

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: **Helen Evans**

Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**

Date of interview: **21/05/2012**

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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Helen Evans Clip

Clip title: Oh my goodness, that won't happen in the Maze!

Duration: 00:00:49

Clip start point in full interview: 00:00:54

Clip end point in full interview: 00:01:45

Interview identifier: 0_61_T_01

Description: Helen Evans, Open University Tutor, reflects on advice given to her when starting as a tutor in the Maze (H Blocks the Maze and Long Kesh Prison), contrasting her experience there with working as a Probation Officer in Mountjoy Prison in Dublin.

Transcript:

Well, it was quite amusing really because Jenny contacted me to ask if I would mind taking a prisoner in the Maze [H Blocks of the Maze and Long Kesh Prison], and I said I was more than happy to do that and she asked how I felt about going into prison and I said since I had been a Probation Officer in Dublin, I was used to going into prisons. And I remembered going into the Circle in Mountjoy at sort of just after lunchtime in the mid-week when the prisoners were all lined up at the tuck shop. You would have to walk the gambit up to the Circle and there would be a lot of wolf whistling and guffawing and Jenny's immediate reaction was, "Oh my goodness, that won't happen in the Maze! Oh no, they would be very dignified, they would never ever treat you like that" So I have remembered those words over the years because when I went in to the Maze, she was absolutely right. It was a completely different environment.