

## Virtual Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations

Tuesday, 06 September 2022, at 1.15 pm

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Dr Maurice Manning (*Chair*)  
Dr Martin Mansergh (*Deputy Chair*)  
Dr Mary Harris  
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*  
Dr Sandra Collins  
Dr Anne Dolan  
Dr William Murphy  
Professor Mary Daly

Professor Patrick Geoghegan  
Mr Gabriel Doherty  
Professor Patrick Geoghegan  
Dr Leeann Lane  
Comdt. Stephen MacEoin  
Professor Eunan O'Halpin  
Dr Éamon Phoenix

#### Guest Attendees:

Shay Cody, *President, Irish Labour History Society*  
Moira Leydon, *Vice President, Irish Labour History Society*  
Kevin Murphy, *Secretary, Irish Labour History Society*

#### Apologies:

Professor Diarmaid Ferriter  
Mr Francis Devine  
Dr Sinéad McCoole  
Mr Jerry Kelleher

#### Key Points:

The President of the Irish Labour History Society, Mr. Shay Cody, provided an overview of the Society, their work to date and the resources currently in their archive.

Their main aims are to archive all material in their collection, create and share catalogues and digitise as much as possible of interest. Their ambition is to protect current archival resources, develop the archive further and communicate this to a wider audience. A new website is to launch shortly.

The Chair said that the work of the society was very much in line with the EAG recommendations in relation to the preservation of and open access to important archives. The Expert Advisory Group suggested a collaboration with similar local or smaller archives which could assist in supporting the work of the Society. The importance of retaining archives within organisations was also mentioned as well as details of other possible avenues for financial support.

Conor Falvey said that the Department will reflect on the comments raised with a view to what is possible and feasible.

The minutes of the previous meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> June were agreed and there were no matters arising.

S. Copeland outlined a suggested approach to the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023 which, in addition to the programme strands and initiatives, could include reflections from key stakeholders on the Decade of Centenaries Programme to date. This approach was broadly welcomed and it was agreed that the next meeting of the Expert Advisory Group would focus on the plans for the 2023 Decade of Centenaries Programme in more detail. Group members were invited to reflect on the Programme, the achievements to date and also the possible legacy of the Programme. The Expert Advisory Group also highlighted the importance of the Decade of Centenaries Programme in an international context. There has been considerable interest from international audiences and the Decade of Centenaries website and related documentation should be preserved for future consultation.

Group members were invited to reflect and comment on ‘The Irish Civil War National Conference’, hosted by UCC in June. It was agreed that it was a successful event and that very good and comprehensive papers covering a wide spectrum of opinions were delivered. The Béal na Bláth event was also highlighted as an event that had a similar successful approach to commemoration.

The Chair provided a general update on plans for the UCD conference on the Foundation of the State which were well progressed.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

*Ends.*