

**C TFT**

**Records of the Finance Department  
of the Hull Corporation  
Relating to Telephones**

**1904-1964**

**Historical Background:**

The origins of government in Kingston upon Hull began with the King appointing a mayor to govern the town, but in 1331 his powers were transferred to a mayor elected by the burgesses. In 1440 the town was separated from Yorkshire as an independent county with its own sheriff, and the burgesses were empowered to elect twelve aldermen to assist the mayor and to serve as magistrates for the new county (Oxley, 1973, p.3). This system of government remained in force in the town until 1835.

The Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 (5 & 6 Wm. IV., c.76), sometimes known as the Municipal Reform Act, was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that reformed local government in the incorporated boroughs of England and Wales (Warren, 1948, p.21). In Kingston upon Hull the revolution accomplished by the Municipal Reform Act of 1835 was to give political power to a different set of voters, namely those inhabitants who fulfilled a property qualification (Oxley, 1973, p.8).

The only new function given to the reformed corporation was the administration of the police force and despite the financial position of the corporation being strengthened by the granting of wider powers to levy rates, these powers were little used. Fifteen years elapsed before the political changes of 1835 were matched by major changes of function.

The replacement of the old Improvement Commissioners with the new Board of Health in 1851 and with the Boards' attack on the problem of providing a really healthy environment for the people of Kingston upon Hull saw the beginning of major changes to the town, both structurally and in the services provided by the Corporation.

The finance department of the Hull Corporation played a major role in the improvements to the town, as well as in the general functions of the corporation, as it possessed the responsibility for providing the funds to finance such functions and for recording income and expenditure for the many departments and functions of the Hull Corporation.

Financial decisions of the Hull Corporation were officially made and represented by a Finance Committee. The Finance Committee joined with the Property Committee in 1876/7 to form the Finance and Property Committee in order to consider and from time to time report on the amount of rates necessary to be levied by the Corporation, so as to proportion the amount of rates to the actual expenditure in each year. However, after a short period of just three years the two committees reverted back to their original committee titles in 1879/80.

The finance department held responsibility for such functions as borrowing and debt collection, as well as recording the finances of various sectors of the Hull Corporation, such as education, libraries, telephones, and water. Each of these sectors were, and still remain, extremely important to the City.

The post office had been providing a service for twenty-one years and an exchange owned by the National Telephone Company existed when the corporation's telephone system was established in 1901. At this time the telephone seemed a natural extension of local authority services and a number of councils established their own exchanges but the Post Office took over most of these. However, in 1914, following lengthy negotiations the corporation of Hull

## Hull History Centre: Records of the Finance Department of the Hull Corporation

acquired its status as a monopoly supplier of local telephone services to the city and adjacent towns and villages and has remained a unique institution ever since.

Today, the Finance Department of the Hull City Council, also known as the Corporate Finance Team, remains responsible for the financial functions and activities of the Hull City Council.

**Description:** The records of the finance department of the Hull Corporation were created during the natural course of the department's business processes.

The records of the finance department of the Hull Corporation is a rich source for the better understanding of how the Hull Corporation recorded its' financial transactions. Many of the records included in the collection contain the names of individuals and businesses giving information on customers and suppliers useful for genealogists and those researching local businesses.

The records in this collection include telephone journals, a wayleaves journal, and an index of telephone numbers.

### Arrangement:

C TFT/1	Telephone Journals	1904-1964
C TFT/2	Miscellaneous	1914-1915

**Extent:** 13 volumes

**Related material:** For records regarding the Borough of Kingston upon Hull before the Corporation was reformed by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 please see C BR. For minutes of the Finance Committee meetings please see the Hull City Council minutes at reference C TCM.

**Custodial History:** These records were created and stored by the Finance Department of the Hull City Council until they were transferred to the Hull City Archives in October 1983

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<b>C TFT/1</b>	<b>Telephone Journals</b> Details of monies paid to sundries, salaries and capital paid to Salaries and Revenue, Wayleavers, and for such things as printing and stationery, etc. Each page is divided by month and lists money paid out during that month. 11 volumes	<b>Mar 1904- Mar 1964</b>
C TFT/1/1	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Mar 1904- Mar 1909
C TFT/1/2	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Apr 1909- Mar 1913
C TFT/1/3	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Mar 1913- Mar 1916
C TFT/1/4	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Apr 1916- Mar 1920
C TFT/1/5	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Mar 1920- Mar 1924
C TFT/1/6	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Mar 1924- Mar 1930
C TFT/1/7	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Apr 1934- Mar 1938
C TFT/1/8	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Apr 1940- Mar 1942
C TFT/1/9	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Apr 1948- Mar 1953
C TFT/1/10	Telephone Journal Includes information regarding exchange lines, deposits, local calls, trunk fees, and telegrams 1 volume	Apr 1953- Mar 1957
C TFT/1/11	Telephone Journal 1 volume	Apr 1960- Mar 1964
<b>C TFT/2</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b> Includes a wayleaves journal and an index of telephone numbers 2 volumes	<b>Apr 1914- Sep 1915</b>

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C TFT/2/1	Wayleaves Journal Lists wayleaves to sundry property owners giving name, address, short description of what payment is for and amount payable, with total at bottom of each page. For Hull Corporation telephone wayleave agreement see C DBHB/1/283/28. 1 volume	1914-1915
C TFT/2/2	Telephones Numerical Index Includes numbers 1000-7559, and gives telephone number, name and address 1 volume	n.d.