

## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday, 28 August 2020  
2.00 - 3.30pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

#### 1. Introductions and resource

The Chair welcomed all Historical Advisory Panel members and Northern Ireland Office (NIO) officials, and outlined the Panel's role in delivering projects which would support public engagement with the history of the Centenary of Northern Ireland. It was confirmed that the NIO will be responsible for all logistics and production related to the Panel's work. NIO officials were in agreement that a key events timeline / programme plan should be developed before the next meeting.

#### **Action: Panel to consider possible programme plan.**

The group discussed additional members to join the Panel. Follow up suggestions were agreed to be put forward via email to NIO Secretariat. The Chair agreed to approach an additional Panel member after appropriate consideration.

#### **Action: Panel to send suggestions for a new panellist.**

Dr Margaret O'Callaghan outlined how MA students may assist the Panel in relative programme strands.

## **2. Approaching the centenary**

The Panel discussed looking at the NI Centenary in an all-island context in addition to through a UK lens. It was agreed that consideration should also be given to the work of Taoiseach's Expert Advisory Group (EAG). It was agreed that the Chair will reach out / engage with the EAG.

**Action: Chair to reach out to EAG at appropriate time.**

## **3. Challenges**

The Panel considered some of the key challenges around marking the Centenary of Northern Ireland including creating a framework for public engagement and time constraints. It was noted that events planning will present challenges within the parameters of changing public health regulations around Covid-19. A discussion was had around mitigating these risks and exploring digital engagement.

## **4. Archives**

Regarding materials required for the Panel's work, consideration was given to archives, sources and contacting the Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) to discuss access to relevant records. Dr O'Callaghan raised the issue of using the centenary to gain access to files and collections pertinent to the foundation of Northern Ireland to facilitate a broader exploration of the past. The Chair and the Secretariat agreed to contact PRONI to arrange a (virtual) meeting.

**Action: Chair and Secretariat to arrange virtual meeting with PRONI at appropriate time.**

## **5. Potential projects**

Additional programme ideas were discussed, including key themes (noted below):

- Historical Panel Exhibition that could tour the UK
- Events in NI and London with guest speakers
- Website with a timeline and accompanying analysis
- A lecture series around key themes

## **6. Any other business**

None.

Ends.

Date of next meeting: 2 October 2020 at 3pm via Zoom.



## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday, 2 October 2020  
3.00 - 4.30pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.

**3. Action status report from previous meeting:** potential programme plan, new panellist, EAG and PRONI collaboration

#### **4. New panellist**

The Chair welcomed the Panel members and Northern Ireland Office (NIO) officials to the meeting. The Chair updated the group on the current Panel composition and agreed to provide further detail at the next meeting.

#### **5. EAG collaboration**

It was agreed that the Chair would continue to explore a potential collaborative relationship with the Chair of the Taoiseach's Expert Advisory Group (EAG), Dr

Maurice Manning. It was suggested that a letter to PRONI should be sent on behalf of the panel to the EAG.

**Action: Letter to be sent to the EAG on behalf of the Panel.**

## **6. NIO update**

NIO officials updated the Panel on the Shared History Fund programme, a key strand of the Centenary programme which was in development.

## **7. Possible projects**

The Chair proposed the idea of creating a Centenary book of essays which could include essay contributions from the Panel alongside guest contributors. The Panel were in agreement that a book of essays would encourage wider engagement from a range of diverse perspectives and expertise and noted the Chair's proposal with interest. The group was in agreement that a Centenary book should be geared towards a general (as opposed to solely academic) audience. The group agreed to submit ideas on areas of interest to explore in an essay and the Secretariat agreed to take forward an action to recruit an editorial assistant/s.

**Actions: Panellists to submit ideas for essays in the book. Secretariat to look into how to recruit editorial assistants.**

A Centenary website was discussed and the Panel agreed that a website was particularly important, given restrictions on physical events. Dr Niamh Gallagher suggested that the website should be managed by a person/s proficient in managing digital content to ensure it was accessible to the general public. The Secretariat agreed to take forward research on the technical logistics of a Centenary website.

