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11th August 1999

At its meeting today, the Parades Commission agreed the attached determination in relation to the Associated Clubs Apprentice Boys of Derry parade in Londonderry on Saturday 14th August 1999.

P.P. HEATHER ROBINSON
Secretary

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DETERMINATION IN RELATION TO THE ASSOCIATED CLUBS APPRENTICE BOYS OF DERRY PARADE IN LONDONDERRY ON SATURDAY 14 AUGUST, 1999

The following is the decision of the Parades Commission in relation to the above parade.

Section 8 (1) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, provides that

> "The Commission may issue a determination in respect of a proposed public procession imposing on the persons organising or taking part in it such conditions as the Commission considers necessary."

The Commission has noted the details provided on the Forms 11/1 submitted on 6 July, 1999 and 6 August 1999 respectively.

The Commission has considered the need to issue a determination as outlined above, against the factors outlined in our Guidelines document.

Decision

The Commission has noted the details of the parade advised on Forms 11/1, submitted on 6 July and 6 August, 1999. The parade is broken down into five sections. The main parade, the fourth section, is possibly the largest parade in Northern Ireland and will take four hours to pass any one point.

The first section will set off at 9.00am and consists of the General Committee of the Associated Clubs of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, accompanied by one band, the Blackskull Flute band. They will parade from the Fountain Estate along London Street and Society Street to the Apprentice Boys' Memorial Hall.

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The second section, notified to set off at 9.30am with approximately 500 participants and 9 bands notified to participate, is the parade by the General Committee and the Parent Clubs. The notified route for this section is from Society Street, taking in the City Walls circuit, proceeding to Palace Street, Bishop Street, the Cenotaph, Ferryquay Street and Pump Street to St Columb's Cathedral. A Pageant has been notified to take place at 10.00am in Society Street.

At 12.20pm, following the Church service in St Columb's Cathedral, the third section of the parade which consists of the officers of the General Committee, accompanied by the Blackskull Flute Band, will proceed along Society Street, London Street, Hawkin Street and Carlisle Road to welcome the main parade at the Craigavon Bridge at 12.30pm.

The fourth section, the main parade, is notified to consist of 10,000 participants and 150 bands. The notified route, which was changed by an amended notification submitted on 6 August, 1999, is that the parade will proceed from the Craigavon Bridge, along Wapping Lane, Kennedy Street, Hawkin Street, London Street, Bishop Street, proceeding around the Diamond in clockwise fashion to Ferryquay Street, Carlisle Road to the Craigavon Bridge, Spencer Road, Dungiven Road, Sheskin Gardens, Bann Drive, Finn Gardens, Mourne Drive, Dennet Gardens, Dungiven Road, Glendermott Road and Bond Street before dispersing at May Street.

At 5.00pm the final section of the parade, the Parent Clubs, will parade from May Street retracing the route of the main parade to the Diamond where, proceeding in an anticlockwise direction, it will proceed to Bishop Street and Palace Lane before dispersing at the Memorial Hall.

In its determination in relation to the Associated Clubs Apprentice Boys of Derry parade on 12 December 1998 (Lundy Day), the Commission reflected on

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violence at previous parades organised by the Apprentice Boys in the city and recognised the understanding that had been reached between the Apprentice Boys and the Bogside Residents Group, through mediated contact, to facilitate a parade, which had been conducted in reasonably peaceful circumstances, in August 1998. The Commission then noted its disappointment that a local accommodation had not proved possible for the Lundy Day parade in December.

That determination also recognised "the imaginative steps taken by the Apprentice Boys, through a number of educational initiatives, to encourage and develop an awareness of the organisation's place in the context of the city's historical past". The Commission hoped "that these efforts, which reflect a positive and inclusive approach to the parading issue in Londonderry, will bring about the ultimate desired outcome of removing all points of contention about this parade for future years."

This year the Commission visited Londonderry on a number of occasions, most recently on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 August. It took evidence from, among others, the parade organisers, the local residents group and elected representatives.

The Commission has been informed about the initiative established by leading businessmen in the city to try to seek local accommodation in respect of the forthcoming parade on 14 August. It would like to place formally on record its commendation of the two leading businessmen who have remained committed to the successful conclusion of this initiative. They have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and have sacrificed a great deal of personal and professional time and energy. The Commission considers that it is entirely appropriate that the local business community is involved in resolving disputed parades which can have a significant negative impact on the commercial life of the city.

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It is regrettable that the Apprentice Boys were slow to engage fully in this process with the result that all involved had to take part in eleventh hour negotiations, exacerbating the difficulties in finding an accommodation.

