

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: **Student H**

Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**

Date of interview: **16/11/2012**

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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Student H Clip

Clip title: And that whole conversation with them was good

Duration: 00:00:58

Clip start point in full interview: 00:22:26

Clip end point in full interview: 00:23:24

Interview identifier: 043_S_01

Description: Student H studied with The Open University in the mid-1990s in England in Full Sutton Prison and in Maghaberry Prison and the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison). He describes the value of Open University tutors visiting him for tutorials while he was studying in prison

Transcript:

So what role did your academic OU studies play in that?

What it did do was give me a status amongst people. When I spoke, people listened to what I was saying. Plus, I had a grounding in Sociology and bit of Psychology in there as well. Not to any great extent, but for me it was just giving me the grounding, giving me the confidence, having done something, it actually boosted my own self esteem. And the fact that I was meeting people from outside and coming into the Wing and I was at a level with them, these academic people, tutors and they were very, very supportive you know. The fact that I was the only one bringing these people onto the Wing and they were meeting other people on the Wing as well. And that whole conversation with them was good, it was good for my intellectual development and it actually took me out of jail for the time that I was doing that course and it kept my head together. And that was an important thing for me.