

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: **Sean Lynch**
Interviewed by: **Joanna McMinn**
Date of interview: **30/08/2011**

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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Sean Lynch Clip

Clip title:	Long Kesh was just full of ideas and discussion
Duration:	00:01:15
Clip start point in full interview:	00:12:30
Clip end point in full interview:	00:13:45
Interview identifier:	036_S_01

Description: Sean Lynch describes being challenged by other Republican prisoners to become involved in education in the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the late 1980s and his decision to start studying with The Open University, despite feeling he hadn't the academic background to do so.

Transcript:

Long Kesh was just full of ideas and discussion. It was a debating chamber and people were saying "What are you going to do with your time?", and I told him I would read history and learn the Irish language and, "Is that all?" and I says, "For a man of my age, it will be enough for what I will need after I get out". He says, "What about the OU?" I says "What about it, really why?", and he says, and I remember this distinctly and he says that "Do you ever think that we have to go into government?" and this was in 1987. I says, "Well somebody else might be going into it, I can't see me going into it". So then eventually you saw it as a good idea and I was drawn towards it and had talked to quite a number of people, in fact quite a number of the people had passed through the grammar schools in Long Kesh, and all those people had passed and you thought "Well they had the academics, so they should do that, we should do a different type" but then everybody was on a level playing pitch in Long Kesh. So eventually I decided to start.