

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Mr. Dogherty (MD)	MUE	DUA, Co. Derry	M	52	PG qualification	C	7.2.19

- KPC** So you were telling me that you did a degree in Early Modern History.
- MD** Yes.
- KPC** Why did you choose that?
- MD** I actually went up to do Environmental Science and panicked about three weeks into the course.
- KPC** *[laughs]* Right.
- MD** Because I thought the Mathematics would have been too much for me.
- KPC** Mm.
- MD** Because I done a, as I say, I done a foundation course...
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- MD** ... and struggled with Mathematics, you know.
- KPC** Mm.
- MD** So I panicked and I looked around and I thought, 'Right, I'll just go for an easy one' and...
- KPC** And did you ever regret doing Early Modern History?
- MD** No, I didn't, because I, I, I love reading, anyway. I love reading...
- KPC** Mm.
- MD** ... you know, about History.
- KPC** Mm-mm.
- MD** And I ended up going... I went and did a Postgraduate Diploma then in Adult and Continuing Education.
- KPC** Mm-mm.

MD Which is the sort of game I'm in now, you know.

KPC Right, so who do you work for?

MD I work for Derry Youth and Community Workshops, a training organisation.

KPC Mm-mm.

MD In Derry, you know. I'm a tutor there.

KPC And what kinds of things do you do?

MD Well, it's... I get people in. I'm supposed to be a, a Literacy and Numeracy Adv...Assessor...

KPC Mm-mm.

MD ... but in reality, I run a two week job search course for people who are made to do it through *New Deal*, you know.

KPC Oh, right, okay.

MD So anybody comes in my door on a Monday morning doesn't want to be there, you know.

KPC No, I'm sure they don't.

MD It's... they're forced to do it, you know. So...

KPC Mm.

MD It's more diplomacy in keeping them there, than it is anything else...

KPC Mm.

MD ... you know, that sort of way.

KPC And how...?

MD But it's a very enjoyable job.

KPC Aye.

MD You know, I'm a... I practically know everybody in Derry, because of the job, you know.

KPC Aye.

MD It's great like. I get free taxi rides everywhere.

KPC *[laughs]*

MD Free, free... When my mates go into pubs with me, I, I get free pints bought to me and...

KPC A wee drink. *[laughs]*

MD 'What is it? What is it with you?' you know. 'Well, they're *New Deal* pints. I'm sorry,' you know, sort of.

KPC Well, I suppose it is true that, you know, in a sense, you're really doing a favour for them.

MD Well, the thing about it is, the, the Dole knows that half of Derry is still doing the double.

KPC Mm.

MD And I get guys in, on a Monday morning going, 'Me old mucker. I have to work,' and I'm going, 'You don't work on my shift. I don't care what you do. It's not my job to tell the Dole that you're doing the double...'

KPC No.

MD ... I says, 'But if you're caught doing the double, you'll get done for doing the double.'

KPC Mm.

MD 'I'll get done for fraud. This organisation will lose its contract.'

KPC Mm.

MD 'I cou....I could go to jail for it. You know what I mean?' So, generally they're fine about it, you know. But...

KPC Mm.

MD ... see some of the people that come in, like I had a guy in about six months ago...

KPC Mm-mm.

MD ... and he... I could see him big fellah. you know I could see him squaring up, you know. I thought, 'What the fuck is he going to say?' you know. 'Ah, come here *[abbreviated]* mucker, I'm working.' I says, 'Well, you're not. Go on down and tell the Dole,' I said, 'and sure let me know what they say when, when you come up again'.

KPC Mm-mm.

MD And that knocked the stuffing out of him, you know. I said, 'Look, get a cup of coffee and I'll get a chat with you.'

KPC Mm.

MD He lands on me, he goes, eh, 'Could the wife not do this?' I says, 'Does she look exactly like you, does she?' And he went, 'No'. I says, 'Well, no, the fucking wife can't do this,' you know. Wanted to send his wife up so he could get out to work, you know. Crazy like.

KPC Unbelievable.

MD Aye, people up there, you know, they're desperate to get out to work, you know, and like...

KPC And what other things have they don.... have they got up to that you've discovered afterwards?

MD 'Oh, go and phone so-and-so, eh, tell him to come in. He's on a visit tomorrow [*pronounced as 'the morra'*] from the Dole, a *New Deal*.' I...I'd have a list of numbers, so I phone this guy.

KPC Uh-huh.

MD 'Shifty', he's called, his nickname. You know, as you can imagine - 'Shifty'...

KPC [*laughs*]

MD 'What, Séamus?' 'Do you think you can be here about quarter past ten tomorrow [*pronounced as 'the morra'*]?' Because we have to brief them on what they say, you know, before they get interviewed by the Dole.

KPC I know.

MD 'That's going to be difficult, Séamus.' I says, 'Why?' He says, 'I'm on a fag run in Lanzarote.' They were buying hooky fags in Lanzarote, you know. They be up... you know, black economy, they get up to all sorts of things, you know.

KPC And is there would there be much of a black economy in Derry, do you think?

MD Oh, big style, aye.

KPC Why is that, do you think?

MD I don't know. Th...th....There's still a very high unemployment in Derry.

KPC Mm.

MD You see, the the, there's been no benefits from the cease-fire in terms of, like, Belfast, as you can s... have you been back to Belfast?

KPC Is buzzing.

MD It's just a sea of cranes.

KPC Aye.

MD There's nothing. Derry hasn't... there's been no real economic benefit.

KPC And why is that? Why do think it's been...?

MD Ah, it's been... there's always been a focus, and Derry people have always thought that West of the Bann. The Unionist Government's never looked West of the Bann, you know.

KPC Aye, true enough.

MD And then, you know, Direct, you know, Government in Britain now, they, they didn't bother too much either, you know.

KPC Mm.

MD And then, you know, Derry's traditional industries are... they're long gone, you know. And they're never going to be replaced, you know.

KPC Mm.

MD I think Derry's last shirt factory shut about three weeks ago, four weeks ago.

KPC Was it really....?

MD A wee specialised shirt factory, bang, gone, you know,

KPC Oh, isn't that sad?

MD But that was a...

KPC Because that's, you know, in a sense, that was Derry's whole thing, wasn't it?

MD That was Derry's thing, surely. The women [*pronounced as 'weemen'*] went out and worked, and the men...

KPC Mm.

MD ... walked the dogs, as they say in the song, you know.

KPC Yeah. But your mummy didn't have time for, for working.

MD No, my mummy did not. My mother had five daughters and two sons to look after.

KPC And are they all still alive?

MD Aye, aye. My mother's dead now.

KPC Aye.

MD About five years. And my, my father died...

KPC What about your dad?

MD ... when I was ten, you know.

KPC Ach, that's...

MD So we were very young when dad died, you know.

KPC ... very hard, isn't it?

MD It was hard on my mother, you know.

KPC Desperate hard on her.