



***Competition, Contention
and Crime***

**Newspapers' portrayal of the
border in the north-west**

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Overview

- **Newspapers**

LONDONDERRY

SENTINEL

Derry Journal

Donegal Democrat

- **Preliminary points**

- Border does not feature highly
- Portrayal reflects assumptions about target readership
- Highly local preferences/interests affect approach

References to the border

- ***Londonderry Sentinel***
 - Only mentions ‘border’ in relation to Irish state (policies, not ideology)
 - Donegal as tourist destination
- ***Donegal Democrat***
 - Confines coverage to county boundaries
 - Threat from open border: trade & crime
- ***Derry Journal***
 - Political dimensions to cross-border crime
 - Opportunities from cross-border activity

Politics and partition

- ***Democrat***

- Partition a politically live issue
- Anti-partitionist credentials questioned (SF)

- ***Journal***

- Explicitly pro cross-border cooperation because practical benefits for Derry (SDLP/SF)
- Wide scope of cross-border reporting

- ***Sentinel***

- Border absent from debate
- Inter-state protocol

EU and cross-border issues

- ***Democrat***

- Comment on EU confined essentially to EU funding
- Virtually all positive references to cross-border activity relate to EU programmes

- ***Sentinel***

- When EU is mentioned, it is in relation to cross-border subjects
- Euro: opportunity to gain Donegal business

- ***Journal***

- Euro: SF comments on all-island currency
- Editorial: closely follows Hume's line on EU

Concluding points

- Increased cross-border mobility does not necessarily give rise to a shared discourse
 - Deterministic link between local politics and presentation of the border
- Change depends on local political parties' use of 'the border' issue
 - Development of regional/local politics and cooperation