

**Evaluation of**

**REMEMBERING  
1916**

**Ulster Museum, Belfast  
2016**





## INTRODUCTION

National Museums Northern Ireland provided a diverse and ambitious programme to mark the key centenaries around 1916. The programme was underpinned by a range of partnerships that spanned universities to community groups. The centrepiece of the programme was a dedicated temporary exhibition at the Ulster Museum, *Remembering 1916*, produced in conjunction with the Living Legacies 1914-18 First World War Engagement Centre. National Museums Northern Ireland is a key partner in this AHRC research project, led by the Queen's University Belfast. Co-production was a defining characteristic of this exhibition, which featured a selection of community objects identified during the community collecting roadshows staged across Northern Ireland over the past two years.

The *Remembering 1916* exhibition was accompanied by an extensive events programme, delivered in partnership with the Living Legacies First World War Engagement Centre. In addition, the Creative Centenaries' *#MakingHistory 1916* exhibition was displayed in the Ulster Museum June – September 2016. National Museums Northern Ireland was a key partner in this project, supporting all aspects of its development and delivery. *#MakingHistory 1916* was underpinned by Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £150k. The Museum also hosted a community exhibition on The Corr Family, produced as part of the Belfast Easter Rising Commemorative programme. This exhibition was also supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The programme extended across our sites with the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum being creatively utilised to explore aspects of the Home Front experience through guided tours and drama.

The aims of the 1916 programme can be summarised as follows:

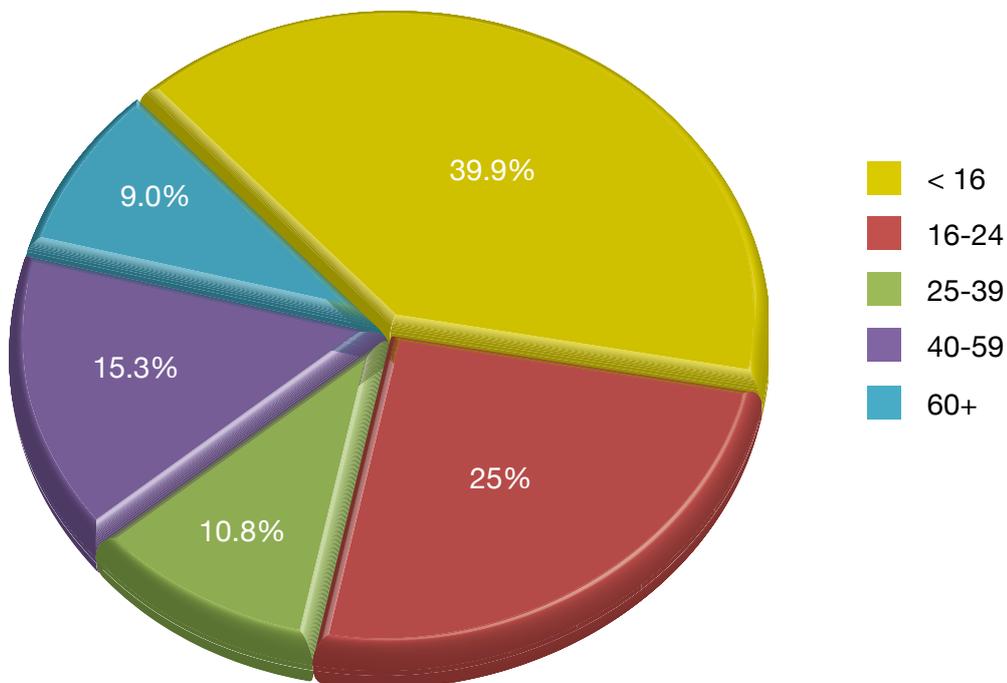
- To deliver an extensive programme to mark the 1916 centenary
- To acknowledge the importance of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising as distinct events and encourage visitors to make new connections and appreciate the impact of war and revolution on wider society
- To showcase the collaboration between Living Legacies and NMNI and what has been achieved in working with the community to explore, interpret and record the legacies of the First World War
- To increase public awareness of the Living Legacies programme and openly invite community groups and members of the public to contribute additional artefacts or stories
- To showcase important partnerships, in particular with local universities through Living Legacies, but also the Imperial War Museum, the Nerve Centre, PRONI, NMI and various community partners

The majority of evidence summarised in this report was collected through self-completion questionnaires from the *Remembering 1916* exhibition, which were available to all visitors from 25 March 2016 – 1 September 2016. In total, 289 questionnaires were completed.

