

Meeting of All Party Consultation Group on Commemorations

Department of the Taoiseach –Sycamore Room

Wednesday 10 December 2014, 14.00-16.00

Attendance:	
Members	<i>Officials:</i>
Minister Heather Humphreys (Chairman)	Mr Joe Hamill, Sec Gen, DAHG
Minister Aodhán O’Riordáin (Vice Chairman)	Mr John Kennedy DAHG
Deputy Aengus O’Snodaigh	Mr John Concannon DAHG
Deputy Dinny McGinley	Ms Sabina O’Donnell DAHG
Deputy Michael Conaghan	Ms Sorcha DeBruch, DAHG
Senator Mark Daly	Ms Sinead Copeland, DAHG
Senator Mary White	Mr Brendan Kenny, Dublin City Council
Mr PJ Bradley	Mr George McCullough, Glasnevin Trust
Dr Martin Mansergh	Ms. Sharon Finnegan , D/Taoiseach
Apologies:	Mr Jerry Kelleher, D/Taoiseach
Deputy Anne Ferris;	Ms Fionnuala Callinane, DFAT
Deputy Catherine Murphy	Apologies:
Deputy Maureen O’Sullivan	Mr. Terry Allen NMS
Senator Jim D’Arcy	Mr John McMahan OPW

Deputy Dinny McGinley was welcomed as a member of the Group.

1. Minutes and Matters arising

- Minutes of last full meeting 30 Oct 2014 approved
- Senator Fiach MacConghail to be invited to meeting of the group to discuss the Abbey Theatre’s contribution to the Decade of Centenaries.
- Wider distribution of available commemorative exhibitions countrywide to be explored
- Concerns considered regarding proportionality of broadcast coverage on RTE of the differing strands of commemorations.

2. Launch of Ireland.ie/2016 -Project Team

Project Team updated group on progress since the 12 November GPO launch by An Taoiseach of "Ireland 2016" and the pre-launch briefing of the group viz.

- Country-wide consultation process underway viz. CEO's of local authorities; Govt departments; civil society organisations; International partners in the UK and US to be included; ambassadorial interest abroad actively engaged; cultural institutions and the Arts Council engaged to provide events within tight budget constraints.
- Engagement with Expert Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Maurice Manning;
- Submissions received being reviewed and prioritised according to largest impact per unit cost; group members encouraged to submit proposals;
- Draft programme planned to be available in Spring 2015
- The tight timeline for budgeting for 2016 events noted.
- North/South consultation regarding commemorations events to be dealt with under the auspices of the North/South Ministerial Council. Ministerial commitment noted to work on a cross border basis on commemorations.

"Ireland 2016" Launch event 12 November 2014

- Project team generally satisfied with launch event, pointing to the specific location chosen of the iconic GPO building and speeches emphasising the legacy associations.
- Security around such events to be kept under review with relevant authorities.
- Group advised that professional translators have been engaged for the Irish language version of the Ireland.ie website.
- Ministerial commitment to engage with relatives' groups noted.

3. Stamp programme for 2017

- Outline of suggested themes for commemorative stamps for 2017 discussed.

4. Reports: Some key events since the last meeting were noted:

- Armistice Day & Remembrance Sunday events;
- NLI "World War Ireland" exhibition launch (20 Nov)
- Book launches (*Women of the Irish Revolution*) and (*From Richmond Barracks to Keogh Square*) held at Richmond Barracks at which 150 and 350 attended.
- Launch of 2015 Schools History Competition.

5. Commemorations for 2015.

The three primary centenaries for 2015 anticipated to be:

(i): The Gallipoli Campaign, centred on Anzac Day, 25 April

(ii): Sinking of the Lusitania, May 2015

(iii) O'Donovan Rossa funeral, 1 August 2015

(iv) Consideration suggested for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe to be associated with the centenary commemorations.

(v) Programme of events planned at Glasnevin Cemetery in 2015 noted. Work of Glasnevin Trust complemented.

(vi) Group agreed on necessity for commemorative programme to reflect range of events occurring on the historic timeline during the year.

6. AOB

Need agreed to make available timely calendar of events for 2015. All Group members to be advised of official commemorative events.

Next meeting set for Tuesday **February 3rd 2015 at 3.30PM.**