

Chief Executive of Bristol City Council
Mr Stephen Hughes
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Please ask for: Karime Hassan

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Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 30 September 2016

Dear Mr Hughes,

19240 - SHROUDS OF THE SOMME

I understand that Bristol Cathedral is currently considering hosting the 19240 Shrouds of the Somme – a very moving and poignant exhibition commemorating the 19240 allied servicemen who died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. I understand that it is the intention to do so in time to commemorate the end of the Battle on 18th November.

I am writing to you in the hope that Bristol City Council will support efforts to bring the installation to your City as this Council did in the summer.

Exeter was very proud to play host to this installation for the period 1 – 7 July 2016, to mark the centenary of such a momentous day in the history of the English Army. Officers of this Council worked closely with the artist and others from private and public sectors to allow the installation to be hosted as a free to visit piece of public art in one of city centre open spaces. The response from the public was beyond belief with an estimated 65,000+ visitors to the installation over the 8 days of its opening, as well as local, regional and national media coverage which as a spin off, very much put the city of Exeter in people's minds. It is further estimated that via traditional and social media coverage, the project (and therefore Exeter) reached a world-wide audience of 100million! A truly amazing figure, and something that all Chief Executive's aspire to achieve in highlighting the diverse and wonderful things that we all do in our areas. I am now told that the project has been shortlisted for a national World War 1 Remembers award – the judging for which takes place in the very near future.

Whilst I am unsure as to whether it is the full installation or just a part of it that is being considered for the Cathedral, I am sure that if it is achieved, the residents of Bristol and further afield will be truly moved by the poignancy and thought provoking effects that the installation will have on them. To help you better understand the project and its impact in Exeter, please go to this link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-36644373>

I would have no hesitation in recommending this installation to any other authority who was considering hosting it, and I hope that you will support efforts to bring it to your City.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Karime Hassan
Chief Executive & Growth Director
Exeter City Council