The Commission is not in a position to comment on the content of the dialogue as this remains confidential to the participants. The Commission has, however, heard from groups within the city that they do not wish to prevent anyone from celebrating their own culture but that respect for differing cultures should always be demonstrated. It recognises that in recent years the Apprentice Boys have made significant efforts in co-operation with the police to control the availability of alcohol before the main parade begins. However, the appalling behaviour by some participants and spectators, caused by excess alcohol, and including verbal and physical abuse and urinating in public, remains a significant problem at the end of the day's events, particularly for those living in the Waterside area.

The Commission heard that the Apprentice Boys had continued with their education programme in the City. It has heard commendation for the efforts made by the Apprentice Boys to improve the quality of the marshalling of the main parade.

The Commission has also heard that residents of the Bogside were concerned at the Apprentice Boys' unwillingness to engage with them until late in the day.

The Apprentice Boys have submitted an amended notification in respect of the main parade of 10,000 participants and 150 bands. This is described as section four above and changes the route of entry into the Diamond from Ferryquay Street to Bishops Street, with the parade then proceeding in clockwise manner. The Commission understands that the purpose of this change is to diffuse tension arising from contact between participants and protesters at the point where the parade enters the Diamond at Ferryquay Street which is directly opposite Butchers' Gate and the entrance to the Bogside. The Commission

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further understands that the Apprentice Boys will position their marshalls between the parade and the Butchers' Gate entrance to the Diamond.

The Commission is again disappointed that, despite the efforts of all involved, it has not been possible to reach a local accommodation in respect of the parade on 14 August and that the Commission has had no option but to exercise its statutory powers. The Commission would expect that both sides will be able to build on the dialogue that has taken place to date and recommence discussion at an early stage to secure accommodation for future parades in the city.

Public Disorder or Damage to Property which may result from the Procession

The Commission is conscious that in recent years there has been rioting both during and after the parade. From the evidence received it is clear that while alcohol has played a significant role, it is not the only cause and responsibility has to be shared by both parties to the dispute. The Commission has recognised the Apprentice Boys' proposals to marshall the parade and has heard directly from the Bogside Residents Group that any protest action on its behalf would be "peaceful, legitimate and lawful".

Disruption to the Life of the Community

The Commission recognises that parades, irrespective of their venue or purpose, inevitably cause some disruption to the life of the community. Because of the numbers involved and the timing of the parades in Londonderry on 14 August, there will be major disruption to the shopping and trading life of the city centre. The Commission has heard concerns that residents of the Bogside will be prevented from leaving that area during the parade. The Commission has heard that the police intend to maintain pedestrian and vehicular access from Butchers' Gate into the Diamond.

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Impact of the Procession on Relationships within the Community

This parade impacts adversely on certain sections of the community, for various differing reasons, including the perceived triumphalism of the parade, the disruption caused to those trying to shop and those trying to trade: the offensive behaviour at the end of the parade when the effects of excess alcohol are most apparent and the sense of invasion by people who do not live in the city and who demonstrate no respect for its inhabitants or its buildings.

Compliance with the Code of Conduct.

The Apprentice Boys have worked hard to ensure that there are sufficient trained marshalls to control parade participants and bands. These marshalls have been able to control the majority of parade participants.

The Desirability of allowing a Parade which has been customarily held on that Route to continue to be allowed to do so.

There is no doubt about the traditional nature of this parade.

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Determination

The Commission's determination is that the following conditions are imposed on the organiser and all participants in the parade organised by the Associated Clubs Apprentice Boys of Derry.

1. Only one band, the Blackskull Flute band, shall accompany the parade on the second section of its route from Society Street, taking in the City Walls circuit, proceeding to Palace Street, Bishop Street, the Cenotaph, Ferryquay Street and Pump Street to St Columb's Cathedral.

2. When the main parade enters the Diamond from Bishops Street, all participants shall obey commands of the parade organisers as to how they should show respect at the Cenotaph.

3. There shall be no music or excessive drumming during any section of the parade when it is passing through the Diamond.

4. There shall be no undue stoppages or delays.

5. The parade organiser shall arrange for the presence of an adequate number of marshalls to ensure that all parade participants act in an orderly and dignified manner.

6. The parade organiser shall bring to the attention of stewards the guidance for parade participants contained in Appendices A and B of the Commission's Code of Conduct.

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7. **The parade organiser shall ensure that all stewards and participants quickly obey any lawful direction given by the police in relation to this parade.**

Signed: .....

On Behalf of the Commission

Dated: 11/8/99

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