

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: **Michael Doorley**

Interviewed by: **Jenny Meegan**

Date of interview: **13/09/2018**

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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Michael Doorley Clip Interview

Clip title:	Teaching in Portlaoise Prison
Duration:	00:02:01
Clip start point in full interview:	00:02:38
Clip end point in full interview:	00:04:55
Interview identifier:	110_T_01

Description: Michael Doorley, Open University Associate Lecturer, describes his experiences of going to Portlaoise Prison to teach a Provisional IRA prisoner and the crucial role of Bill Carroll, the Prison Officer who was responsible for security issues associated with the provision of education and who was the key liaison person for visiting Open University tutors.

Transcript:

So in terms of my Portlaoise experience, I would have arranged with a Prison Officer there also, Bill, who met me at the train station in Portlaoise and he brought me to the prison. While I got to the prison, I was struck by how, the military aspects of it. There were soldiers on the roof of the prison, they had arranged scaffolding to facilitate an observation post. So there were soldiers in battle dress with sandbags so it gave the impression that it was a Prisoner of War camp, rather than a prison. And as we went into the prison, the security was very tight. I was searched. My bag was searched very intensively, and then Bill brought me to the Wing where the IRA, Provisional IRA prisoners were lodged. It was a separate part of the prison, the political prisoners were kept apart from civilian prisoners. What I also found interesting was that Bill introduced me to a prisoner who was looking after education within the landing, the political landing. So that indicated that there was a chain-of-command within the political prisoner wing. So the education prisoner, or the prisoner that was looking after education, brought me to a room and introduced me to the student who was doing my course.