

SUMMARY BY DEPARTMENTS OF THE EFFECT OF LOYALISTS PROTESTS ON  
MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1981

Department of the Environment

1. About 3% of DOE's 4,300 non-industrial staff and 41% of their 5,000 industrial staff stopped working on Monday afternoon. The main absences in non-industrial staff were in Antrim and in the West, particularly Enniskillen and Londonderry. The industrial work force came out in Belfast as well as Antrim.
2. There was significant support for the Loyalist demonstration in the Coleraine, Ballymena and Belfast Divisions of the Roads Service (absenteeism 47%, 88% and 93% respectively of the industrial work-force). Other Divisions operated normally. Despite absenteeism no significant problems arose. There were no calls to remove road obstructions. In the Water Service there was a 64% and 66% respectively withdrawal of labour in the Eastern and Northern Divisions. Services to the public were not interrupted during the day and the normal after hours emergency arrangements for water and sewage were in operation throughout all 4 Divisions. The NIHE closed down its Shankill Road Office and all maintenance depots. The following offices were manned but were closed to the public in the afternoon - Lisburn, Dundonald, Newtownards, Larne, Carrickfergus, Ballymena and Ann Street, Belfast.
3. Transport was somewhat disrupted. Between 1300 and 1600 hours the NIR cancelled 25 trains (less than 10% of daily movements). These were mainly in the Belfast district. Ulsterbus and Citybus reported minimum disruption and no real difficulties; staff turn-in was 99%.
4. The Fire Service operated normally with normal staff level.
5. Four flights were cancelled at the Airport. This was caused by local security staff stopping work. After DOE's approaches to British Airways, the problem was resolved and flights resumed.



6. Larne Harbour was closed between midday and 1600 hours; ferry sailings were readjusted accordingly and 2 were cancelled.

7. Most local councils' staff stopped work except in the following areas - Magherafelt, Down, Newry and Mourne, Moyle, Londonderry, Limavady and Belfast.

Department of the Civil Service

8. Absenteeism was in single figure percentages except among industrial staff - DOE (39% predominantly in the North-East and Belfast); Finance (40% primarily from Belfast); NIO (40% from Maze Prison Stores); and Police Authority (49% of the Civilian Search Unit).

Department of Health and Social Services

9. DHSS staff absenteeism was low: after lunch some 59 of the 2,800 Headquarters staff departed and throughout the Province some 272 of the 3,000 local office staff were absent. The reaction from Boards staff was generally low key and none of the Health and Personal Social Services suffered greatly. Some clinics in the Northern area were not able to operate normally due to ambulance men providing only accident and emergency service cover; some day centres had to close. Some special care schools did not open for business as usual because of doubts about transport and meals service. Although some hospital ancillary staff stopped work in the afternoon, this did not affect the provision of normal hospital services.

Department of Commerce

10. The effect on industry was significant. 90% of about 50 firms throughout the Province reported a total shutdown or serious disruption to production. In the Belfast area Shorts, and Mackies, Gallaghers, Sirocco and Harland and Wolff were completely closed after noon.

11. Electricity workers supported the demonstration. Workers left Ballylumford at midday, but electricity supply was maintained. By 1630 hours Ballylumford was fully manned once more. Kilroot and



Belfast West had an early shift change at 1500 hours and all staff returned to work. At Coolkeeragh Power Station a walk out of Protestant manual workers at noon caused a drop in generation to about a third capacity; Catholic workers who remained refused to carry out minimal additional duties for fear of retaliation. By 1730 services were rapidly returning to normal everywhere.

12. Oil companies scheduled morning deliveries so that tankers had returned to their depots by midday. Disruption of afternoon supplies is expected to be made up throughout the next few days.

#### Department of Agriculture

13. There was no loss of production in the processing factories. Some, which were already working a 4-day week decided to take Monday as their day off: most of the others worked a half day. Any shortfall will be made up by increased production at the end of last week and before the end of this week. Milk supplies for domestic deliveries were normal.

#### Department of Finance

14. Banks reported an 80-90% fall in custom on Monday. A few branches closed for an hour when demonstrations or crowds became too close. About 10% of bank staff left work at midday and did not return.

#### Department of Education

15. School attendances in most areas were lower than normal and many schools closed early. Attendances were lowest in areas where demonstrations or rallies were being held and also these were the areas where schools closed early. Apart from in the South and West, most school transport operated normally. The Area Boards will not have a more detailed picture until the end of the month.



**E.R.**

Department of Manpower Services

16. 188 of the Department's 2,116 staff failed to work on Monday afternoon. The majority of these were in the Government Training Centres where 112 industrial and non-industrial (84) staff stopped work. 648 trainees and apprentices at the GTCs went absent without leave (total training complement is approximately 3,000). 310 were sent home by Management.