**Action: Secretariat to explore logistics around producing a website.**

The idea of a Centenary exhibition was proposed, with the Panel considering the logistical challenges to staging an exhibition (given public health regulations). Professor Graham Walker suggested that an exhibition should include original artefacts rather than replicas. Dr Margaret O'Callaghan noted that there are Panel members based in Belfast who could visit PRONI to explore this idea. The Chair was in agreement and noted an action to explore the possibility of PRONI loaning some items for an exhibition. Dr Niamh Gallagher drew the Panel's attention to recent examples of virtual walking tours.

**Action: Secretariat to contact PRONI to see if original archives could be lent for an exhibition.**

## **8. Archives**

Following last meeting's discussion, the Panel further discussed the importance of opening archives and rendering archival collections more accessible, including possible support for digitisation. The Panel discussed that important archival collections were either closed, difficult to find, or not yet properly archived, and should work with PRONI to facilitate better access. It was suggested that a letter to PRONI should be sent on behalf of the Panel.

**Action: The Panel to draft a letter to PRONI re opening of archives.**

**9. Any other business.** None

Ends.

**Date of next meeting: 5 November 2020 at 3pm via Zoom.**



## **Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on Northern Ireland's Centenary**

Friday, 6 November 2020  
3.00 - 4.30pm (conference call)

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

1. **Apologies:** none
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.
3. **Action status report from previous meeting:** potential programme plan, new panellist, EAG and PRONI collaboration, book submissions, website logistics, PRONI archives

#### **4. New panellist**

The Chair welcomed Dr Marie Coleman (Queen's University, Belfast) as a new member of the Centenary Historical Advisory Panel.

#### **5. PRONI archives and exhibition**

Actions from the previous meeting in October were reviewed. Drs Barton, O'Callaghan and Walker had a preliminary meeting with key figures in the Public

Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). The Chair updated the Panel on developments, and materials which may be available for the Panel to use for the exhibition. The Secretariat was asked to circulate a list of files to the Panel members.

**Action: Secretariat to circulate list of files to Panellists.**

**6. EAG collaboration**

The Chair confirmed he had recently met with Dr Maurice Manning, Chair of the Taoiseach's Expert Advisory Group, and they had agreed to stay in touch regarding a potential collaboration at some point in the Centenary year.

**7. Secretariat centenary update**

The Secretariat outlined that they are working with the House of Lords' Education Team on developing a bite size video to mark the Centenary of the Government of Ireland Act 1921 which would be shared with the Panel in the near future.

**8. Book**

There was a discussion on suggested topics / contributors for the previously proposed Centenary book of essays. Several members of the Panel outlined topics they would endorse including a focus on the 1920-1922 period with further synoptic and thematic sections. The Chair endorsed approaching a diverse range of contributors and noted there was a need for an agreement on budgetary requirements. The Secretariat agreed to collate the Panel's suggestions for contributors and to circulate. In addition, the Chair further advised there was an immediate need to explore publishing options and provide an update at the next meeting.

**Action: Secretariat to collate Panel's suggestions for contributors and circulate. Secretariat to explore publishing updates for next meeting.**

**9. Research assistant**

The matter of a requirement for a research assistant was raised and considered by the group. The Secretariat noted that they have been reviewing options and suggested that involving a hosting higher education institution may be the most appropriate route forward. A discussion was had on open and fair recruitment. Dr Marie Coleman agreed to liaise regarding next steps around recruitment of a research assistant with the Head of School at Queen's University Belfast.

**Action: Dr Coleman to explore possibility of hiring a research assistant with QUB**



## 10. Website

Regarding the Panel's digital content via the Centenary website, the Secretariat, advised the group on the feasible options for a website host, including creating an independent site or partnering with an existing company. It was agreed to partner with an existing company within the creative arts / historical space and following some discussion, it was suggested that the Nerve Centre would be a suitable partner for this project given their Creative Centenaries website. Dr Gallagher was chosen as project lead due to previous website experience.

