

To the Members of the Protocol Committee



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## O'Connell Plinth, City Hall

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This report is written as a follow up to the presentation to the Protocol Committee on the 23rd March 2023 regarding proposals for the O'Connell plinth at City Hall.

- TU Dublin confirmed in writing that the temporary sculpture *RGB Sconce* by Alan Phelan will be removed by the end of May this year. They were very grateful for the extension given by the Protocol Committee. The artist and TU Dublin have arranged for a hoist to remove the sculpture on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.
- The Public Art Officer has met with a stone conservator on site to discuss the possibility of treating the statue of O'Connell by John Hogan which is located in the rotunda inside City Hall to return it to the plinth on which it originally stood. The conservator's verbal advice was not to move the statue to an external location. His basic reasons were that the statue is in very good condition and that no matter what protective coating was added, the statue will be subject to weathering, pigeon and seagull guano, ongoing air pollution and in the longer-term growth of algae and even weeds. If this proposal was to be agreed to, he recommended that a regime of regular cleaning and care would have to be put in place. Finally, in addition to the comments above, he also stated that to move the statue would be a complex and very expensive manoeuvre and in itself would put the statue at risk.
- The Public Art Officer has investigated whether there are historic statues available which would be suitable for display on the plinth. Dublin City Council does not have any statues in storage. The OPW was also approached and they do not have any statues in storage.
- A brief is being drafted for an open competition to invite artists to make proposals for the display of a new temporary artwork on the plinth for one year. It is proposed that a selection panel composed of City Councillors, city officials and external art experts be convened for the short-listing and final selection of proposals. This brief will be presented to the Protocol Committee.

**Ruairí Ó Cuív**  
**Public Art Officer**

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**