



Subject:	National Famine Memorial Day 2024
Date:	19 January 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee members on the Irish Government's response to Belfast City Council's request for Belfast to host National Famine Memorial Day in May 2024.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Committee members are recommended to note the report and the response attached to this report as Appendix 1.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Following a Notice of Motion adopted at the Standards and Business Committee on 26 September 2023, the Council wrote to the Minister at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media on 8 November 2023 to make a request for Belfast to host the National Famine Memorial Day in May 2024.
3.2	On 21 December 2023, the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council received a response from the Department stating that the Department has a policy of rotating the province that the commemoration is held in each year, and that last year the commemoration was held in Milford, County Donegal. The letter further states that the Department is currently in the process of identifying a host county from Leinster for the 2024 event. Therefore, it will not be inviting applications from Ulster this year.
3.3	The letter goes on to state that as the Commemoration will be due to take place in Ulster again in number of years, the Department will keep Belfast City Council's expression of interest on file for consideration.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Letter dated 21 December 2023 from the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media.