

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Garnet Busby**

Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**

Date of interview: **09/11/2011**

Important

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this transcript, however no transcript is an exact translation of the spoken word, and this document is intended to be a guide to the original recording, not replace it.

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Garnet Busby Clip

Clip title: What was it like to study in prison?

Duration: 00:01:12

Clip start point in full interview: 00:14:21

Clip end point in full interview: 00:15:33

Interview identifier: 010_S_01

Description: Garnet Busby describes what it was like to be a student in the H Blocks in the 1980s

Transcript:

What for you was it like to be a student in a prison environment, for example in the first year that you took it up?

Only for the time consuming thing, finding time to do study, you think in prison that you would have plenty of time but in ways you don't, there is always something going on and at night time you are doubled up, there is a lot of distractions, there is a lot of noise, lot of music, a lot of shouting and going on, a lot of politics, there was some fear in the Wings in the '80s, the Hunger Strike thing was ending and people were starting to mix and there was a lot of fear in the Wings at the time, so studying was something that you had to force yourself to do. I remember sometimes and coming up to exams and things like that there whenever people were looking us to go out and play football, they sort of resented you, that you wanted to stay in the cell and study for an exam for a particular thing, so, you know, there was good and bad things, I suppose you work it round and you had to sit down and do it yes but there was plenty of distractions in the prison as well.