

Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations

Monday, 23rd April 2018, 1.15 pm
Room 301, Department of the Taoiseach
Minutes

Attendees:

Dr Maurice Manning (*Chair*)
Dr Martin Mansergh (*Vice Chair*)
Dr Sandra Collins
Professor Mary Daly
Professor Patrick Geoghegan
Dr Mary Harris
Ms Sinead McCoole
Professor Eunan O'Halpin
Dr Éamon Phoenix
Mr Jerry Kelleher *D/Taoiseach*

Mr Feargal Ó Coigligh *D/CHG*
Ms Orlaith Lochrin *D/CHG*
Mr Rónán Whelan *D/CHG*

Apologies:

Mr Francis Devine
Mr Gabriel Doherty
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter
Dr. Leeann Lane
Comdt. Stephen MacEoin

Key Points:

The minutes of the previous meeting (27th March) were agreed and there were no issues arising.

The meeting opened with matters raised under A.O.B.

Under, A.O.B, it was noted that a shop premises – 55 Amiens Street – which once belonged to Thomas Clarke, is currently for sale. It was agreed that this was not a matter which came within the remit of the Expert Advisory Group or the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Group also considered Trinity College's plans for a digital reconstruction by 2022 of the Public Record Office of Ireland Buildings and archival collection, which were destroyed during the Civil War. It was agreed that Dr Peter Crooks, who is leading this project, would be invited to brief the Advisory Group at its next meeting.

Arising from discussions at its previous meeting, the Advisory Group continued to consider the guidance that it will provide to inform the Government's approach to the remembrance of significant historical events and themes over the remainder of the Decade. The discussions were structured around the following significant historical events and themes –

- The founding of Dáil Éireann
- The Struggle for Independence, 1919 – 1921
- The foundation of the State
- The Civil War
- Partition and the foundation of Northern Ireland
- The experience of minorities and border communities in Ireland, 1919 – 1923
- The admission of the Irish Free State into the League of Nations, September 1923

The Advisory Group's recommendations around these historical events and themes will be formulated into a draft report. It was agreed that the working document will be circulated to the Group for consideration before the next meeting. It is envisaged that the draft report will be approved by the Group at that meeting.

It was provisionally agreed that the next meeting of the Advisory Group will take place on Monday, 28th May 2018.

Ends.