



Mr. Gerry Kearney  
Chairman  
Minister's Moore Street Consultative Group

### **Submission from 1916 Relatives Association**

Dear Chairman,

The newly elected Executive Committee of the 1916 Relatives Association we would like to take the opportunity to submit the Association's views to the Consultative Group.

It is clear from the Centenary Celebrations of 2016 and the quite extraordinary engagement by so many citizens throughout the country, that the events of 1916 represent an important part of the national identity, revolutionary history and culture of the people of Ireland. The events of 1916 have been described by Dr. Pat Wallace, the former Director of the National Museum, as "the single most important event in Modern Irish History".

Moore Street and its laneways, the last extant Battlefield, are inextricably linked to the 1916 Rising. It was in no. 16 Moore Street that the last headquarters of the 1916 Provisional Government of the Irish Republic held its final Council of War prior to surrendering on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1916. Indeed, An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D. has described the Moore Street terrace and adjoining laneways as the "Lanes of History". We concur with An Taoiseach.

The 1916 Relatives Association welcomes the Judgement of Mr. Justice Barrett in the High Court and request that the Consultative Group will in its recommendations call on the Minister to withdraw her Appeal of that Judgement.

It is the Association's view that nos. 10 to 25 Moore Street (rather than nos. 14 to 17 which contain the declared National Monument) require preservation. It is a matter of historical record, that the GPO Garrison, consisting of over 300 members of the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army, occupied the full terrace during the final days of the Easter 1916 Rising. A number of submissions to the Consultative Group have already referenced the historical links and importance of all the buildings in the terrace.

Apart from the historical importance of nos. 10 to 25, we are of the view that its partial destruction removes the footprint that existed 100 years ago and thus renders meaningless the context and setting of the National Monument. Many of the sites, buildings and streetscapes associated with the 1916 Rising have been lost over the years. For example, the intense fighting in North King Street are more difficult to picture in one's eye in the current streetscape. Moore Street retains the

historical footprint and streetscape. Indeed, we consider that Moore Street, its laneways and buildings, albeit in a dilapidated condition, remains architecturally intact. It is not too late to save it. Indeed, it must be saved and held in trust for this and future generations.

The 1916 Relatives Association commend and support the Report of the Lord Mayor's Forum—Moore Street Battlefield Site Plan along with the How to Save Moore Street Campaign Proposals. These Plans and Proposals offer a practical guide to the preservation and sensitive integration of the Moore Street Battleground with future development and construction works. Moore Street and the surrounding area, like much of the North Inner City, is badly in need of regeneration. A Moore Street, developed as a community space for our diverse populations and cultures, encompassing a Revolutionary Quarter (a place to celebrate and commemorate Ireland's revolutionary past) would prove to be a complimentary neighbor to the planned Cultural Quarter at Parnell Square. Such a sympathetic regeneration would bring life, vitality, history and culture to the very heart of Dublin.

We believe that these Plans and proposals offer a blueprint for the sympathetic preservation of this important historical site, whilst facilitating other necessary integrated development works on adjacent sites.

To quote Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins, "This area belongs to no one individual, group or party. It belongs to the people".

Yours sincerely,



Brian O'Neill  
Chairman  
1916 Relatives Association

18/1/17.