

Kimberley  
81 Terenure Road East  
Dublin 6.

Minister Heather Humphreys, TD  
Minister of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs  
(The Moore Street Consultative Group)  
23 Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Re: A National Monument in the Greater Moore Street Area.**

Dear Minister Humphreys,

Please excuse my presumption in writing to you. Having lived through the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rising as a schoolboy in 1966, I was very interested in exploring different (and significantly more inclusive) narratives in 2016 (please refer to Appendix). Arising out of these experiences, I wish to strongly advocate to the government, the relevant statutory agencies and all involved stakeholders and interested parties for the preservation of all the key buildings, locations and streetscapes associated with the evacuation of the GPO Garrison in the general Moore Street area, and for these to be included within the terms of reference of a newly defined and protected National Monument. I also wish to strongly advocate that any commercial development to be both contextual with and sensitive to the unique historical heritage of this area. In terms of (a) commemorating the birth of our nation and the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for freedom (b) all who lost their lives - irrespective of circumstance or 'side' (c) safeguarding our national history for posterity and (d) the phenomenal potential to attract national/international historical/cultural tourism, this 20<sup>th</sup> century urban battlefield site represents a unique opportunity; situated in the very heart of our capital city, proximal to so many other locations of interest and significance, the experience of visiting these streets is uniquely different to visiting the continental battlefields of World War I and II or those associated with the American Civil War; the recent experiences and testimonies of those who have come recently from abroad convinces me of this.

In this context, please find attached the statements of support forwarded to me by Mr Anthony Loder, Mr Max Loder and Mr Patrick Walker for inclusion in this documents (Please refer to Appendix).

In addition, and as a medical practitioner, I wish to advocate for special recognition be given to Number 20 Moore Street - as the site of first hospital exclusively dedicated to the treatment of skin diseases, not only in Ireland, but also in the British Empire of the time. *The Dublin Infirmary for the Treatment of Diseases of the Skin* was opened by Dr William Wallace, a graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, in 1818. By 1837, over 25,000 cases had been dealt with by the infirmary - by which time Wallace had earned a deserved international reputation for the treatment of skin diseases.

After his death in 1837, the hospital closed and became a butcher's shop; it was a fishmonger's shop at the time of the Rising. In terms of medical history, Dr Wallace and his hospital at Number 20 Moore Street deserve special recognition also.

Yours sincerely

Professor Chris Fitzpatrick



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Cc

An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny TD, Department of the Taoiseach, Government Building, Merrion Street Upper, Dublin 2.

**Appendix**

**(a) Document of support from Mr John Loder and Mr Max Loder**



(Photograph includes Mr Noel Scarlett, Mr Ciaran Scarlett, Mr Paddy Scarlett, Ms Brid Kelly, Mr Ian Kelly, Ms Marie Fitzpatrick, Muriel McAuley, Mr Richard De Courcy-Wheeler, Mr Anthony Loder, Mr Max Loder (and others) - the relatives

of Patrick Pearse, Elizabeth O'Farrell, Thomas Mac Donagh, Harry De Courcy-Wheeler, William and John Lowe - at the site of the Surrender )

“As the descendants of the two British officers who accepted the 1916 Surrender, we came to Dublin recently in a personal capacity to meet with the relatives of Patrick Pearse and Elizabeth O'Farrell (and others) in order to 'recreate' the original 1916 Surrender Photograph on the same site 100 years later - in a spirit of remembrance and respect; this happened on the 11th November.

We believe that every effort should be made to preserve, not only the key buildings in Moore Street that were the site of the last stand of the Provisional Government, but also all the key buildings and locations (including the site of the Surrender) and the unique streetscape.

We have been greatly moved by the experience of coming to Dublin and we believe that artefacts and locations associated with the birth of your republic should be held in trust for the generations to come.”

**Mr Anthony Loder**

(Son of Lieutenant John Lowe and grandson of Major William Lowe)

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**Mr Max Loder**

(Grandson of Lieutenant John Lowe and great grandson of Major William Lowe)

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**(2) Document of support from Mr Patrick Walker**



(Photograph includes Mr Jim Connolly Heron, Mr Patrick Walker and members of the Walker/Mahony family)

“I write with a little hesitation, because I am usually but a guest in your beautiful country. I also wish to make a plea that everything that might be done, will be done to protect the unique history that is represented by the alleys, streets and buildings that mark the evacuation route from the GPO of the Volunteers during the Easter Rising.

