr Robinson was anxious to get him back into the process ...', dated 18 September 1992; record of the Secretary of State's various discussions, including with Mr James Molyneaux MP, Mr Peter Robinson MP, the Irish Government and Mr John Hume MP, dated 2 November 1992.

CENT/1/21/31A 1992-1993 Political Development Renewed Talks 1992 –

File contains confidential papers in relation to the re-starting of talks by the Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew MP, with NI political parties and the Irish Government.

Includes a letter from the Prime Minister, John Major ‘... he has no intention of letting John Hume stop progress If the talks break down, the Prime Minister’s instinct is to try to go ahead without the agreement of the parties’, dated 1 June 1992; updates to the Prime Minister on the talks, dated 3 June 1992; stocktake paper on the talks and the progress made, recommending that the Secretary of State in the margins of a plenary, speak to the Rev Ian Paisley MP, ‘Dr Paisley needed to realise, as Mr Robinson already did, that as a matter of practical politics the Irish could only secure the successful outcome to the referendum as part of a package’, dated 10 September 1992.

CENT/1/22/4 1990-1993 CCRU: Government Contacts with Sinn Féin

File contains confidential papers on the government’s policy on contacts with Sinn Féin. It also includes a note of a call from Mr Gordon Wilson requesting a short

private meeting with the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister as he wants to report his impressions and conclusions having reflected on his recent discussions with PIRA representatives, dated 14 April 1993.

CENT/1/22/7 1993 CCRU: The Cook Report – Libel Action Against Central T.V

File contains confidential papers relating to libel action taken against Central Television in relation to a

broadcast called ‘Blood Money’ in the ‘Cook Report’ series.

The programme alleged that the ‘financial nerve centre’ of the PIRA was Conway Mill and a number of persons resident in Northern Ireland were directly named in the programme

as financiers of the PIRA.

'Cahill and nine other individuals connected with Conway Mill, as well as two other persons whose premises are separate from it but who alleged that they were also smeared by the programme, have brought an action against Central TV seeking damages in respect of these allegations', D. Brooker, dated 8 February 1993.

The Secretary of State was approached by Central Television for assistance in the libel action being defended in the Irish courts. Central TV were concerned about losing the case and the resulting consequences, it is further noted,

'They have argued that, if they lose, the plaintiffs stand to receive substantial damages much of which would find its way into the PIRA coffers. They have therefore been hoping for some form of Government statement, or RUC witness, to demonstrate a direct link between the PIRA and financial activities at the Mill', D. Brooker, dated 8 February 1993.

CENT/1/22/9 1993 CCRU: Self Help Centres for Released Long-Term and Life Sentence Prisoners

The file contains papers relating to a proposal from the Chief Probation Officer, Bridget Gadd, for the establishment of 'specialist after-care services for paramilitary prisoners', and details of the reactions from various officials.

CENT/1/22/24A 1993 Conway Street Mill

File details the reassessment of public funding for Conway Mill after correspondence was received from Fr Des Wilson. The file re-examines the initial decision by the Secretary of State that Government funding will continue to be withheld from projects operating in or out of Conway Mill in line with the statement made by Mr Tom King on 9 February 1989.

'Government policy on payment of public funds to community groupscould directly or indirectly further the aims of a paramilitary organisation' (Parliamentary Question, dated 9 February 1989.

CENT/3/224A 1989-1990 Fair Employment Evaluation/Review

File contains papers and correspondence in relation to equality law in Northern Ireland, focusing on imbalance and perceived discrimination against Roman Catholics in education, housing and employment.

Information relating to the McBride Principals, fair employment legislation/policy, evaluation papers, contributing factors to employment imbalance, industrial development and training are among some subjects scrutinised throughout the file.

CENT/3/225A 1987-1991 De Lorean

File contains papers, briefings on the investigation against Arthur Anderson, who were auditors for the De Lorean companies. It includes an exchange between Secretary of State, Peter Brooke and

Sir Kenneth Coke, about the \$7m settlement obtained from Mr De Lorean, 'There were times when I thought we were losing ... However, for once we found an American Judge who was prepared to look further than the end of his nose', dated 14 December 1990.

CENT/3/226A 1984-1989 Security Co-operation

File contains confidential papers mainly focusing on security topics and cross border co-operation with the Republic of Ireland.

A wide range of issues were discussed in relation to explosives and the scale of incidents and finds, sharing of scientific measures of dealing with explosives, impact of terrorists use of these explosives on security forces, Anti-Terrorist Law, scope for reducing Sinn Fein's ability to exploit constituency work, official arrangements in the United Kingdom for authorising electronic surveillance, police complaints procedures and police co-operation.

CENT/3/227A 1991

H/NICS Miscellaneous Papers

File contains a valedictory paper by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, in which he reflects on events and his career from the 1960s to the 1990s prior to his retirement as Head of NICS and as second PUS, dated 12 April 1991.



