



Mr John Walsh
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21 December 2023

Our Ref: CHG-MO-03014-2023

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Many thanks for your recent correspondence regarding the 2024 National Famine Memorial Day. Firstly, on behalf of Minister Catherine Martin T.D., I would like to convey our gratitude for your expression of interest in hosting the National Famine Memorial day 2024.

The National Famine Commemoration Committee will no doubt be very interested in the detailed plans and proposals for the commemoration outlined in your letter. As background, the committee was first established in 2008 following a Government decision to commemorate the Great Irish Famine with an annual National Famine Memorial Day. The committee's key objective is to develop appropriate arrangements for the annual National Famine Commemoration to ensure that the famine, its victims and its legacy are not forgotten. The commemoration rotates annually among each province of Ireland.

The annual ceremony is hosted by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and is presided over by An tUachtarán or An Taoiseach on alternating years. In May 2023, the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, presided over the National Famine Commemoration held in Milford, Co. Donegal.

In line with the policy of rotating the province the commemoration is held in each year, we are currently in the process of identifying a host county from Leinster for the 2024 event. To this end, we will be inviting applications from all Local Authorities in Leinster who may be interested in hosting the 2024 National Famine Commemoration.

Unfortunately we will not be inviting applications from Ulster for 2024, but as the Commemoration will be due to take place in the province again in number of years the Department will keep your expression of interest on file for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Francis
Private Secretary