

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: **Ron McCartney**
Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**
Date of interview: **14/06/2012**

Important

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Clip title: Very seldom did tutors not go

Duration: 00:01:50

Clip start point in full interview: 00:07:08

Clip end point in full interview: 00:08:55

Interview identifier: 079_T_01

Description: Ron McCartney, as the Staff Tutor in Education, was responsible for organizing Open University tutors in Education for students in prison between 1984 and 2007. In this clip he reflects on the responses from tutors to his requests to go into the Maze and Long Kesh Prison to teach Education courses.

Transcript:

Well, because students taking an Open University degree could choose quite freely the courses that they studied, several of the students did choose maybe one or two Education courses as part of their degree and there were three courses in particular that students often chose. One was a general Educational Issues course [E200], another was a course on Adult Learning [E355], and the third was a course on Child Development [E206]. Those were the three that were most commonly taken, and when a student chose such a course, any Education course, I would have contacted the tutor of that course, usually and mentioned that there was a student or students who were in prison and asked the tutor if they were willing to do the tuition in the prison. We didn't put tutors under any pressure to do that, they might not have had time to go in, possibly their full-time job didn't allow them to go in during the daytime and therefore they just couldn't or they might have had other reasons but we never enquired as to why if they didn't want to go. Very seldom did tutors not go, they usually were quite willing to go and they made the time to go in.