

## 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: **Liam McCloskey**  
Interviewed by: **Philip O'Sullivan**  
Date of interview: **07/03/2013**

#### **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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**Clip title:** A study cell in the H Blocks

**Duration:** 00:01:05

**Clip start point in full interview:** 00:05:23

**Clip end point in full interview:** 00:06:28

**Interview identifier:** 071\_T\_01

**Description:** Liam McCloskey, an Open University Associate Lecturer in Mathematics, Statistics and Computing taught in the Compounds and H Blocks of the Maze and Long Kesh Prison in the 1980s. In this clip he recalls teaching in a cell converted into a study room in the H Blocks.

### **Transcript:**

Well there were two distinct things I remember and one of the early ones was, I was conducted into the H Block [the Maze & Long Kesh Prison]. A prisoner met me when I went into the second set of gates and he took me along a corridor, and the boys were doing their laundry on the right hand side and there was a row of cell doors I remember along the left hand side. And anyway to cut a long story short, I was shown into a cell which had been converted in an extremely modest way. It had two bookshelves at one end, it had a whiteboard at the other end and a small table and a couple of chairs—

*So was this their education or teaching room, was it?*

Yes, it was, a cell set aside for the purpose, right, and they could gather in there and maybe self-teaching whatever and people like me coming in to teach. So anyway there were two fellas coming in for the tutorial, right, and the first fella came in- he was about 6 foot 4 and sorry, one fella came in and he sat down quietly. The second fella came in about 6 foot 4 and he says, "Will I close the door?" And I said, "No thanks, just leave it open" [laughs] so that was my first experience.