



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Speaker  
NI Assembly

Dear Mr Speaker,

We write, as leaders of our respective parties, to you in your capacity as Chair of the Assembly Commission.

To us the upcoming Centenary of Northern Ireland is of immense significance. Whereas, we accept that for others it means little and does not evoke enthusiasm, for those we collectively represent it is very important. Accordingly, there is an expectation within the pro-Union community that the centenary will be marked within the seat of government in a tangible and meaningful way.

In consequence we have been working together to come up with a measured but sensitive proposal for the Commission's consideration. This is without prejudice to whatever events the Commission might itself devise.

Our proposal is that the Commission should grant permission for the erection of a centenary stone within the curtilage of Parliament Buildings. This would be at no cost to the Commission or the public purse. What we have in mind is illustrated in the attached drawings with a simple inscription "Erected to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland 1921-2021".

It is proposed that the sculpture should have a granite base but otherwise be Portland stone to match the building. It would be made by the renowned stone specialists, S McConnell & Sons Ltd of Killeel.

As to location we thought it could be sited in the middle of the raised semi-circular area to the west of the building.

We will seek the relevant planning permission if the Commission can accede to our request.

We trust the Commission can give sympathetic and timely consideration to our proposal, realising the response will signal to those we represent the scale of respect available to them from the Assembly authorities.

We are happy to discuss this matter with you and/or the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA Jim Allister QC MLA