Department of Economic Development

DED/3/827A 1991-1992 Glor Na nGael Vol. 2 January 1990

File details papers and correspondence on the withdrawal of Government funding in relation to the West Belfast Committee of Glor na nGael.

'The decision to withdraw funding from the West Belfast Committee was taken by me personally in accordance with well established Government policy as set out in a Parliamentary reply of June 1985 by the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Douglas Hurd', Draft reply for SOS signature, dated January 1991.

The file also contains further documentation scrutinising the possible discrimination of former employees under Fair Employment legislation. It is noted in a letter from R Wilson;

'The Fair Employment Tribunal today granted an Order of Discovery in respect of documentation relevant to the Tribunal's consideration of whether the complaints of discrimination made by the Chairperson of the West Belfast Committee and a number of former ACE employees fall within the scope of the Fair Employment legislation', dated 15 May 1991.

DED/17/2/2/118 1992-1993 MacBride Principles Shorts – Bombardier Vol 11

File contains documentation relating to the MacBride Principles and the fair employment practices associated with Short Brothers PLC.

Shorts became the focus of an investigation of fair employment practices due to the imbalance of Protestants and Catholics within its' workforce. The consequences of the investigation resulted in the introduction of the 'Affirmative Action Programme, which it agreed with the Fair Employment Agency in 1983' (Short Brothers PLC – Background Paper).

Contract sanctions would be introduced if Short Brothers PLC failed to support equal employment policies, it is noted,

'The 1988 Defence Authorisation Act, contains an amendment by Congressman Joe Kennedy, and was intended to prevent Shorts from receiving Department of Defence contracts to supply Sherpa aircraft to the National Guard unless the company undertook to support equal employment policies' (Short Brothers PLC – Background Paper).



Department of Education

ED/13/2/835A 1991-1993 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 people who are 'in a position to help protect abused children, or children at risk of abuse, is enabled to do so effectively', Circular No. 1989/41 – dated 21 December 1989.

ED/13/2/1113A 1992-1993 Animal Experimentation in Universities

File details papers, legislation and background information on experiments involving the use of live animals in universities and the restrictions imposed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

The file also includes statistics and background information relating to Queen's University Belfast, it is noted,

'Approximately 9,000 experiments on live animals were carried out at QUB in 1988/1989. However some 5,000 to 6,000 of these were of a minor nature, typically involving the taking of blood samples from rodents. There were approximately 50 experiments of a major nature carried out on dogs; these were mostly for the purpose of researching coronary heart disease, involving the use of anaesthetics, and usually ended with the death of the animal concerned', Note from Private Office, Background – dated 26 October 1989.



Department of Environment

ENV/8/1/122 1993 Terrorist Exploitation of the Construction Industry
File contains restricted documents and a consultation paper focusing on fraud within the construction sector aiding terrorist organisations.

A draft report from T. McCusker details the formation of a working group to review previous terrorist incidents and the government response.

'The aim of the group was to develop an outline of a written standard operating procedure which would set out clearly who does what in response to an incident, whether from terrorist or natural cause, which resulted in serious damage to households or civil installations', dated 5 July 1993.

Additionally the file contains a consultation paper which further scrutinises the 'Terrorist Exploitation of the Construction Industry' focusing on topics such as racketeering, extortion, social security fraud, inland revenue fraud, V.A.T. fraud, etc.



Department of Health and Social Services

HSS/13/50/7 **1993** **Abortion: Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights**
File contains papers focusing on ongoing discussions in relation to abortion law in Northern Ireland.

The Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR) want to promote public debate on the issue that the abortion law in Northern Ireland is not fit for purpose and address the growing pressure to change the legislation. It is noted in a letter from Denis Carson the secretary of SACHR,

‘There is some considerable doubt as to whether abortion law in Northern Ireland could be described as sufficiently clear to pass the threshold test of legality if challenged under the European Convention on Human Rights’, dated 25 June 1993.



Northern Ireland Office

**NIO/20/30 1978-1989 Criminal Damage – Walkers Monument –
Reinstatement**

The file contains confidential papers relating to the ongoing legal dispute between the NIO and the Apprentice Boys of Derry over the destruction by the IRA of the Governor Walker Memorial in 1973 and claims for compensation and eventual settlement.

**NIO/28/2/43A 1989 Civil Emergencies – Monitoring of Radiation
Chernobyl Accident – April 1986**

File contains papers, documents and guidance in the case of a radioactive incident in Northern Ireland.

The file includes a draft document in relation to the Radioactive Incident Network (RIMNET) which focuses on government responsibilities, the national response plan, RIMNET alerts, notification of overseas governments, etc, (RIMNET, Phase 1 – Incident Procedures Manual).

NIO/28/2/48 1993 Shankill Road – Terrorist Attack – 23 October 1993

File contains a situation report providing details of the response provided by the Ambulance Service, Hospitals and Social Services following the bomb explosion.

Mr McKee, Deputy Chief Ambulance Officer said that ‘the incident was one of the most stressful ... that the Service has experienced in recent times ...’, dated 25 October 1993.

