

Virtual Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations

Tuesday, 29th June 2021 at 1.15 pm

Minutes

Attendees:

Dr Maurice Manning (*Chair*)
Dr Martin Mansergh (*Deputy Chair*)
Professor Mary Daly
Mr Francis Devine
Dr Anne Dolan
Professor Diarmaid Ferriter
Professor Patrick Geoghegan
Dr Mary Harris
Dr Leann Lane
Dr Sinéad McCoole
Professor Eunan O'Halpin
Dr Éamon Phoenix
Mr Conor Falvey *D/TCAGSM*
Ms Sinéad Copeland *D/TCAGSM*
Ms Orlaith Lochrin *D/TCAGSM*

Apologies:

Dr Sandra Collins
Mr Gabriel Doherty
Mr Jerry Kelleher (*D/Taoiseach*)
Comdt. Stephen MacEoin
Dr William Murphy

Key Points:

Professor Eunan O'Halpin and Dr Anne Dolan outlined their initial proposals for a second volume of the publication, *The Dead of the Irish Revolution*. It was agreed that this proposal merits further consideration as a potentially very significant legacy project for the Decade of Centenaries Programme. The proposal is aligned with the guidance and principles of the Expert Advisory Group, which emphasises the importance of original archival research and scholarship at local and national level. There are many potential opportunities for interesting and engaging uses of the research generated by this project, with a key priority being the development of a searchable and accessible database. It was noted that it will be a matter for the State to make decisions regarding consideration of funding to support this initiative.

Dr Sinéad McCoole gave an overview to the Group of a new online research platform for the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries – www.mna100.ie, which was launched by Minister Martin in May, in association with Glucksman Ireland House, New York University. A number of significant initiatives have already been delivered, including a specially curated short film, *Toward America*, which looks at the American Committee on Conditions in Ireland and the foundation of the Irish White Cross; A podcast which focuses on the lives of the 8 women elected during the May 1921; and a seminar featuring an international panel of leading experts representing the

International Association of Women's Museums, which addressed the theme of 'what would you put in a women's museum, past, present and future?'

The partnership approach of Mná 100 was acknowledged as being very effective resource, which supports significant engagement with community librarians, archivists, curators, and local authorities, as well as our National Cultural Institutions and other stakeholders.

An update was provided to the Group regarding plans to explore the experiences of minority communities along the border following Partition. An autumn event is envisaged and consideration is now being given by a Sub Group of the Expert Advisory Group, to suggested potential speakers for a seminar programme on the theme of border communities, minorities and Partition.

The Group identified potential guest contributors for future meetings of the Expert Advisory Group, including Professor Terry Dooley, Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at Maynooth University; the National Museum of Ireland regarding plans for the *20th Century History of Ireland* permanent exhibition galleries; and representatives of the *Art in Defence* project.

Dr Mary Harris outlined her engagement with Elaine Martin and Patrick Nevin following their presentation to the Expert Advisory Group on 9th February. Following consultation with colleagues in NUI Galway, proposals are under development and a further update will be provided to the Group when this process has been progressed.

Two other events were raised for consideration as part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme; the centenaries of the awarding of the Nobel Prize to W.B. Yeats and of the meeting of the first Seanad. It was noted that the House of the Oireachtas will have a significant interest in marking the latter centenary event.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Ends.