



Mr. Barry Flynn
flynnbarry@belfastcity.gov.uk

6th October 2025

Our Ref: CHG-MO-00913-2025

Dear Mr. Flynn,

Thank you for your correspondence and your expression of interest to host the National Famine Commemoration in Belfast in 2027.

The National Famine Commemoration (NFC) was established in July 2008, following a government decision to commemorate the Great Irish Famine with an Annual Memorial Day.

The commemoration, consisting of a community event and solemn State ceremony, takes place in each of the provinces of Ireland on a rotating basis.

The National Famine Commemoration Committee (NFCC), which Minister O'Donovan Chairs, was established with the main objective to consider the most appropriate arrangements for the commemoration. The Committee recognises that hunger and suffering knew no border during the dark days of the Famine. Death, starvation and mass emigrations effected most communities on this island and has left a lasting and devastating impact on us as a people. The NFC is an opportunity to remember and ensure we never forget.

Preparations are underway for the 2026 event which is scheduled to take place in Connacht and the following overview of the process may be helpful. In September, the Department wrote to the Chief Executives of every Local Authority in Connacht requesting an Expression of Interest to host the National Famine Commemoration. It will be the responsibility of the Local Authority to demonstrate the suitability of their proposed location for the event. This will include highlighting the historical links of the proposed site as well as the capability of the site in terms of access and capacity to host an event of this scale. Local Authorities will also be required to detail a support programme of events to raise awareness and complement and enrich the National Commemoration. It will be the role of the National Famine Commemoration Committee to consider these Expressions of Interest and make a recommendation to the Minister.

We appreciate your interest in hosting this event in 2027. We will be back in contact in autumn 2026, with the official *Expression of Interest* documentation. All completed Expressions of Interest received by the Committee will be considered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Darren Clarke', is placed above the printed name.

Darren Clarke
Private Secretary