

Kincora: Britain's Shame
Mountbatten, MI5, the Belfast Boys' Home Sex Abuse Scandal
and the British Cover-Up

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Newbridge, Ireland; Merrion Press, 2025; p/b €19.99, (£15.00 approx.)¹

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Kincora is one of the great scandals of post-World War 2 British history. Exposure of the actions of a group of pedophiles has been suppressed for nearly half a century. Attempts by the police to investigate it and seven official inquiries were obstructed by the British state at the behest of MI5; and Colin Wallace was framed for murder for trying to expose it.

There are four main threads to this book. Moore was a BBC reporter in Northern Ireland and one theme is his account of trying to investigate Kincora over the years: meeting brick walls to begin with; fragments of information, increasing as time passed and sources felt in less danger; and finally co-operation from a senior retired Northern Ireland policeman, Chief Superintendent George Caskey, who had tried to investigate it.

The second thread is the story of how three pedophiles were put in charge of a residential home for adolescent boys in Belfast. Initially they restricted their activities to simply abusing their charges; but one of the three, Joe Mains, began pimping some of them out. Lord Mountbatten was one of his clients. There is distressing testimony from some of the surviving victims. (Others died or disappeared, presumably murdered.)

The third thread is the story of the most prominent of the three men, William McGrath, aka The Beast of Kincora, who welcomes some of the boys to Kincora with anal sex. The McGrath story involves much detail about the murky politics and paramilitary activity of Protestant fringe groups during the conflict with the IRA. Having had contact with MI6 in the sixties, McGrath was recruited by MI5 – precisely when, or for what, is unclear – providing him with cover for his sexual activities.

¹ <<https://www.irishacademicpress.ie/imprint/merrion-press/>>

The fourth thread is the barely credible role of MI5 in these murky events. Which makes this the most damaging account of MI5's activities in Northern Ireland (or anywhere else) I have read.

There are some extraordinary revelations. These two were the most striking on first reading.

I asked Holder [Daniel Holder director of the Committee for the Administration of Justice (CAJ) in Northern Ireland] about the meeting of senior MI5 officers to consider Kincora, at which one of them suggested giving Detective Caskey 'false files'. He noted that

'successive Police Ombudsmen reports have revealed such practices as ranging from the "slow waltz" of withholding intelligence from detectives or conducting sham interviews, or other efforts to disapply the rule of law to agents of the state. The obstruction of investigations through the creation of "false files" would very much fit this pattern.'

The fact that MI5 would even discuss giving false files to a criminal police investigation into the rape and sexual abuse of children to protect its own interests amounts to criminal negligence or complicity in disgusting crimes. (p. 249)

In their award-winning documentary *No Stone Unturned*, the two journalists [Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey] revealed the identities of the loyalist UVF gang responsible for the sectarian murder of six Catholic men in June 1994 as they watched the Republic of Ireland beat Italy in a World Cup football match in New York. Instead of arresting the killers, however, the police and the British State chose to pursue a criminal case against Birney and McCaffrey for using a leaked document as evidence.

What has emerged in the aftermath of the journalists' fight against their arrests is a staggering truth about how the British State has illegally spied on journalists over the years. The PSNI had been running what they described as a 'defensive operation' monitoring the phones of Northern Ireland journalists for at least thirteen years. PSNI Chief Constable Jon Boucher admitted that *the force had used surveillance tactics against 320 journalists and 500 lawyers*. Four years before *No Stone Unturned* was aired, PSNI officers sought permission to monitor Birney and McCaffrey, repeatedly referring to them as 'criminals' who associated with 'other criminals'. It also emerged that in 2011 they had

intercepted 4,000 telephone calls and text messages between Birney, McCaffrey and twelve BBC journalists, including me. (p. 253) (Emphasis added.)

This is a very important book. How the British mainstream media respond to it will tell us much about them.²

² A time of writing only the *Daily Mail* and the *Belfast Telegraph* have mentioned the book. The *Mail* focused on the claims about Mountbatten, behind its paywall at <<https://shorturl.at/PK7U2>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14849557/Fresh-claims-emerge-late-Queens-cousin-Lord-Mountbatten-abused-children-Northern-Ireland-boys-home-one-says-trafficked-royals-castle.html>> and, not behind the paywall, more generally, at <<https://shorturl.at/tBi5W>> or <<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12161757/Lawyer-victim-abused-boys-home-says-police-didnt-look-paedophile-worked-state.html>>. The *Telegraph* piece (also behind a paywall) is at <<https://shorturl.at/xsoTi>> or <<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/columnists/suzanne-breen/a-very-british-scandal-kings-uncle-and-the-sordid-kincora-cover-up/a691966012.html>>.