**Action: Secretariat to approach Nerve Centre.**

## 11. Exhibition

The Chair suggested locations for the exhibition including both London and Belfast which the Panel endorsed, and it was agreed that an online exhibition was also worth exploring, given the current public health regulations. The Secretariat agreed to explore feasibility of both a physical and virtual exhibition, as well as scope and costs.

**Action: Secretariat to explore feasibility of physical and/or virtual exhibition.**

## 12. Archives

Dr Marie Coleman raised the matter of Stormont Hansard: Discussion around the feasibility of accessing the Stormont Hansard digitised records, which are no longer available online. The Secretariat agreed to explore and revert to the Panel with findings. It was noted that there may be a possibility of encouraging an application to the Shared History Fund.

**Action: Secretariat agreed to explore accessing digitised records and revert to the Panel with findings**

## 13. Any Other business

The Chair confirmed he had received correspondence from the Ulster Historical Foundation, who had written to express their support. The group were to consider how they could avail of this offer.

Ends.

**Date of next meeting: 4 December 2020 at 3.30pm via Zoom.**



## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday, 4 December 2020  
3.30 - 5.00pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Marie Coleman  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

- 1. Apologies:** none
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.
- 3. Action status report from previous meeting:** book contributors, publishing houses update, research assistant, Nerve Centre, exhibition

The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting and previous actions were reviewed.

#### 4. Website

Dr Niamh Gallagher outlined developments on her engagement with the Nerve Centre regarding the Creative Centenaries website including the different types of content that the Centre could feasibly produce within the constraints in which it is operating including Panel bios, event listings, republishing contemporary content and

new material. The Panel were in agreement regarding the approach and considered timelines. It was agreed that a timeline of key dates would be collated for the next meeting. The Chair proposed the 1922 King's Speech delivered by King George V, opening the first Parliament of NI, could be an opening piece for the website and the group considered this with interest in conjunction with other ideas in order to encourage an inclusive approach. Dr Gallagher proposed to put together a draft editorial content calendar for the year.

**Action: Panel to submit timelines to Dr Gallagher for consideration on the website. Dr Gallagher to put together a draft editorial content calendar.**

## **5. Book and publishers**

It was agreed that some Panel members had capacity to take on the role of co-editor for the Centenary book. Dr Nic Dháibhéid and Dr Coleman volunteered to co-manage this project. The Secretariat updated the group on potential publishing routes.

## **6. Archives**

It was discussed again that archival access was a primary project for the Panel. It was noted regarding the matter of archives, and ensuring wider access, that our research assistant(s) could perhaps be of assistance to the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). A brief discussion was had on the PRONI hard copy catalogues which are not available. The Panel awaits a response from the head of PRONI.

**Action: the Chair to write a letter on behalf of the panel to PRONI re archives**

## **7. Research assistants**

Regarding the matter of research assistant/s recruitment for limited part-time weekly employment for the duration of the centenary, a general remit as outlined in the job specification was agreed by the group. It was agreed that the job would be advertised ASAP among graduate students.

**Action: research assistant job to be advertised**

## **8. Exhibition, lectures and UK Government's approach**

Other programme elements were discussed in detail, including an exhibition and series of lectures. There was an exchange of views on the wider UK Government programme, and it was noted that the Panel were keen to be sighted on programme developments having had no insight to date. The Secretariat provided a high level overview of the NIO Centenary Programme proposals to date. The Panel stressed

the importance of ensuring the UK Government engaged with the past in a holistic and critically informed manner and the historical strands of the NI Centenary programme.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would request a meeting between the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Panel members. In addition, the Secretariat agreed to explore the possibility of a meeting with officials in the British Embassy, Dublin.

**Action: to arrange a meeting between Secretary of State for N. Ireland and Panel. To explore possibility of meeting with officials in British Embassy.**

#### **9. Website and younger generations**

Dr Niamh Gallagher proposed the NIO engage with Youth Parliament members, to canvas for suggestions on appealing website content (particularly to younger generations).

#### **10. Any other business. None**

Ends.

Date of next meeting: 22 January 2021 at 3.30pm via Zoom.

## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday, 22 January 2021  
3.30 - 5.00pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Marie Coleman  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

- 1. Apologies:** none
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.
- 3. Action status report from previous meeting:** timelines, archives, research assistant, Secretary of State meeting, British Embassy meeting
- 4. Secretary of State meeting**

The Chair welcomed the group and previous actions were reviewed. Regarding the matter of a meeting with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, it was noted that Northern Ireland Office (NIO) officials were working on finding a suitable date. There were no updates made on the British Embassy meeting.

#### 5. UK Centenary programme

The Panel was briefed on aspects of the wider UK Government Centenary Programme by the NIO Centenary lead, which included an overview of flagship events, proposals for a bilateral dimension and events to mark key dates. It was noted that officials were continuing to refine the programme and proceeding with a note of caution due to the ever varying Covid-19 regulations.

## **6. PRONI exhibition**

The Panel was updated on recent discussions with the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), and proposals for exhibition material. The group discussed an exhibition note which had been drawn up and circulated by Dr Brian Barton.

## **7. PRONI archives**

The Chair updated the Panel on the discussion of archives with PRONI but no material progress has been made at this point. He will continue to engage. The Panel discussed next steps on engaging with PRONI regarding the digitisation of files and the opening of closed files and it was agreed that Dr Barton should lead this dimension of the Panel's work with Drs O'Callaghan and Walker. It was agreed that Northern Ireland Office (NIO) officials would take forward the matter of querying appropriate London locations for hosting an exhibition and in addition, explore the procurement of a design company.

**Action: Drs Barton, O'Callaghan and Walker to continue to engage with PRONI re issue of opening archives. Secretariat to explore exhibition possibilities**

## **8. Book**

With regards to the Centenary book, the Panel agreed on the Ulster Historical Foundation as a suitable publisher and to reach out to proposed essay contributors.

**Action: Book sub-committee to reach out to proposed essay contributors.**

## **9. Website**

Dr Niamh Gallagher provided an update on the Creative Centenaries website and its various projects. It was noted that a suite of material had been collated for the website's imminent relaunch and a draft editorial content calendar was presented to the Panel and agreed with minor amendments. The content calendar proposed situating NI in its wider UK and Ireland-wide context in addition to wider lenses including Europe, the Empire, and European Union. Panel agreed to give further consideration to the questions posed in the Website Update note (21/01/2021) and feedback in due course.

**Actions: Panel to submit any other changes they wanted to the draft editorial calendar.**

**10. Research assistants**

It was confirmed that two research assistants have been successfully recruited to support the Panel's work on the book, the exhibition and the website. The Panel welcomed Nadia Dobryanska and Dr Ryan Mallon.

**11. HTANI**

The Chair provided an overview of the History Teachers Association Northern Ireland's (HTANI) proposals of an essay writing competition for A-Level students in Northern Ireland. The Panel endorsed this as a positive initiative and were happy to explore further.

NIO secretariat agreed to arrange an ad-hoc meeting with the Panel to follow up on outstanding tasks with the creative centenaries website, HTANI competition and essay content for the centenary book.

**12. Any other business. None**

Ends.

Date of next meeting: 5 March 2021 at 3.30pm via Zoom.



## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on the Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday, 5 March 2021  
3.30-5pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Marie Coleman  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

- 1. Apologies:** none
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.
- 3. Action status report from previous meeting:** archives, Secretary of State meeting, British Embassy meeting, website editorial content calendar

The Chair welcomed the group and the progress made to date on the Panel's key work strands.

#### 4. Secretary of State meeting

The Panel met with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (SoSNI) on 11 February and updated him on the Panel's work. In this meeting the Panel explained



the inclusive approach they are taking to the centenary, and updated SoSNI on each of the projects they are engaged in. The Panel reiterated its concern about nationalist unwillingness to engage and suggested that part of this problem was due to the manner in which the centenary was being framed. Members of the Panel advised that the issue of partition needed to be included in the discourse about NI's creation. In addition, the Panel asked for SoSNI's support on the archival issue and expressed their gratitude for his willingness to assist.

## **5. Archives**

The Panel discussed how to progress their request for accessing Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) archives and expressed concern that they had not yet heard from PRONI. In view of the lack of response it was agreed that a follow up meeting with the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) would be arranged in order to agree on next steps for further progressing this matter.

