

Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations

Monday, 7th November 2016, from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Room 301, Department of the Taoiseach

Minutes

Attendees:

Dr Maurice Manning (Chair)
Dr Martin Mansergh (Vice Chair)
Ms Sinead McCooile
Mr Francis Devine
Dr Eamon Phoenix
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter
Dr. Sandra Collins
Comdt. Stephen MacEoin
Professor Mary Daly
Dr Mary Harris

Dr. Leeann Lane
Dr. Eunan O'Halpin
Mr John Concannon
Mr Jerry Kelleher
Mr Feargal Ó Coighligh
Ms Sabina O'Donnell (Secretary)
Ms Orlaith Lochrin

Apologies:

Mr Gabriel Doherty
Mr Francis Devine

Key Points:

The minutes of the previous meeting on 3rd October 2016 were agreed and there were no issues arising.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to Ms Sabina O'Donnell for the support and assistance that she provided to the group over the past years and wished her well on her retirement.

The group considered the draft mission statement, which will guide its work over the second half of the Decade of Centenaries. The members of the group were invited to suggest any further amendments that they may wish to make to the draft at the next meeting.

The group considered some of the key events, which occurred in 1917 and discussed how these might be appropriately marked and at what level next year. It was noted that some events will be commemorated by the State and that, for others, locally based commemorations with State support might be more fitting.

Mr Feargal Ó Coighligh provided an update on the plans to commemorate the Battle of Messines in Belgium in June 2017.

It was agreed that further discussions would be helpful and that no final decisions would be taken at this time in relation to plans for specific commemorations or the text of the group's second statement of principles.

It was also agreed that representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of Public Works and the National Archives would be invited to attend the next meeting to give the group a sense of proposals or plans for commemorations during the second half of the Decade of Centenaries currently under consideration.

The next meeting of the group was provisionally scheduled for Monday, 5th December 2016.

Ends.