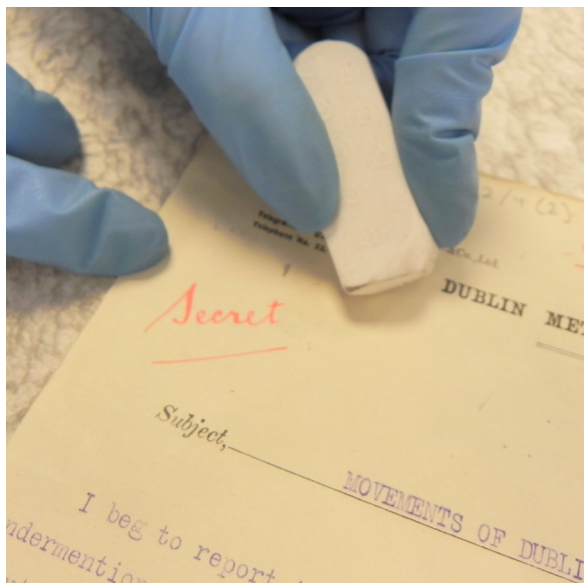


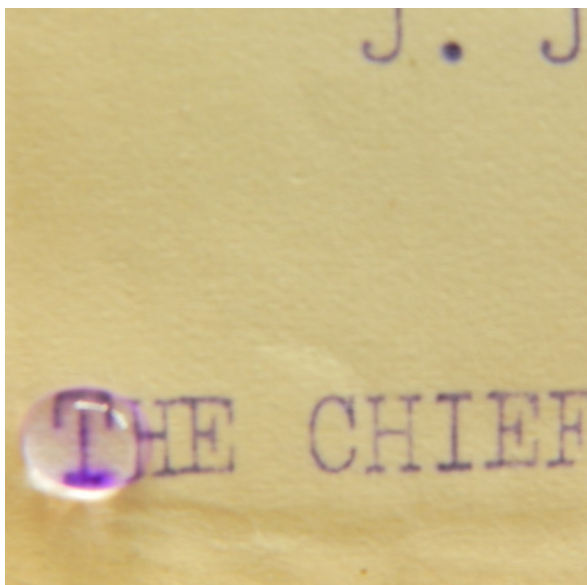
## How we conserve Movement of extremists reports



### Spot testing the inks

Each ink is tested with a small water drop-let which is placed on the ink with a pipette. Under magnification, we can determine how the ink reacts to being wet. The water droplet is then blotted off. If there is any offset on to the blotter we know that the use of water has to be kept to a minimum, if used at all.

We initially thought the annotations would be sensitive to water and would feather and become blurry if we worked on them, but we were wrong. In fact, the purple type has an aniline dye that was hugely sensitive to water.



### What, why and where?

Conservation work on the Movement of Extremist files has been carried in order for digitisation to take place. This is to ensure that the image captured is of the highest quality and that all the information is accessible and can be easily read.

Surface dirt from around the edges of the reports has been cleaned off with a plastic based eraser. In areas where the edges were torn and fragile a small hand held battery-operated eraser, with a tiny 0.5mm eraser head, was used.

We also need to carry out treatments which introduces water to the documents. To mend tears, we need to use a water-based glue, which is added to the repair tissue. To remove creases from the documents, we make the paper slightly damp. This helps to get the documents flat before they are put in the press to dry between blotters and board.

We want to make sure that the inks will not react to water and disfigure the text and ruin the reports. The single sheet reports contain lots of different types of ink, including the purple typed script, annotations in red and the signatures and comments written in black.

### Conservation so far...

CSO/JD/2/1-75 have been conserved so far. These files date from June, July and August 1915 and amount to 75 files or approximately 300 documents. This includes newspapers, in English and Irish with typed translations of the Irish, along with the daily surveillance reports. Over the coming months, we will conserve the remainder of the collection and continue to present updates about the conservation element of the project, including such details as how we use an ultra-sonic mist to humidify the documents and a very light tissue with the glue already applied to repair the tears.