My grandfather, George Mahony, was a Cork man who happened to be in the British army as a doctor, was captured and taken to the GPO where he treated James Connolly and other wounded volunteers. On the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016, I had the honour to receive a posthumous gold medal awarded to him for valour by the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the RCPI. I have read and researched his story, but it did not really fully come to life until I was lucky enough to be taken on a tour down this historic route last March. I was also able to see William's Lane where Connolly was injured and the route past the old Coliseum, that the party my grandfather was with took, that headed with the injured and the nurses towards Jervis Street hospital.

I cannot help but think future generations of Irish children would benefit by being able to stand in these streets, to follow these routes and to feel empathy with the Birth of your Republic. History underlies all of our pasts and defines all our futures."

**Dr Patrick Walker**

(Grandson of George Mahony)

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### **(3) Involvement in 1916 Commemorative Activities (Chris Fitzpatrick)**

#### ***And Spring Shall Come (October 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 2015)***

(Developed original concept and co-author with IFTA-winning film director Ruán Magan; commissioned by RCSI to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising and the Great War, produced by Moya Doherty with music by BAFTA-winning composer Pól Brennan and starring Aoibheann McGinnity; special charity performance in the Gaiety Theatre March 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 in aid of Coombe-Crumlin Cardiology Clinic - for babies from all 32 counties)

#### ***1916-2016: Making the New Island of Ireland (Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 2016)***

(Organised as President of the Irish Perinatal Society; invited opening address: 'The importance of Growing up in Peace' by Ms Jo Berry, daughter of Sir Anthony Berry MP, who was killed in the IRA's Brighton Bomb in 1984; founder of the charity Building Bridges for Peace)

#### ***Carravagio's The Taking of Christ, the Rotunda and the 1916 Easter Rising (March 2016)***

(Member of the Rotunda Hospital's 1916 Commemorative Committee and author of this section of the Rotunda Hospital's Birth of a Nation - now on permanent exhibition)

#### ***Abbey Theatre's Outreach performance/full production of The Plough and the Stars at the Rita Kelly Theatre, Coombe Hospital (April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016)***

(Invited the Abbey and co-ordinated as Chair of St Teresa's Gardens Regeneration Board, in a double-bill with Dublin 8-based Outlandishtheatre's YouTopia, supported by Dublin City Council and the Coombe Hospital; theme = housing crisis)

#### ***Dreams: short video released on YouTube to commemorate the death of William Shakespeare on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 and the commencement of the Easter Rising on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1916 (April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016)***

(Co-director and scriptwriter)

#### ***Laochra: the GAA's 1916 Pageant - performed at the Allianz National League Final: Dublin v Kerry (April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016)***

(Appointed a creative consultant by Tyrone Productions)

**Tiger Dublin Fringe Festival: Mother Ireland and her Children Part 1: Megalomaniac -  
Outlandishtheatre in collaboration with Palestine's ASHTAR Theatre (September 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>  
2016)**

(Hospital and Community co-ordinator and post-show panellist, supported by Dublin City Council and the Coombe Hospital; theme = immigration)

***Fáinne Geal an Lae (Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2016)***

(Organiser and invited Special Lecturer for the Coombe Hospital's 1916 Commemorative Conference that involved the relatives of Patrick Pearse, Elizabeth O'Farrell, Thomas Mac Donagh, Harry De Courcy-Wheeler, William and John Lowe, Michael Mallin, Cathal Brugha and Terence Mac Swiney)

***Re-taking the 1916 Surrender Photograph with the descendants of all those involved (Nov 11<sup>th</sup>  
2016)***

(Organiser)

***Presentation of the Institute Gold Medal to George Mahony FRCOG for his exceptional dedication  
to patient care in circumstances of extreme personal danger that he demonstrated as a Prisoner-of  
War in the GPO during the Easter 1916 Rising (Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 2016)***

(Nominated George Mahony FRCOG to the Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists/RCPI; read citation and presented medal to grandson, Mr Patrick Walker FRCOG)