### **Action: Secretariat to arrange follow up meeting with PRONI**

## **6. Research assistants**

Dr Marie Coleman and Dr Niamh Gallagher provided an update on the two research assistants' work to date – collating and creating content for the Panel's digital platform, the Creative Centenaries website. It was agreed that further consideration would be given to what other upcoming Panel projects the research assistants could support going forward.

## **7. Website**

Dr Gallagher provided an update on the Creative Centenaries website activity, including social media accounts and what further consideration could be given to engaging a wider audience. No further suggestions were made to the editorial content calendar. The question of approaching book contributors for further explanatory content was explored but there were concerns that it would derail the book project so it was suggested that postgraduates and postdoctoral students would be approached instead.

It was noted that the Secretariat could also use the NIO social media channels to amplify the Panel's request for contributors to the Creative Centenaries website.

## **8. Book**

Dr Nic Dháibhéid outlined recent work undertaken for the Centenary book (final title yet to be agreed) and sought the Panel's views on options for launching the book in autumn 2021. It was noted that the Secretariat could also provide support in assisting with planning any logistics in this regard.

## 9. Budget

The Secretariat provided an update on the Panel's budget and no issues were raised. Costs to date have been restricted to the research assistants' salaries. There will be costs associated with the book edited by Drs Coleman and Nic Dháibhéid, and the website project took up a significant amount of Dr Gallagher's time. It was agreed that given the number of hours needed to manage these projects that recompense should be provided.

**Action: Secretariat to seek advice on pay scales for work above and beyond regular Panel requirements.**

## 10. HTANI

Concerns were expressed at the way in which some of the content in the Historical Teachers' Association of Northern Ireland (HTANI) resource pack – which was proposed to be sent out to schools to assist with the essay writing competition – was framed. The Panel agreed not to endorse the resource pack but to support the essay competition. The Secretariat set out next steps and timings for launching HTANI's 1921 Essay Competition.

**11. Any other business.** The Secretariat informed the Panel that a Freedom of Information request had been received in relation to the Panel's work. The Panel advised that a set of minutes available to the public should be put online on the Creative Centenaries website at the Secretariat's earliest convenience.

Ends.

Date of next meeting: 16 April 2021 at 3.30pm via Zoom.



## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on the Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday 16 April 2021  
3.30-5.00pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker  
Dr Marie Coleman  
Dr Niamh Gallagher

British Embassy, Dublin (First Secretary)

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

- 1. Apologies:** none
- 2. Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.
- 3. Action status report from previous meeting:** archives PRONI meeting, Secretary of State meeting, British Embassy meeting,
- 4. Secretariat update and op-ed**

The Chair welcomed the group and provided an update on progress made to date on the Panel's key work strands. The NIO Secretariat discussed promoting the Panel's work, including proposals for a collaborative Panel op-ed to be published in NI, GB and IE newspapers. The group agreed that the author of the op-ed should be noted as the Centenary Historical Advisory Panel. The Chair confirmed he would send working drafts to the Secretariat and Panel members within the next week.

**Action: Chair to send working draft of Op-Ed to Panel**

## **5. Public lecture on centenary**

The Panel discussed proposed themes to cover at the live streamed lecture at the 4 May event. Various themes considered included British policy, border communities and commemoration. It was agreed that an initial invite list would be collated for 4 May.

**Action: Panel to submit ideas for public discussion**

## **6. British Embassy, Dublin**

British Embassy (BE) Dublin First Secretary attended the meeting and outlined proposals for follow up commemoration lectures in Dublin to explore with the Panel, in particular through a bilateral lens. The Panel fed back their thoughts on the proposed lectures by BE Dublin and agreed to send the First Secretary a follow up note with suggestions.

**Action: panellists to email Embassy representative with suggestions**

## **7. Exhibition**

The group discussed the quotes received from design companies for the proposed Panel exhibition for Belfast and Westminster Hall and were in agreement to proceed with Tandem Designs. Dr Marie Coleman put forward the idea of a travelling exhibition which could reach more rural areas of NI and the group were in agreement. The Secretariat agreed to explore this idea with NI Libraries in order to reach smaller localities. The Chair proposed that he would reach out to British Irish Parliamentary Association to explore options for support with the Westminster Hall exhibition.

