



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-02348

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** GREENCASTLE RIOT - 20 SEPTEMBER 1935

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

I require information in regard to the 'Greencastle Riot' which took place on the 20th September 1935. I require the Police records/files of the event including the subsequent charging and sentencing of seven men. I ask that the witnesses and defendants statements be included.

#### Answer

The Public Records Act (Northern Ireland) 1923 Destruction Lists Part 1 to which the RUC adhered, only required documentation to be held for a certain period of time. Searches were conducted and unfortunately these searches failed to locate any police files, witness or defendant statements. Based on the information you have provided I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access however we did locate one entry which is attached in PDF 02491.

#### Question 2

I also require the transcript on whatever records that were kept of the court proceedings, which was held at 'Whiteabbey Petty Sessions' on the 24th October 1935 before Messers J M Mark (RM) and H R Jones (RM) where the seven were sentenced to imprisonment.

#### Answer

With regard to transcripts and any record of court proceedings the Northern Ireland Court Service would be best placed to advise. Please find the following link to their website. <http://www.courtsni.gov.uk/en-GB/AboutUs/Freedom+of+Information/About+Us+-+Freedom+of+Information.htm>

#### Question 3

I require details of the sentences, witnesses and defendants statements and any other information which is available in relation to this event.

#### Answer

The Public Records Act (Northern Ireland) 1923 Destruction Lists Part 1 to which the RUC adhered, only required documentation to be held for a certain period of time. Searches were conducted and unfortunately these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk)

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk/>

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

7/1/51  
"murder" No. 1. In. 10:9:35 Lame. 27  
Riot No. 65. 11:15pm Greencastle, J.S.  
Died same date. Ballyglen

29.9.35  
29.10.35  
29.11.35  
29.12.35

The King. (George Hyde, 29 years, labour)  
At time stated deceased a member of Duke of  
York's Accordion Band which had attended a  
at St. John's P. Hall, G. castle, was on its way to attend  
a social at W. men's club, Johnsons. The party  
had a accordion and were playing 'derry walls etc'. When passing Mill  
Row, G. castle. (Nationalist area) stones were thrown at them and were returned  
by the party attacked. Two shots were fired and <sup>one</sup> of them killing  
deceased. It is not known from which direction the shots  
were fired. Deceased was a democrat.

At Belfast Q.S. 31-1-36, repts.  
of late George Clyde were  
awarded £150.0.0 compensation.

to m. No. 259-35, claim for  
£2000 compensation lodged  
in respect of death of George  
Clyde for hearing at Q.S. 29.1.35.

No. 259-35

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ 1. Robert Griffin, 25 yrs, Labr.          | Sentence - 3 mths. with H.L. & Bound to peace 1 yr. or in default further 1 mth. |
| ✓ 2. John O'Kara, 24 yrs, do.               | do. do.  |
| ✓ 3. Charles McBrann, 22 yrs, do.           | 1 mth. with H.L. & Bound to peace 1 year or in default - 2 mths. with - further. |
| ✓ 4. Patrick Beattie, 30 yrs, do.           | do. do.  |
| ✓ 5. Patrick Bailey, 23 yrs, do.            | do. do.  |
| ✓ 6. Francis O'Keefe, 26 yrs, Motor Driver. | do. do.  |
| ✓ 7. Joseph Langhorne, 30 yrs, Labr.        | do. do.  |

Note: The seven men  
shown here were  
convicted of riot at  
Whiteabbey Petty Sessions  
on 24.1.35.