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**Minutes of All Party Consultation Group on Commemorations,  
in the Department of the Taoiseach (Room 309), Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 15.00**

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<p><b>Members:</b> Minister Heather Humphreys (Chair) Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan Deputy Aonghus Ó Snodaigh Senator Jim D'Arcy Senator Mark Daly Senator Mary White Dr Martin Mansergh Mr PJ Bradley SDLP</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Deputy Catherine Murphy Minister Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Vice-Chair) Deputy Michael Conaghan Deputy Dinny McGinley Dr. Maurice Manning Mr. Donal Byrne RTE</p>	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Ms Sinéad Copeland, DAHG Ms Sabina O'Donnell, DAHG Mr. Martin Reid DAHG Ms. Sarah Meade, DAHG Mr Jerry Kelleher, D/Taoiseach Mr George McCullough, Glasnevin Trust Ms Sorcha de Brúch Mr. Feargal O'Coigligh</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b> Mr John Concannon DAHG</p>
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**1. Minutes and matters arising**

Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 meeting were approved.

An annual memorial mass which took place in Mount Argus to commemorate ex-RIC men killed in the 1916-21 period was raised and whether it was appropriate for An Garda Síochána to attend. It was considered that this issue was not a State event and that it was not within the remit of the Group to direct or comment.

The issue of capacity at Kilmainham Gaol & Courthouse for the public in 2016 was reiterated and the fact that appropriate steps will need to be put in place to ensure that the expected increased visitor numbers will be accommodated.

**Ireland 2016**

Mr John Concannon reported that there had been a good response to the inter-Departmental call for more staff for the 2016 Project Office. He provided an update on the launches of strands of activities in respect of the Ireland 2016 Commemorative Programme all of which were well received .

The Trinity College, Dublin commemorative programme is due to be launched shortly with the attendance of Minister Humphreys.

Appreciation was expressed once more by the Chair and the Group of the commitment, and the quality and quantity of work output of the 2016 Project Office team.

## **2. Capital Projects**

All projects proceeding to plan; a written status commentary was circulated to the Group.

### **Moore Street**

The Minister announced that the final purchase of the National Monument at Moore Street was been completed and that work was proceeding immediately. There will be limited access to the site during the centenary year as work on the site proceeds. The 1916 Relatives Groups were given a detailed briefing on progress earlier in the day.

Plans are underway to hold an event held to commemorate the women of 2016 at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, in view of its ability to take the capacity expected.

Flag and proclamation ceremonies at Primary schools are continuing with which children and adults are strongly engaged; some of which the Minister and other members of the Group have attended.

A set of commemorative programmes launched to date was provided to all members of the Group. The lack of appropriate memorials/statues to women of 1916 in O'Connell Street was raised and the Minister agreed that it was important to try to redress the lack of attention given to women's role in 1916. Reproduction Cumann na mBan badges were discussed and Glasnevin Trust are planning to sell silver and other versions at their museum shop.

## **3. Update on Somme Programme**

Minister Humphreys reported on her recent attendance at Remembrance Sunday events at St Patrick's Cathedral on 8<sup>th</sup> November and on her meeting at Glasnevin Cemetery with the French Minister for Veterans and Commemorations Minister Todeschini, and the French Ambassador to Ireland. This delegation paid tribute to the Irish soldiers who helped defend France during World War 1. Future potential bilateral initiatives and commemorative actions were discussed.

## **4. AOB**

The need for Irish language interpreters was raised and will be addressed by the 2016 Project Group.

## **5. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Group is to take place before Christmas, with the date TBC.

**An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**  
**12. 11 2015**