Some additional evidence is also provided from the events programme and the *#MakingHistory 1916* exhibition.

# REMEMBERING 1916: YOUR STORIES EXHIBITION EVALUATION

## AGE OF RESPONDENTS

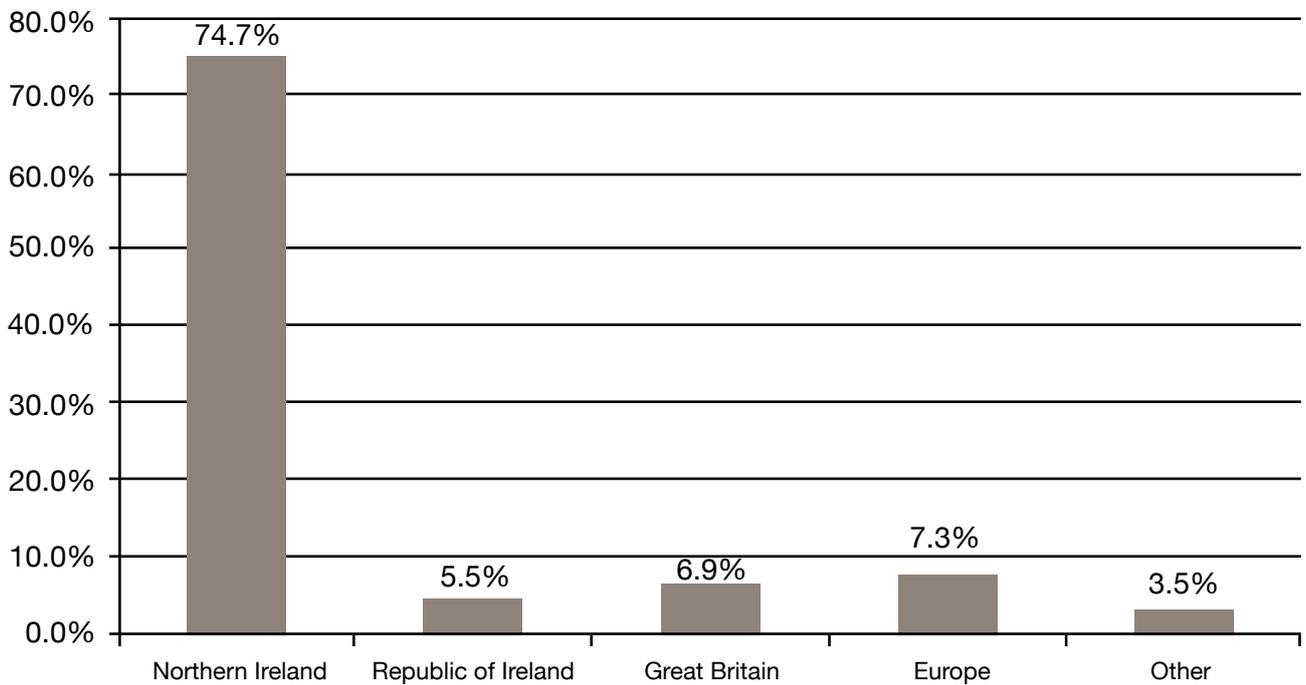


**(Base: 268 respondents that answered)**

< 16	107	37.0%
16 – 24	67	23.2%
25 – 39	29	10.0%
40 – 59	41	14.2%
60 +	24	8.3%
Left Blank	21	7.3%

The most popular age group for this exhibition were Under 16s with 39.9% followed by 25% of 16-24 year olds.

