



**Isle of Man
Government**

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Isle of Man Public Record Office

S140

**Records of the Isle of Man Constabulary:
photographs and other items**

Late 19th century-circa 1979

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Records of the Isle of Man Constabulary: photographs and other items

Late 19th century-circa 1979

Accession number: A294

Extent: 11 items

Creator: Isle of Man; Isle of Man Constabulary; 1863-Present

Description of series: A series of 11 items, including photographs, printed material and a petition relating to the Isle of Man Constabulary. The series includes group photographs of police officers, images of police headquarters buildings, and a petition to Colonel William Freeth, Chief Constable of the Isle of Man Constabulary from December 1908.

Administrative History: Policing on the Isle of Man can be traced back to 'petit constables' appointed in 1777 and placed under the control of the High Bailiffs under the High Bailiff's Act of 1777 titled 'An Act for the better Regulation of the interior police of the Island'. These constables operated in the four main towns of Castletown, Douglas, Ramsey and Peel. In 1833, a 'Douglas Police Committee' was established with the aim of trying to improve policing and establish an adequate police force for Douglas. This led to the Justices Act 1836 which provided the legal basis for the establishment of a larger police force. In 1841, the Douglas police occupied premises on Fort Street in the old courthouse, however this was considered unfit for purpose. In 1856, the Government purchased St. George's Hall on Athol Street (built in 1841/42 and originally belonging to the Independent Order of Oddfellows). By 1858, this was in use as the Douglas Courthouse and Police Station.

In 1861, Lieutenant Governor Loch requested a full report on the Island's police forces under the control of the High Bailiffs, and in 1863 he wrote to the Secretary of State concerning reforms to policing on the Island. At this time, there were four police forces in the town districts of Douglas, Ramsey, Peel and Castletown, as well as some rural constables in other areas. In September 1863, all police forces on the Island were combined into one police force (the Isle of Man Constabulary) under the control of a Head Constable. In 1979, the Isle of Man Constabulary moved from Athol Street to a new purpose built headquarters on Glencrutchery Road, Douglas.

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Custodial History: These items were passed to Manx National Heritage by the Police Registry in May 2023 alongside some exhibition boards. Manx National Heritage retained the exhibition boards, but passed the historic photographs to the Public Record Office for permanent preservation on 30 May 2023. The items were then formally signed over to the Isle of Man Public Record Office under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1999 on 11 August 2023 by the Isle of Man Constabulary.

Appraisal: Selected for permanent preservation by Angela Skitt, Public Records Officer, May 2023.

Arrangement of series: Arranged in chronological order.

Access Status: Open

Related reference material: G. Turnbull, *The Isle of Man Constabulary*, 1984 provides an account of the history of the Isle of Man Constabulary. A copy of this book is available to view at the Isle of Man Public Record Office in our local studies library collection.

Archivist Note: Catalogued by Angela Skitt, Public Records Officer, 14 August 2023.

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Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/1 Item	Group photograph: Isle of Man Constabulary	<p>Photograph showing police officers in uniform [in front of Government House?]. Monochrome. George Turnbull's book 'The Isle of Man Constabulary' identifies this photograph as of Isle of Man Constabulary circa 1894 and identifies each officer pictured in a caption. Photographer William H Warbuton, Douglas.</p> <p>Open</p>	1 item	Late 19th century [circa 1894]	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/2 Item	Petition to Colonel William Freeth, Chief Constable from members of the Douglas division of the Isle of Man Constabulary	<p>The petition asks for consideration of a number of requested alterations to duties.</p> <p>Open</p>	1 item	Dec 1908	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access

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S140/3 Item	Group photograph: 9 members of Isle of Man Constabulary	Mounted. Monochrome. George Turnbull's book 'The Isle of Man Constabulary' identifies this photograph as of Ramsey division circa 1910 and identifies each officer pictured in a caption. Photographer: T.H. Midwood, Ramsey. Open	1 item	Early 20th century [circa 1910]	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/4 Item	Publication: 'The Police Gazette'	Issue from Tuesday April 7 1914. No. 28. Vol 1 Open	1 item	7 April 1914	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/5 Item	Backing board from a framed photograph	Back support from a framed item, with a pasted caption reading 'Inspection of Isle of Man Constabulary by His Excellency The Lieutenant Governor, Sir Montague Butler, Sept 4th 1937' and continuing to list the names of those pictured. The location of the photograph is currently unknown and was not with the board at the time of transfer to the Record Office. Open	1 item	March 1938	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access

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S140/6 Item	Group photograph: Members of the Loyal Manx Association (Special Police)	Mounted. Monochrome. Location may be Government House. Open	1 item	Undated [1939-1945]	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/7 Item	Group photograph: Members of the Loyal Manx Association (Special Police) wearing steel helmets and respirators	Mounted. Monochrome. Helmets are marked 'SP'. Location may be Government House. Open	1 item		Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/8 Item	Group photograph: Isle of Man Constabulary	Mounted monochrome photograph. Open	1 item	Undated [Mid 20th century]	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/9 Item	Photograph: 'Fingerprint Officer examines scene of housebreaking'	Mounted. Monochrome. Open	1 item	Undated [Mid-late 20th century]	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access

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S140/10 Item	Photograph: 'Police Dog 'Russ' tracking'	Mounted. Monochrome. Police dogs were introduced into the Isle of Man Constabulary in the early 1960s. Open	1 item	Undated [1960s-1970s]	Open
Ref. No.	Title	Description	Extent	Date	Access
S140/11 Item	Two photographs of the old and new Isle of Man Constabulary headquarters	Showing 'The Old' (a sketch of Old Fellow's Hall, Athol Sreet, Douglas - police headquarters and Douglas Court House) and 'The New' (the Isle of Man Police headquarters on Glencrutchery Road, opened 1979). Monochrome. Open	1 item	Undated [circa 1979]	Open



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