

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

*the 13 draft of Mulleir
who is not reviewed.*

5 September 1990

Dr B Mawhinney
Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3ST



Dear Fran,

It was good to see you again at the launch of the First Ordnance Survey Parish Memoirs. You have initiated a wonderful enterprise there for which generations of scholars and local historians will bless you.

I enclose a copy of a letter which Jimmy Hawthorne and I have sent to the Secretary of State about Glor na nGael.

I hope it will be possible on reflection and further consideration to restore their grants with as little fuss as possible.

My understanding is that this was for a time a very informal grouping with fluid membership which could include anybody (and often did). For the past 12 to 18 months the actual workers have been trying to formalise things, to exclude fellow travellers and those who would exploit them for political purposes. They now have a constitution and a properly elected committee. The only questionable person on the Hurd criterion appears to be Mairtin O Mulleir who has now been disqualified by non-attendance. Looking through the list there is no one who would immediately strike me as questionable - but then I don't know what doubts have been raised. It is significant, however, that the RUC appear to have no qualms about giving him a street-collector permit and they are permitted to employ a paroled SOSP prisoner.

The organiser, Norin Ni Chleirigh, strikes me as a fine person who is anxious to keep the enterprise going within whatever guidelines might be established. I have suggested that they write a calm letter to the Secretary of State asking for reconsideration, and I hope this will be possible.

There is a great deal riding for [cultural traditions] and for your own courageous policies in how we deal with Irish language organisations and with West Belfast in particular. It would be a pity to lose this, or to damage it in controversy.

*Yours
Fran*

M N HAYES