

## 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: **Ruth Davenport**

Interviewed by: **Written by participant**

Date of interview: **07/02/2019**

#### **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.

In some cases, interviewees may have made changes to the transcript.

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**Clip title:** A tutorial in H5

**Duration:** N/A

**Clip start point in full interview:** N/A

**Clip end point in full interview:** N/A

**Interview identifier:** 116\_T\_01

**Description:**

Ruth Davenport describes visiting her student in the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the late 1990s for a tutorial for an Open University Law course.

**Transcript:**

After filing through turnstiles, under watchtowers and being escorted through security gates and corridors we reached the H Blocks. From memory, H5, but it was a long time ago. The gangways and entrances were oppressive and like a film-set. The greyness, wires like tumbleweed, images imprinted on me as a teenager were harsher and more stilling than I had anticipated. I was met by the student and led past the steamy gym with its heavy, flapping, curtain -door and into a light, small study room, cell-like in size with armchairs and books, a comfortable and homely space. A complete contrast to the “outside”. We had coffee and talked on tutorial topics of the English legal system and statutory interpretation, precedent and Diplock courts and aspects of criminal law and human rights law as the Belfast Agreement was to be implemented. It was an absorbing tutorial for me in the grim, historic setting, I have vivid recollections of elements, despite being nearly two decades ago. The tutorial educated me, far more than the student, who I hope successfully completed the degree.