



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

Mr Tom O'Neill,
Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Services Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.



Our Ref: 150301/AHG

31 March, 2014

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I have been asked by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, to refer to your letter of 12th February concerning the Motion adopted by the members of your Council in relation to the national monument in Moore Street, Dublin.

At the outset I would like to clarify that the Minister's function in this case relates to the buildings at Nos. 14 - 17 Moore Street which are the subject of a Preservation Order under the National Monuments Acts because of their association with the events of Easter Week 1916. The objective of the Preservation Order was to protect No. 16 as the site of the final council of war of the leaders of the Rising and the location where they made the decision to surrender. Nos. 14, 15 and 17 were included in the Preservation Order to enhance and protect the amenity and setting on No.16.

The buildings at Nos. 14 - 17 form a unique and coherent streetscape of substantially intact mid-18th century structures on Moore Street. Collectively, they represent the most significant, original, complete, discrete and continuous section of substantially intact pre-1916 buildings on the street, most of the remainder being post-1916.

The four houses are believed to date from the period 1756 to 1773, with Nos. 15 to 17 having been refaced about 1880. Nos. 15, 16 and 17 were built as a group under the same lease. No. 14 did not form part of the original lease with Nos. 15 to 17. It is, however, contemporary with this trio and also retains its original character. Today, in stark contrast to neighbouring properties, all of these houses retain significant 18th-century elements, including staircases, partitions, plasterwork, doors, floors, fittings and fixtures. The 18th-century building form and profiles also survive, along with the physical evidence of the presence of the insurgents in the form of the openings broken through party walls.

As a consequence of the Preservation Order, any works affecting Nos. 14 - 17 require the

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formal consent of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the National Monuments Acts. After extensive deliberations, a final Ministerial consent was given to the owners in April 2014 for the creation of a 1916 commemorative centre in the monument buildings, involving the full repair and restoration of the structures, both internally and externally.

Proposals that subsequently went before Dublin City Council late last year would have allowed the exchange of two modern 1990s buildings at Nos. 24 and 25 Moore Street, currently used as a cleansing depot, in return for full ownership of Nos. 14 - 17 being transferred to the City Council. The transfer would have been accompanied by NAMA funding to cover the full cost of the restoration project and the proposed commemorative centre.

The Minister was disappointed that Dublin City Council rejected these plans which would have provided a real opportunity to have the restoration work completed and the commemorative centre open in time for the centenary of the Rising in 2016. Following the decision to reject the proposal, it is now a matter for the City Council and the monument owners to consider what the implications are for the national monument buildings, for the NAMA funding for the restoration project and for the centenary commemorations in 2016.

To reiterate, the scope of the Minister's remit in this case under the National Monuments Acts is defined by the Preservation Order on Nos. 14 - 17 Moore Street. Plans or proposals for the wider area outside the confines of the national monument site are the responsibility of the Dublin City Council, as planning authority. The developer's plans have been considered in detail and approved in the decisions made by the City Council and An Bord Pleanála under the Planning and Development Acts between 2008 and 2010. The role of the Minister is to assess what is best for the national monument itself in accordance with the terms of the National Monuments Acts. That function has essentially been completed with the granting of Ministerial consent in April 2014 for the full restoration of the national monument buildings at Nos. 14 - 17 Moore Street and the creation of a 1916 commemorative centre on the site.

It is worth pointing out, however, that Moore Street itself and the laneways surrounding the monument - Henry Place, Moore Lane and O'Rahilly Parade - are to be retained as part of the An Bord Pleanála planning permission. The developer is also obliged to enter discussions with Dublin City Council in relation to the terms of that permission which requires a detailed project proposal to be submitted to the City Council for approval in which the historic significance of the critical locations along the evacuation route from the GPO are featured and interpreted.

The Minister hopes that this clarifies the position in relation to the national monument and her related functions under the National Monuments Acts.

Yours sincerely,



Nessa Foley
Private Secretary