

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: **Tommy Quigley**
Interviewed by: **Joanna McMinn**
Date of interview: **19/10/2011**

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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Tommy Quigley Clip

Clip title: I got those skills from the OU

Duration: 00:02:00

Clip start point in full interview: 00:12:19

Clip end point in full interview: 00:14:19

Interview identifier: 045_S_01

Description:

Tommy Quigley, Republican ex prisoner, was imprisoned from 1984 in the Special Secure Units of Parkhurst and Full Sutton Prisons, transferred to Maghaberry Prison in 1996, and studied Social Sciences with The Open University. He describes how he used the skills of compiling evidence and developing arguments to support his legal appeals and how he credits those skills, which he still uses in his job today, to his OU studies.

Transcript:

So what impact did the OU, studying with the OU have on you at the time, on your prison life?

Well it had effect most definitely in the way we tackled the things that were wrong, as far as we were concerned with the jail, first and foremost our own cases, I mean I did my own review or my own submission for an appeal that I was doing, it gave me the discipline, it gave me the skills to write reports that could be verified with evidence, and footnotes and everything else, it enabled me to construct those arguments in a way that were hard to counter, I used it say for my own case, my own appeal, used it for cases where we were trying to get transferred back to Ireland. We used it in cases, we were challenging the tariffs that myself and the other person was charged with similar things were charged for, so between us we were compiling arguments, why we should be transferred to Ireland, why the tariffs that were placed on us were completely out of kilter to what should have been the case basically and we won, we eventually won those arguments and, we also used solicitors and we would prepare reports for solicitors. Solicitors would comment on the fact that what we were presenting were very well argued, so, as far as I am concerned I got those skills to do that, and the skills I am using today in my own job, I got those skills from the OU.