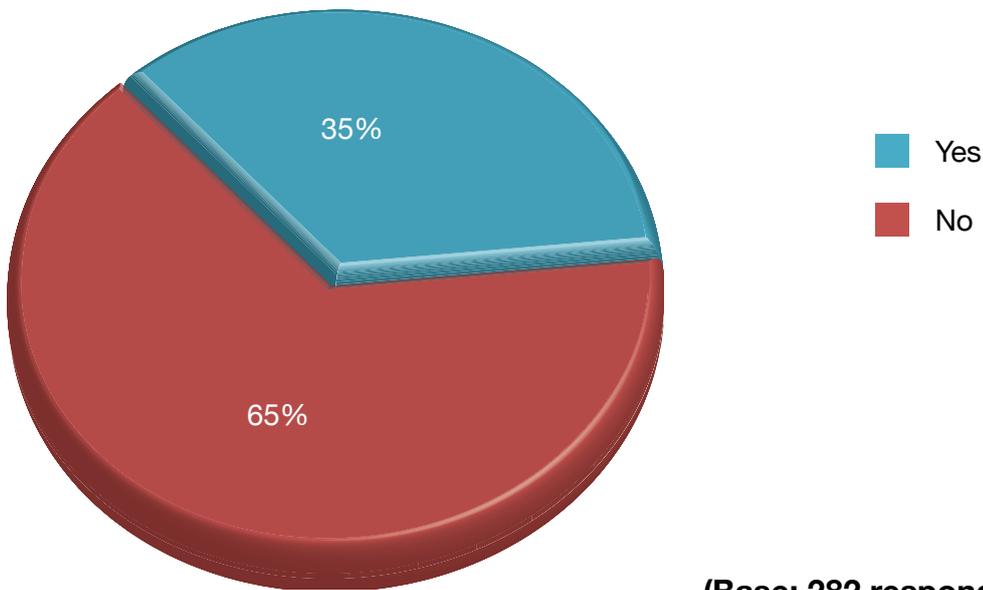
## WHERE RESPONDENTS VISITED FROM



**(Base: 283 respondents that answered)**

216 respondents visited from Northern Ireland (74.7% of all responses). Other countries included Australia, Canada, Israel, Korea and the United States of America.

## DID VISITORS COME ESPECIALLY TO SEE THE EXHIBITION?



(Base: 282 respondents that answered)

		Including blanks	Excluding blanks
Yes	100	35%	35%
No	182	63%	65%
Blank	7	2%	
	<b>289</b>		

### IF YES, WHY?

#### Interest / Curiosity

Approximately 57% of respondents visited to satisfy a general interest they had in the exhibition. A few comments related to an interest in how the exhibition was interpreted.

- *It sounded interesting*
- *I love this part of history*
- *Interested in the topic and Museum's approach to a difficult topic*
- *I came to see it because it is a very interesting subject*
- *Interpretation of unique Irish event*
- *We wanted to see how representative of the community it would be*

- *Heard about it on radio interested to see it in flesh*
- *We have always had a great interest in First World War Battle of Somme and what was happening in other parts of the world*
- *I am an historian based in Ballycastle*
- *It is an historic year and am a keen reader of Irish history*
- *Interested in Irish history and in particular The Troubles which I saw a lot on TV growing up*
- *To see if it was balanced*
- *To understand history and events and Republican perspective*
- *12 year old son is very interested in history of both World Wars*

### **Studies / Learning**

Approximately 19% were on a school trip, studying/teaching the subject or wanted to learn more.

- *To bring a group of young people to see and learn about 1916*
- *Because I didn't know what the Easter Rising was and I wanted to know*
- *Because I did not know about the Easter Rising*
- *I am a history teacher in France. I knew about the Somme but not about Easter Rising*
- *Because we did a project on 1916 Easter Rising*
- *To learn more about the Rising*
- *To learn more about the Easter Rising as I only learnt about the battle of the Somme*
- *I have read a number of books in order to try and understand*
- *With my school as we were learning about it in school*
- *Studying this topic in history*
- *To learn about our country's history in more depth*

### **Profile of 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Approximately 13% visited to reflect on the anniversary

- *Easter Rising 100 Years*
- *100 Year Centenary*
- *Because it was 100 years ago*
- *Centenary year of Easter Rising*
- *Interest in the 100 years*
- *Centenary year should be an opportunity to explore 1916 in detail*

