Probation in Ireland, Part 2: The Modern Age, 1960s to 2000

Gerry McNally*

Summary: This article, the second of a two-part history, traces the more recent years of probation in Ireland from the 1960s to the beginning of the 21st century. It examines the ‘paradigm shift’ at the end of the 1960s and consequent developments. In following the chronological development of the Service the article looks at four key themes – development of management, social work in practice, community engagement, and policy evolution in the changing Ireland – in setting the context for the next ‘paradigm shift’ at the beginning on the 21st century.

Keywords: Probation, Probation Service, probation practice, Probation of Offenders Act 1907, offenders, history, twentieth-century Ireland.