

## The New Public Record Office of Northern Ireland Premises

The Preview of PRONI was on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011 when invited guests were able to view the new premises. Details of how to get to the building are now available on the PRONI web site [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk), then go to “visiting PRONI”, and “Getting here”. Here you will find details and 2 maps. The bus service at the moment is an hourly one, check Translink web site for details. If walking to PRONI it takes about 20 minutes from the end of Ann Street.

The ground floor has the reception desk, exhibition area, lockers and cafe.



### PRONI Reception Area

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)

The first floor has the Public Search Room and the Public Reading Room.

On entering the building for the first time you will need to renew your visitor identification pass. This card will last for several years and is used as a swipe card to gain entry to the Public Search Room and the Public Reading Room. Your belongings are left in lockers. A £1 coin is needed to insert in a slot in the back of the locker door. This is retrieved when you collect your property. The cafe is light and airy and is divided into a section for staff and one for the public.



### PRONI Cafe

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)

Upstairs the Public Search Room has tables with computer terminals for the electronic catalogues, a section for internet access and at the far end 20 microfilm readers and 2 reader printers. Microfilms are obtained from their cabinets by self service, an empty red microfilm box is placed in the space in the drawer left by the microfilm you have removed to view. Street Directories and will calendars are also in this room. Ordering of documents is done from this room.



### **PRONI Search room**

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)



### **Microfilm readers and Street Directories (Search room)**

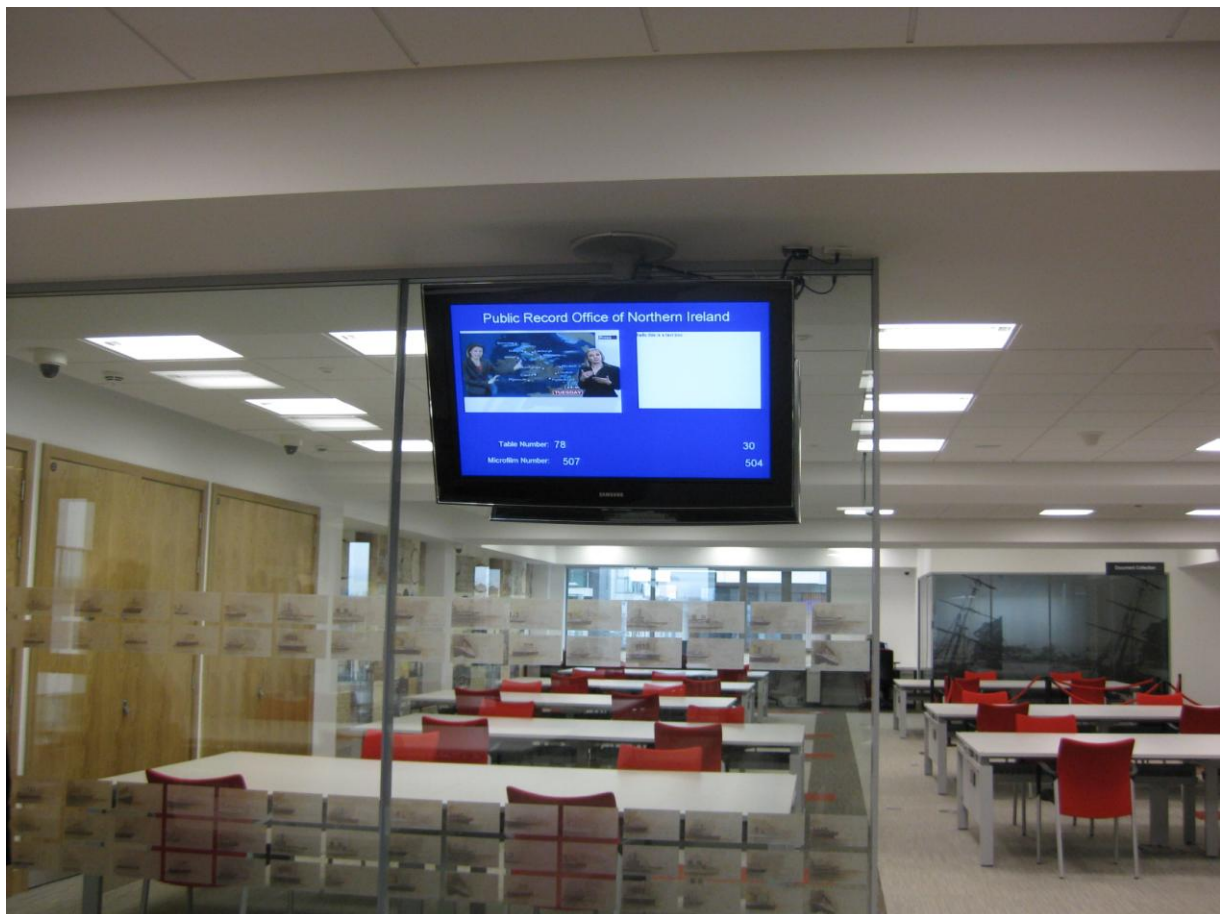
(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)



### **Microfilms and will calendars (Search room)**

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)

The Public Reading Room is at the other end of this floor. There is a Collection Point and orders for any copying are placed here. This room is fairly large with plenty of tables. There is also a machine on which, with permission, you may make digital copies of documents. These will have a PRONI “watermark” and are saved onto your own USB memory stick. The cost is 30p per copy.



### **PRONI Public reading room**

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)



### **PRONI Collection Point**

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)



### **Stephen Scarth and digital copying machine**

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)

On opening day, 30<sup>th</sup> March, there were guided tours and these may continue for a while, depending on demand.



**Heather Stanley, Steven Smyrl and Aideen Ireland**

(Photo by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)



**Brian O'Hara, Ballymena Chairman**

(Photos by Ann Robinson 29/03/11, permission by PRONI)