



Subject:	Notice of Motion – National Famine Commemoration Day
Date:	24th October, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey - City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna - Democratic Services & Governance Manager

Restricted Report

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring the Committee's attention a response to a which has been received in relation to a motion regarding Belfast's hosting of the National Famine Commemoration in 2027.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response on behalf of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 28th April, adopted the following motion which had been moved by Councillor McKay and seconded by Councillor Brennan.
3.2	"That this Council writes to the National Famine Commemoration Committee asking that they hold the National Famine Commemoration Day in Belfast in 2027. This Commemoration has never been held in Belfast and has only been held in the North once, in Newry in 2015. With recent interest about rediscovering the history of the famine in Belfast, we believe that it would be appropriate for this Commemoration to take place in Belfast, reflecting on one of the most pivotal and painful chapters of our nation's history."
3.3	The response is attached as Appendix 1 and provides further detail on the application process.
3.4	Committee will recall that a previous Notice of Motion was adopted to make a request for Belfast to host the National Famine Memorial Day in May 2024.
3.5	The Chief Executive received a response advising that there was a policy of rotating the province that the commemoration is held in each year, and that the commemoration was held in Milford, County Donegal in 2023. The letter further states that the Department was identifying a host county from Leinster for the 2024 event. The Department did however advise that it would keep Belfast City Council's expression of interest on file for consideration.

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage as there is no commitment to proceed with an application to host the event.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Any decision taken will have equality and good relations and would be subject to the corporate screening process.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Response - Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.</p>