

Virtual Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations

Tuesday, 5th April 2022, at 1.15 pm

Minutes

Attendees:

Dr Maurice Manning (*Chair*)
Dr Martin Mansergh (*Deputy Chair*)
Dr Sandra Collins
Professor Mary Daly
Mr Francis Devine
Mr Gabriel Doherty
Dr Anne Dolan
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter
Professor Patrick Geoghegan
Dr Mary Harris
Mr Jerry Kelleher
Dr Leeann Lane
Dr Sinéad McCooie
Dr William Murphy
Dr Éamon Phoenix

Mr Conor Falvey *D/TCAGSM*
Ms Sinéad Copeland *D/TCAGSM*
Ms Muirne Lyons *D/TCAGSM*
Ms Orlaith Lochrin *D/TCAGSM*
Ms Pauline Kiernan *D/Taoiseach*

Guest Attendees:

Owen O'Shea, *historian, author and PhD student*
Dr Mary McAuliffe, *Director of Gender Studies at UCD*
Bridget McAuliffe, *editor and publisher*

Apologies:

Professor Eunan O'Halpin
Comdt. Stephen MacEoin

Key Points:

The minutes of the previous meeting of 2nd March were agreed and there were no matters arising.

The Expert Advisory Group welcomed and endorsed proposals for a conference to mark the centenary of the Irish Civil War in Kerry, which is due to be held in Spring 2023. The conference will examine events that occurred in Kerry during the Civil War within their wider national and international contexts, through the presentation of new and innovative research; archival testimonies and accounts of combatants and civilians; and previously unpublished material - leading to fresh insights and new perspectives. The conference will also reflect on the impact of commemoration on history, memory, and politics. Political, economic, social, cultural and religious legacies of the Civil War will be explored and assessed. A cultural programme is also envisaged as part of the offering.

The events that occurred during the Civil War will be presented in an inclusive, sensitive, apolitical and nuanced way. In accordance with the guiding principles of the Expert Advisory Group, the

academic integrity and independence of the programme will be paramount. The organisers advised that the proposals are not affiliated with any political or other interests and the local authority is supportive. The Expert Advisory Group noted that this support from Kerry County Council is very welcome and it would be helpful if it could be formalised and the conference included in the county's Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2023.

The Department provided updates concerning various initiatives in this year's programme, including;

- Plans to tour the National Archives' exhibition, *The Treaty 1921: Records from the Archives*;
- Launch of the exhibition curated by the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at Maynooth University, *Burning the Big House: The Story of the Irish Country House in Revolution, 1920-1923*;
- Launch of the fourth episode in the *Mná 100* podcast series, *Seeking Peace*;
- Supplementary funding approved for local authorities under the Community Strand;
- Forthcoming webinar and cultural event on 8th April to announce the conference, *Irish Travellers/Mincéirs and the State 1922 – 2022: The Struggle for Equality*, which will be hosted by NUI Galway on 16th and 17th September 2022;
- Plans for the State Commemoration to mark the centenary of the Civil War are progressing, with a significant cultural and reflective element envisaged.

The Department (D/TCAGSM) will liaise with colleagues in the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding plans to mark the centenary of the Irish Free State joining the League of Nations in September 2023. The Chair noted also that 2023/2024 will be significant centenary years for the Justice Sector and the Courts Service.

Suggestions and ideas from the Expert Advisory Group concerning significant centenaries and potential commemorative initiatives which could be considered for inclusion in the 2023 Decade of Centenaries Programme would be very much appreciated.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Ends.