Data: UK National Archive Files

Our dataset comprises the archived record of the UK Prime Ministers' correspondence about the security situation in Northern Ireland between 1969 and 1973, retrieved from The National Archives (UK) (1969-73). The files contain security reports, internal memos, letters and telegrams, meeting transcripts and summaries, proposed policies, notes about proposed or initiated policies, hand-written edits to public statements, and public documents (including news stories) circulated for internal discussion. Material includes documents designated as top-secret, classified, and confidential. This archive collection includes more than 8,000 pages of government correspondence as internment was considered, initiated, and amended. It represents virtually the universe of internal, security-related material submitted to or authored by Prime Ministers Harold Wilson or Edward Heath during this period.

We collected the archive material as individual photographs from the British National Archives at Kew in September 2015. One file (PREM15/478) was unavailable at the time of data retrieval; librarians subsequently provided us with digitized copies of this file. No documents from the selected Correspondence Files (Table 1) were omitted. We used Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software to digitize the documents and paid to manually validate the digitization's accuracy.

Included files came from the Prime Minister's Office records (PREM), Records of the Ministry of Defense (DEFE), and records created or inherited by the Northern Ireland office (CJ). They all are housed at The National Archives (UK). Record opening date: January 2002. Photographed and numbered in September 2015 by Emily Gade. Each file's unique URL is hyperlinked in the following table's "File" column.

Table 1: Files from The National Archives (UK) included in this project.

File	**Description**	**Dates** (mm/yyyy)
PREM15/100	Internal situation in Northern Ireland	06-07/1970
PREM15/101	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 2	07-08/1970
PREM15/474	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 3	08/1970-01/1971
PREM15/475	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 4	02-03/1971
PREM15/476	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 5	03-04/1971
PREM15/477	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 6	04-07/1971
PREM15/478	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 7	07-08/1971
PREM15/479	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 8	08-09/1971
PREM15/480	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 9	09/1971
PREM15/481	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 10	09-10/1971
PREM15/482	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 11	10/1971
PREM15/483	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 12	10-11/1971
PREM15/484	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 13	11-12/1971
PREM15/1000	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 14	12/1971-01/1972
PREM15/1001	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 15	01-02/1972
PREM15/1002	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 16	02/1972
PREM15/1003	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 17	02-03/1972
PREM15/1004	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 18	03/1972
PREM15/1005	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 19	03/1972

PREM15/1006	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 20	03-04/1972
PREM15/1007	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 21	04-05/1972
PREM15/1008	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 22	05-06/1972
PREM15/1009	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 23	06/1972
PREM15/1010	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 24	07/1972
PREM15/1011	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 25	07/1972
PREM15/1012	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 26	08/1972
PREM15/1013	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 27	08-09/1972
PREM15/1014	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 28	09-10/1972
PREM15/1015	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 29	10-11/1972
PREM15/1016	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 30	11-12/1972
PREM15/1689	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 31	01-02/1973
PREM15/1690	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 32	02-03/1973
PREM15/1691	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 33	03/1973
PREM15/1692	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 34	03-04/1973
PREM15/1693	Internal situation in Northern Ireland, Part 35	05-07/1973
PREM15/485	Compton Enquiry: Allegations of brutality Part 1	08-11/1971
PREM15/486	Records of meetings between PM and Mr. Lynch	03-12/1971
PREM15/1020	Scarman Report on violence/civil disturbances (1969)	04/1972
PREM15/1035	Allegations of brutality by Army in Northern Ireland: Parker Enquiry into interrogation procedures, part 2	11/1971-03/1972
DEFE13/917	Northern Ireland: Interrogation	1971
DEFE13/919	Northern Ireland: Interrogation	1972
DEFE13/1358	Northern Ireland: Situation Reports	1972
DEFE24/606	BOAR & Allied Mobile Force (Land) units	1971-1973
DEFE24/876	N.Ireland: force levels; reinforcement; contingency	1973
DEFE24/877	N.Ireland: force levels; structure and organisation	1973
DEFE24/1214	N.Ireland: Internment and Interrogation Policy	1971
CJ4/251	Ceasefire by PIRA: Policy on arrest of leaders	06-08/1972
CJ4/458	Terrorist suspects: Policy/procedures for arrest/interrogation	05/1972-01/1973