

From: C W Donnell
Date: 10th March 1992

Mr H V McElfattrick

Dr. McCoy
The attached papers provide us with some information about the problem of these young people, numbers, responses. I am happy to discuss further. It is considered by legal advisors that use of the Place of Safety ^{order} is not, in most cases a lawful response to such young people's problem.
H.V. McElfattrick

YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THREAT FROM PARAMILITARIES

1. You asked me to research the background to the Sunday Observer article and the subsequent Channel 4 programme Dispatches. The response is in 2 parts, (a) information gleaned from discussion with senior staff in St Patrick's and Rathgael and (b) background information on Base 2 "A Co-ordinated Response to Paramilitary Threats".

St Patrick's Training School

2. It is difficult to get precise information in terms of pure "threat" admissions to training schools. St Patrick's staff claim that in the past 12 months only 7 young people were admitted on Place of Safety Orders where threats were described as the main reason for admission. The breakdown of the figures are as follows:-

Ardoyne - 2 (2 Training School Orders)

Derry - 3 (one Training School Order, one Fit Person Order, one returned home)

New Lodge - 1 (returned home)

Glengoland - 1 (returned home)

3. I am reliably informed that although the Brothers have been approached by local clergy from time to time no admissions to the schools have taken place unless the young person comes by the established legal route of Place of Safety Orders/Training School Orders.

Rathgael Centre

4. Mr Buchanan, Rathgael, claims that children under threat do not appear to be a problem insofar as the Centre is concerned. If a referral is made the case is subject to the same scrutiny as all requests ie screened by the Intake Social Worker and the "usual rigorous criteria applied". He claimed to his knowledge only one direct referral was made in relation to threat and when the case was fully examined other steps were taken to deal with the problems.

Base 2

5. I have attached some papers from Margaret McTaggart, NIACRO who co-ordinates the activities of Base 2. The organisation had its beginnings within Interact in North and West Belfast. The Base 2

briefing party gives interesting data in Appendices 1-3. Between 1973-1990 a total of 1,581 casualties have resulted from punishment shootings. Of that number there were 1,023 republican and 558 loyalist incidents. Appendix 3 gives details of punishment shootings during the 1989 by Police Divisions. It is clear that the vast majority (84%) took place in A, B and D Divisions.

6. Base 2 has been in existence for almost one year. Its aims and objectives are set out in the Base 2 Strategy Document prepared by Pat Conway, who has been seconded by the EH&SSB to the Project for the past 14 months. His post is paid for, as are the bulk of the total costs, by Trust monies. Although an amalgam of BAT CRC, PBNI, Social Services and others contribute a total of £10,000.
7. Since the organisation came into being it has dealt with more than 50 individuals and families who were alleged to have been under threat. The spread by Agency is given in Appendix 2. Appendix 1 sets out Base 2's response to the problem where it is clear that removal to other parts of Great Britain or the South of Ireland is something of a last resort.
8. As a result of the efforts of Base 2 a Working Group has been established to examine the nature and extent of the problem. Its membership includes the courts (RMs and Clerks of Juvenile Courts), CSA, PBNI, St Patrick's, Rathgael and St Joseph's Training Schools and the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in the form of both Unit of Management and Board representation. Attached you will find a draft copy of the Working Party report. It is understood that the meeting scheduled for 6 February did not take place. Appendix 1 of that report gives details of a survey of young people under 17 who were subject to threats from paramilitary organisations between January-November 1991.
9. At paragraph 3 of the report relating to St Patrick's Training School it is claimed that out of a population of 69 (which is questionable), 21 had been identified as having been under threat "however this has not always been the reason for admission". - Total 21. This figure contrasts considerably with the figure of 7 given by Brother David. Again 5 from the Derry area and one from Carrickfergus were also deemed to be at risk. Interestingly in the case of the latter the local RUC sergeant took the Place of Safety Order.
10. At paragraph 4 it is suggested that 6 young people have been referred to Rathgael Centre (3 to the Centre and 3 to the Eastside Project). The Deputy Director (Care) insists that Rathgael have no problem with young people under threat. Mrs McTaggart indicated that Sam Chapman, a retired probation officer is to be employed part-time to co-ordinate the service on behalf of the PBNI.

