



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Orangemen forced to cancel Dublin parade because of intimidation



Orangemen in Dublin have postponed a parade which was to have taken place in the city later this month. It would have been the Orange Order's first march in the Irish capital since 1937. Organiser Ian Cox said he had taken the action because he and fellow members of the Dublin and Wicklow Lodge had been intimidated.

He said: "Every day I get abusive letters and phone calls. It's not so bad for me because I don't have a young family, but for other members of the Lodge it was extremely worrying." He also claimed he had been "abandoned" by the political leaders who had initially welcomed and even encouraged the march. "We were left on our own. The people who had supported us ducked for cover. It was very cynical. We didn't want to cancel it. We had no choice," said Mr Cox.

In a statement he added: "The purpose and value of the parade as a symbol of friendship and tolerance has been lost in political posturing that can only be described as grubby and deeply offensive. The Orange Order in Dublin never wished anyone to be placed in fear or distress and are deeply saddened and appalled at the way in which events have turned in such a short space of time."

As many as 300 Orangemen from Ireland, England and Scotland had been expected in Dawson Street for the event on 28 May to mark the bicentenary of the founding of the Grand Orange Lodge in Ireland.

The Mayor of Dublin, Mary Freehill, had originally planned to meet Orange leaders together with their Dublin lodge and take part in the unveiling of a plaque on the site of the first Orange Order headquarters -- within yards of the Irish Parliament.