

**Minutes of All Party Consultation Group on Commemorations,  
in the Department of the Taoiseach (Room 309), Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 15.00**

<p><b>Members:</b> Minister Heather Humphreys (Chair) Minister Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (Vice-Chair) Deputy Dinny McGinley Deputy Michael Connaughton Deputy Maureen O’Sullivan Senator Jim D’Arcy Senator Mark Daly Senator Mary White Mr PJ Bradley SDLP Dr Martin Mansergh</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Deputy Aonghus Ó Snodaigh Deputy Catherine Murphy Mr Donal Byrne, RTÉ Mr Brendan Kenny, Dublin City Council</p>	<p><b>In attendance:</b> Mr Joe Hamill, Sec Gen, DAHG Mr John Concannon DAHG Ms Sinéad Copeland, DAHG Ms Sabina O’Donnell, DAHG Mr. Martin Reid DAHG Ms Lorraine Hall, DAHG Mr Jerry Kelleher, D/Taoiseach Mr George Moir, OPW</p> <p><b>Presentations:</b> Mr Frank Shalvey, OPW Mr Barney Whelan, An Post</p>
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**1. Minutes and matters arising**

Minutes of the 16th June 2015 meeting were approved.

**2. Ireland 2016**

The 2016 Project Office provided an update on activities undertaken in respect of the Ireland 2016 Commemorative Programme, including the launch of the International Programme Strand; the official sod-turning by the Taoiseach at Pearse’s Cottage in Connemara; and the progress with the Community Participation Strand, including a joint Ministerial meeting with all Local Authority chairs/managers.

All programme element roll-outs were reported to be on target for delivery in the period to year end. Engagement with Government Departments and agencies are proceeding in a constructive manner. Very strong support is reported from all stakeholders involved.

***Capital projects***

The 2016 Project Team reported that the capital projects were proceeding on target. It was agreed that updates would be provided at future meetings, with presentations being made on individual projects over forthcoming meetings.

***GPO Interpretative Centre***

A presentation was provided by Mr Barney Whelan, An Post Marketing and Communication Manager, in relation to the progress of the GPO Interpretive Centre project. All target dates are being achieved, with design/display, on-line booking and media elements being progressed positively.

### ***Kilmainham Courthouse***

Mr Frank Shalvey made a detailed presentation in respect of the Kilmainham Courthouse project and the approach being taken to ensure a greatly improved visitor experience in terms of capacity, facilities and efficiency into the future. It was agreed that a visit by the Group to the Courthouse site would be arranged within the coming months.

### **3. Update on events**

#### ***Minister Humphreys:***

- reported on her recent visit to the Somme on 1<sup>st</sup> July to commemorate the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Somme campaign, and laid wreathes on behalf of the Government at Thiepval, the Ulster Tower and Guillemont;
- referred to her attendance on 11<sup>th</sup> July at the Annual Service of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial at Islandbridge, where she read a lesson and laid a wreath on the behalf of the Government, and welcomed the presence of the Lord Mayors of Dublin and Belfast, the Ceann Comhairle and Speaker of the NI Assembly; and
- referred to her attendance at the National Day of Commemoration led by President Higgins, which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> July at the RHK, and attracted some 1,800 attendees.

### **4. Upcoming events**

#### ***State Commemoration of funeral of O'Donovan Rossa on 1 August at Glasnevin Cemetery:***

The 2016 Project Office reported that invitations have been issued and all plans were progressing well for the participation of a large attendance, to be led by President Higgins, with the participation of the Taoiseach and Minister Humphreys.

It was noted that the Griffith/Collins/Casement commemoration is to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> August in Glasnevin Cemetery.

### **5. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the Group is to take place in October, with the date TBC.

**An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta  
16. 07. 2015**