**Action: Secretariat to explore travelling exhibition idea. Chair to explore Westminster Hall possibility**

## **8. Archives**

It was agreed there may be a need for a follow up meeting with the Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) to progress the matter of opening closed files and digitising files. The Secretariat agreed to facilitate this meeting when required.

**9. Research assistants**

It was confirmed that a new research assistant would be taking up their post in April 2021 to support the Panel's various work strands. The Panel expressed gratitude to Nadia Dobryanska, who had done fantastic work on the website and whom the Panel were sorry to lose due to post-Brexit visa restrictions. The Panel welcomed Sam Manning to the role.

**10. Any other business. None**

Date of next meeting: 14 May 2021 at 3.30pm via Zoom.

## Meeting of the Historical Advisory Panel on the Northern Ireland's Centenary

Friday 14 May 2021  
3.30-5.00pm (conference call)

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Professor Lord Paul Bew (Chair)  
Dr Brian Barton  
Dr Niamh Gallagher  
Dr Margaret O'Callaghan  
Professor Henry Patterson  
Professor Graham Walker

Northern Ireland Office (Secretariat)

1. **Apologies:** Dr Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved.
3. **Action status report from previous meeting:** Panel 4th May public discussion, Panel archives meeting, NIO/PRONI meeting.

#### 4. Archives

The Chair welcomed the recent progress made on key Panel centenary work strands. The Panel's exhibition leads provided an update on the request for the opening of closed PRONI files and that a list of files had been sent to them by PRONI. The Panel agreed to draw up a list of files for PRONI to prioritise.

#### **Action: Panel to draft a list of prioritisation files for opening.**

#### 5. Exhibition

The Panel's exhibition leads provided an update on the Centenary Exhibition, outlining next steps working with Tandem Design to agree on a work plan and timeline. The Secretariat provided an update on the Panel's Westminster Hall

application which is still in assessment phase pending submission of a follow up note with additional information on the content and format of the proposed exhibition.

**Action: Panel exhibition leads to feedback on the Westminster Hall follow up note with a view to submitting this to the Advisory Group w/c 17 May.**

## **6. British Embassy, Dublin**

The Secretariat outlined British Embassy (BE) Dublin's recent follow up note further detailing proposals for a Historical Lecture Series throughout 2021. The Panel confirmed they would be happy to participate in the first proposed lecture in July 2021 with a view to hosting further lectures later in the year.

**Action: Secretariat to share Panel feedback with BE Dublin.**

## **7. Creative Centenaries website**

Dr Niamh Gallagher provided an update on recent new material published on the website and the Research Assistants' work in this regard. The Panel also discussed potential for future written contributions to the website, as well as podcasts.

## **8. Centenary Book update**

Dr Marie Coleman outlined recent progress on the Panel's Centenary book, noting the co-editors were now beginning to receive essay contributions.

## **9. Any other business.**

Professor Henry Patterson outlined recent discussions with the University of Ulster (UoU) and the merit in scoping out opportunities for UoU to increase its engagement with centenary activities over the course of this year. The Panel welcomed this outreach.

**Action: Secretariat to reach out to UoU's Vice Chancellor to discuss further exploring opportunities for engagement with the Panel's centenary work.**

The Secretariat sought Panel feedback on the History Teachers' Association Northern Ireland's (HTANI) note on education proposals for updating the CCEA Partition of Ireland 1900-1925 unit at A Level; and an interactive learning resource for this course. The Panel welcomed this initiative however did not feel it was within the Panel's remit to support this proposal on the basis of a direct approach, and would be best taken forward with an appropriate tendering scheme. The Panel agreed they would be happy to provide any support in assisting with historical advice on updating the CCEA Partition of Ireland 1900-1925 unit at A Level.

**Action: Secretariat to share Panel feedback and offer of support to HTANI.**

Ends.

Date of next meeting: 11th June 2021 at 3.30pm via Zoom.