

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPLIES BY APPLICANTS TO GOVERNMENTS  
OBSERVATIONS ON ADMISSABILITY.

Page 15

Access to newspapers books etc.

Library books and newspapers are at present held in each Wing of H Blocks 3, 4, 5 and 6. Governors Order 57 lays down clearly the mode of dress an inmate must use if he wishes to select a book. Reading material is not withdrawn and the order is clearly printed and posted in the area which is used by inmates when they are putting on their uniform to take visits, so that they can make themselves aware of the situation. It might also be mentioned at this point that Loyalist Non-Conforming Prisoners in H4 last summer used these facilities regularly by conforming to the terms of the Governors Order.

Page 28

We feel that the latter half of this page cannot be allowed to go without comment. Everything that is contained in the last dozen lines of this page is what amounts to a gross misrepresentation of the truth. These inmates by the nature of their crimes are high-security ratings especially when one considers McFeeley's periods of Rule 24 for giving orders and attempting to incite others to behaviour contrary to the good order in the establishment. There have been many instances of violence against staff and orderlies. McFeeley has been adjudicated on by the Board of Visitors for such action.

It is grossly untrue to say that Non-Conforming action does not affect control in the prison and the conditions which it has created are clearly visible at HM Prison Maze Cellular.

Page 40 (3:1)

Wearing of clothing is not a condition for Mass. In the past Non-Conforming Prisoners have gone naked to Mass and indeed this was the situation until the priests objected and negotiated the wearing of trousers with them. It was purely a decision taken by themselves to wear trousers for Mass and was not a decision that the administrators of this establishment were involved.

Page 42 (28)

This paragraph states that inmates were not allowed to use the toilet facilities during the daytime until May 1978 whereas Page 54 paragraph 56 states that this was the case until May 1977 as does Page 48 paragraph 41. Even taking into consideration that there seems to have been confusion over the dates the statement is completely false in that Non-Conforming Prisoners were never refused the right to use toilets during the daytime.

See also Page 19 (14) which is at issue with Page 48(41) over 'slop out' arrangements.

Page 45 (35)

We would take issue with the phrase 'the applicants and others will have been denied beds and furniture for 12 months.'

It is a simple fact that the Prison Authorities are now putting in the fifth type of window to be tried in Non-Conforming Prisoners Blocks. All other attempts to put in windows have been thwarted by the total destruction of them. Non-Conforming Prisoners have been asked individually in the past that if furniture and windows were replaced would they undertake not to destroy them. Their answer was that they would give no such undertaking (well document). Each new Committal is asked the same questions regarding cell contents and each seems content to reinforce the Provisional I.R.A. policy of not giving us this assurance.

Page 51 (47)

Lids of pots were removed because Non-Conforming Prisoners used them to beat on the walls and pipes of cells during adjudication and also to scrape and mark walls of cells. There is no reason to deny this since it was done for a perfectly legitimate reason.

Page 62 (49)

A Hospital Officer first sees anyone who reports sick and decides whether the prisoner is fit to attend the Medical Inspection Room or alternatively be examined by the Doctor in his cell.

Page 52 (50)

It is Non-Conforming Prisoners policy not to accept medical care in routine matters. It should be noted that in the recent Mass Radiography exercise conducted at the establishemtn none of the Non-Conforming Prisoners availed themselves of the chance to participate.

Page 53 (52)

It should be noted here that when the Doctor asked if an inmate had any medical complaints he would quite often receive verbal abuse eg. McFeeleys 'hunger-strike' at the Punishment cells and Phase V Prison Hospital when he was particularly abusive to the examining Physician.

Page 56 (60)

It is true to say that difficulties were experienced with the heating system in the Punishment Cell Block but the applicants neglect to say that for a considerable time now there has been no trouble with it. Non-Conforming Prisoners who are confined there from time to time have not complained and indeed McFeeley had no complaint to make when he was there for a time awaiting a Board of Visitors adjudication for an assault of an Orderly.