

Future of 'Troubles' archive in doubt

The future of an archive of the 'Troubles' is in doubt as a result of funding concerns.

CAIN (Conflict Archive on the Internet) contains information and source material on the Troubles, society and politics in the North from 1968 to the present day.

CAIN is located at in the Magee campus of Ulster University and three staff members are employed to run it.

A spokesperson from Ulster University confirmed that a consultation was underway about the future of the CAIN resource.

"A range of options are being explored, however, the university remains committed to ensuring ongoing access to the important material in CAIN, fully accessible to the public through the University's library.

"A two-year period was agreed in 2016 to enable the CAIN archive to improve its



The CAIN archive is located in Magee campus of Ulster University

financial viability and become self-funding. Despite some successful funding applications, regrettably these have not been enough and the project remains unsustainable in its current form.

"As we consult on the way forward, we will also engage with relevant partner organisations who contribute to the archive."

The spokesperson con-

firmated that the CAIN resource will remain online in its current state.

"A range of options are being explored and the University remains committed to ensuring ongoing access to the important material in CAIN, fully accessible to the public through the University's library."

University and College Union representative, Goretta Horgan, said CAIN 'needs to continue as a live archive to chronicle the ongoing conflict in post-Troubles Northern Ireland'.

She described it as 'short term thinking' by the university.

"We would argue that it is not just three jobs at risk, but the university's mission as a civic university and a global university will actually be endangered if CAIN is no longer live and that will impact on other jobs."