



Deputy Cian O'Callaghan TD
Cian.OCallaghan@oireachtas.ie

15 Sept 2021

Our Ref – CHG-MO-03191-2021

Dear Cian,

Thank you for your recent email in relation to an LGBT+ element to the Decade of Commemorations events. Please, also express my appreciation to Mr Rose for his interest in the Decade of Centenaries Programme, which is a cross-governmental programme, co-ordinated and led by my Department.

As I mentioned when I launched this year's commemorative programme, our revolutionary past poses challenging questions and now - 100 years later - we are open, not only to considering these questions, but to discussing and debating them - supported by a wealth of resources to consult, visit, and explore, so that we can engage with this forthcoming period of commemorations in all its complexity.

My focus is on commemoration, remembrance, and reconciliation, so that we can as a people, approach this phase of commemoration honestly and sensitively, recognising the impact of this historical events that occurred and their legacy on all communities, with mutual respect and historical authenticity. I have said before that the history of this period belongs to us all and I am pleased that you and Kieran have raised this important issue of reflecting upon the LGBT+ experience during this time period.

I have asked my officials to explore with colleagues in the Department of Justice, how we may be able to most effectively assist Kieran in highlighting the issues he mentions during this final phase of the Decade of Centenaries. I hope to have news for you of positive developments in this regard shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Martin'.

Catherine Martin
Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media