APPENDIX I

Summary
NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 17 SUBJECT TO THREATS FROM PARAMILITARY ORGANISATIONS BETWEEN JANUARY 1991 - NOVEMBER 1991

11. It can be seen that accurately determining the extent of the problem is difficult, with conflicting information being given. What is important is that Base 2 seems to be well organised and reflects a wide range of agency representation. It approaches the problem in a fairly systematic way, trying to assess the young person's potential and finding a suitable placement from where they can make use of the "safe setting" and hopefully enabling their return to the community. From conversations with Mrs McTaggart our Child Care colleagues in the Department may have some knowledge of Base 2. All senior training school personnel maintain that children only come to them by an established legal route. The actual causes are not always clear and "threat levels" seems to fluctuate greatly from setting to setting. What seems to be clear is that, as the Sunday Observer article suggests, there is a problem and agencies are being forced into taking decisions about admitting young people to residential care who might not be considered appropriate but for the pressure from the paramilitaries.



C W DONNELL

3) St Patrick's Training School

Out of a total population of 39 on 23 November, 21 have been identified as having been under threat however this has not always been the reason for admission. Over this year there have been 12 under threat and admitted for this reason.

TOTAL 21

4) 6 people have been referred to Rathpaul (3) and the East Side Project (3). At least 2 of the threats have been carried out. One of those under threat was female.

TOTAL 6

5) 5 young people have been subjected to threats in the Derry area and have been placed in St Patrick's for various periods of time.

TOTAL 5

6) Probation in Carrickfergus were dealing with a 16 year old male who was placed in St Patrick's after the local Duty Sergeant initiated the making of a plan of Safety Order.

TOTAL 1

APPENDIX I

A SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 17 SUBJECT TO THREATS FROM PARAMILITARY ORGANISATIONS BETWEEN JANUARY 1991 - NOVEMBER 1991

Prepared by Mr P Conway: Base 2

- 1) Probation West Belfast (no age given)
One female Head Shaved and Beaten
One male Left Northern Ireland for 3 months
3 males Currently with relations in England
One male
One female Accepted back in their community
One male Currently "on the run within community of origin"
One male Went to Ranivan

TOTAL 9

2) Social Services - North and West Belfast

- 11 males 9 from North Belfast and 2 from West Belfast
8 Went to St Patricks Training School subject to Place of Safety Orders
2 were admitted to a children's home under Section 103 and one went to England to stay with relatives

TOTAL 11

3) St Patricks Training School

Out of a total population of 69 on 28 November, 21 have been identified as having been under threat however this has not always been the reason for admission. Over this year there have been 12 under threat and admitted for this reason.

TOTAL 21

- 4) 6 people have been referred to Rathgael (3) and the East Side Project (3). At least 2 of the threats have been carried out. One of those under threat was female.

TOTAL 6

- 5) 5 young people have been subjected to threats in the Derry area and have been placed in St Patricks for various periods of time.

TOTAL 5

- 6) Probation in Carrickfergus were dealing with a 16 year old male who was placed in St Patricks after the local duty Sergeant initiated the taking of a plan of Safety Order.

TOTAL 1

PROBATION AND JUVENILES BRANCH

7) Base 2 - Dealt directly with 6 under 18 year olds, 5 of whom were known to Probation and were aged 17 and one 16 year old who was funded a flight to London.

Base 2 has been aware of 27 cases of individuals under 18 being under threat. Almost all of these have been known to the groups identified above.

Conclusion

Given that the same individuals are sometimes appearing in at least 2 of the above groups it is difficult to know exactly the size of the problem, however, on the basis of the cases that I am aware of, I would suggest that the figure is around 40 per annum. These are cases that are actually known to the above organisations. There are of course those who make their own arrangements through family networks.

Dear Sir,

USE OF PLACE OF SAFETY ORDERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THREAT FROM FAMILIARIES

A meeting will be held at Room 105 Gurdonald House on Tuesday, 10 March 1992 at 2.30 pm to discuss the above named subject, in which you have an interest.

Yours sincerely

W GALLAGHER
Probation and Juveniles Branch