



Oifig on Aire Stáit
Office of the Minister of State

Our Ref : C/ MK - 2021/594

30th November 2021

Ms. Miriam Reilly,
MIRIAM.REILLY@SDUBLINCOCO.IE

Dear Ms Reilly,

I refer to your letter dated 16th November 2021 requesting to have the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, sensitively disinterred and reinterred at Glasnevin cemetery with the appropriate decorum.

The Office of Public Works is aware of the current campaign led by the National Graves Association to exhume and reinter the five people known as the Invincibles in Glasnevin Cemetery. Requests such as this are of a very sensitive and delicate nature and there are a number of matters to consider, both in terms of the significant practicalities involved and the ethical issues. While the general area of the site of the graves in Kilmainham is relatively well known, there is no detailed plan showing definitively exactly where individuals were interred and even were it to be precisely located, there would be practical issues involved in positively identifying the remains. It is understood from contemporaneous accounts that after execution, the remains were buried in quicklime and this would render an exhumation and positive identification very difficult, if not impossible.

It is clear that Kilmainham Gaol is a National Monument and an iconic and much respected site in the context of the national independence struggle in particular. The fact that it is also a grave location adds a significant resonance to its penal and historical significance and there is a strong opposing view to the current campaign that believes that the grave should not be disturbed and the remains should be left within the confines of the Monument.



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Finally, OPW would clearly understand that any move to undertake an exhumation and re-interral project would certainly not be undertaken unilaterally and would have to be considered and approved in the first instance as a policy matter, which is outside our remit.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Garret Nolan
Private Secretary