



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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(NOS) MK 579  
Attached is a copy of a letter from the new RUC Chief Constable to Cllr Brian Feeney in relation to parades in Belfast. Feeney passed it to me, not so much for its contents (which are of interest), as for its tone.

Feeney feels that whatever about the substance, Annesley would appear to be introducing a new style. He contrasted the tone of the letter and the fact that it was signed by Annesley himself, with the style of his predecessor who, reflecting his barely concealed antipathy to politicians, never to Feeney's recollection replied to any letters himself, but rather referred them to one of his junior officers for reply. Patsy McGlone showed me a similar letter he had received from Annesley in response to representations, and echoed Feeney's observations on the style of the new Chief Constable. Both of them also felt that Annesley's personal appearance on the Falls Road for the Internment anniversary march had made a positive impact and had upstaged Sinn Fein who appeared to have been at a loss as to how to react to his presence in their heartland.

BMcM

Brendan McMahon

10 August 1989

cc A/Sec Gallagher

Mr O' Donovan (on return)

P. Collins (Secretariat)

PSM,

The letter attached is worth reading and gives a possible useful insight into the new Chief Constable's likely approach to sensitive issues.

D.A. Gallagher  
5 September, 1989.

cc: Mr. Nally; PSS; Mr. Mathews;  
Mr. Brosnan.

Telephone  
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H. N. Annesley Q.P.M.  
CHIEF CONSTABLE



BROOKLYN  
KNOCK ROAD  
BELFAST  
NORTHERN IRELAND BT5 6LE

10 August 1989

*Dear Commissioner General,*

I refer to your letter of 15 June 1989 and the interim reply from my office of 19 June 1989 regarding Loyalist Parades.

Crumlin Road/Ardoyne

The position here is that no loyalist parades are allowed on Crumlin Road between Holy Cross Church and Columbia Street.

The only parades which use the Crumlin Road at Ardoyne are those Lodges etc based in Ligoniel and for whom there is no other suitable route. Admittedly there is a problem at the shops which necessitates Security Force presence. Were the danger just one of public disorder, a much smaller presence would suffice.

Cliftonpark Avenue/Duncairn Gardens

There are three traditional parades over these routes in each period of 4 years.

Since Manor Street was closed these parades now join Cliftonpark Avenue at Summer Street as opposed to going the full length of Manor Street and on to the Cliftonville Road. In addition they no longer parade Brookvale Avenue.

It is agreed that there are a number of flash points on the route. Although there has been population movement the core of the route is mainly Loyalist. In these situations the police must on each occasion make what they consider to be the best operational judgment taking account of all considerations.

Whether people who might be opposed to the parade should be given advance notice is a double-edged sword but I do take your point about persons attending mass in the Holy Family Church. Unfortunately a similar situation occurred in Donegall Street a few days ago so I have directed that sub-divisional commanders take this important factor into consideration when deciding on parade times.

Lower Ormeau Road

These parades are of limited duration and police who are mindful of the attitude of the local inhabitants try to cause as little inconvenience as possible commensurate with keeping the peace.



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On the general issue I am fully aware of the problems which can arise from parades in contentious areas but in the absence of a more tolerant attitude on all sides there is no simple or immediate solution. Nevertheless each route will continue to be critically examined in the future with the criteria for routing relying on the operational circumstances surrounding each event at the time.

Finally, I should be happy to facilitate a discussion on the matters you raise with the relevant Senior Officers if you feel this would assist.

*Yours sincerely,  
Brian Donnelly*

Cllr Brian Feeney  
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