**Northern Ireland Assembly**

(AQW 7871/11-15)

Mr Daithi McKay (SF North Antrim) asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to mark the centenary of the trial and death of Roger Casement who resided in Ballycastle, Co. Antrim.

Ms Ní Chuilín: The forthcoming decade of centenaries provides all of us on this island with the opportunity to achieve a greater understanding of our past and how it shapes identities and relationships today. The key issue is not whether we remember these events but how we remember them.

The Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund have developed a set of principles to help organisations to remember the past in the context of an inclusive and accepting society. I endorse these principles.

The arts and cultural sectors can play a key role in how the stories of our past are told and shared with a wider audience.

I am therefore continuing discussions with the Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund to support the dissemination and use of these principles. To that end I have also met with my counterpart Minister Jimmy Deenihan who is chairing the Oireachtas Consultation Group on Centenary Commemorations.

As part of a comprehensive programme to explore the period 1912-1922 and its legacy, National Museums NI will consider marking the centenary of the 1916 trial and death of Roger Casement and the 1913 founding of the Irish Volunteers and his involvement with the organisation. However as the programme is at an early stage the content has not been finalised.