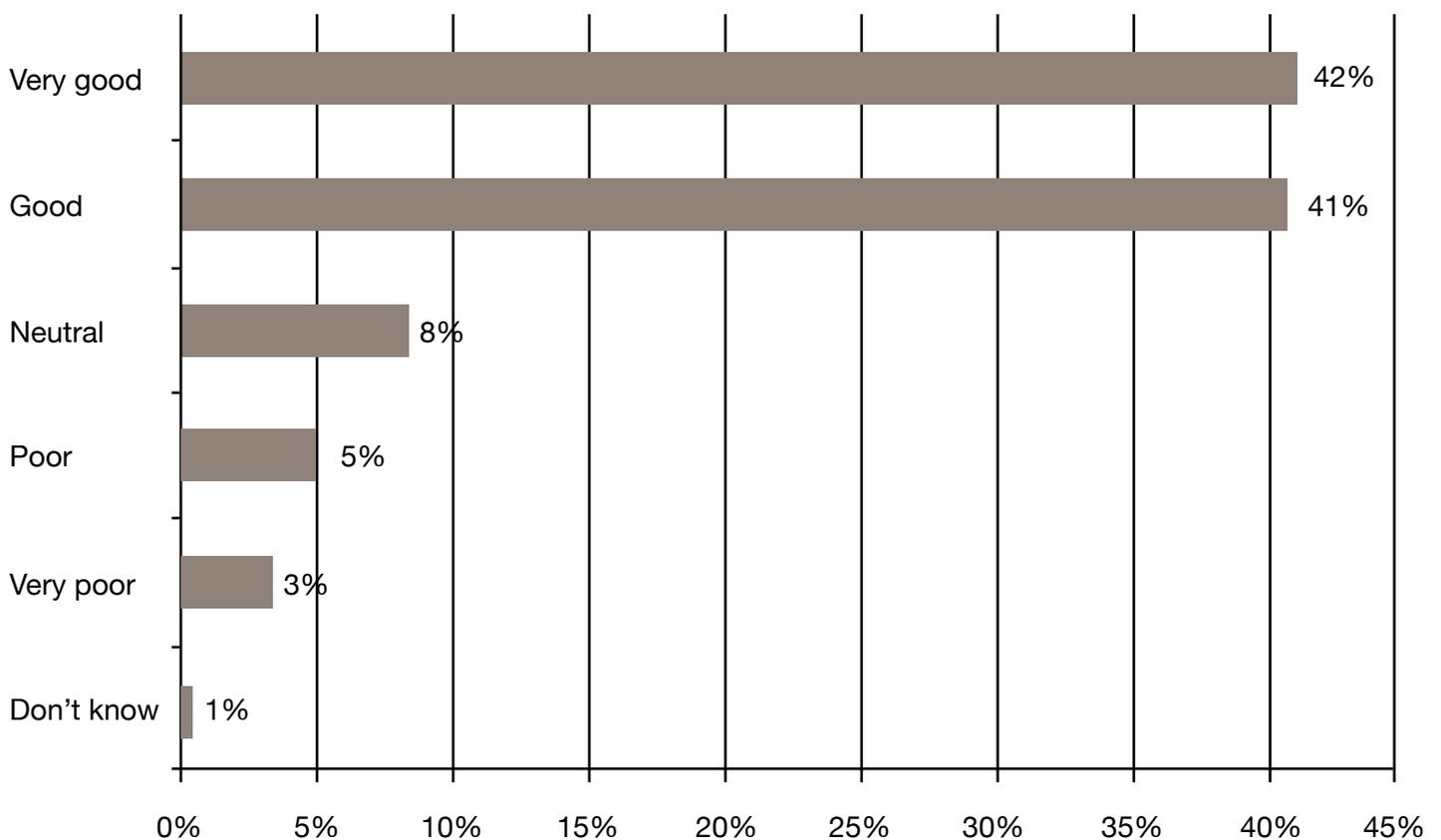
- Because it is the 100th anniversary
- Because it was the 100th anniversary of the Somme
- Seen it advertised anniversary of Somme

### Family / Personal connections

Approximately 9% visited as they felt they had personal connections

- Great Great Grandfather fought in this War
- My grandfather told me how good it was, I personally think it is a great addition to the Museum
- Heritage/family history
- Family history relating to the War
- Grandfather served, and honourably discharged, Battle of the Somme
- Two grandfathers in WWI both survived but never talked about it and it affected the quality of their lives

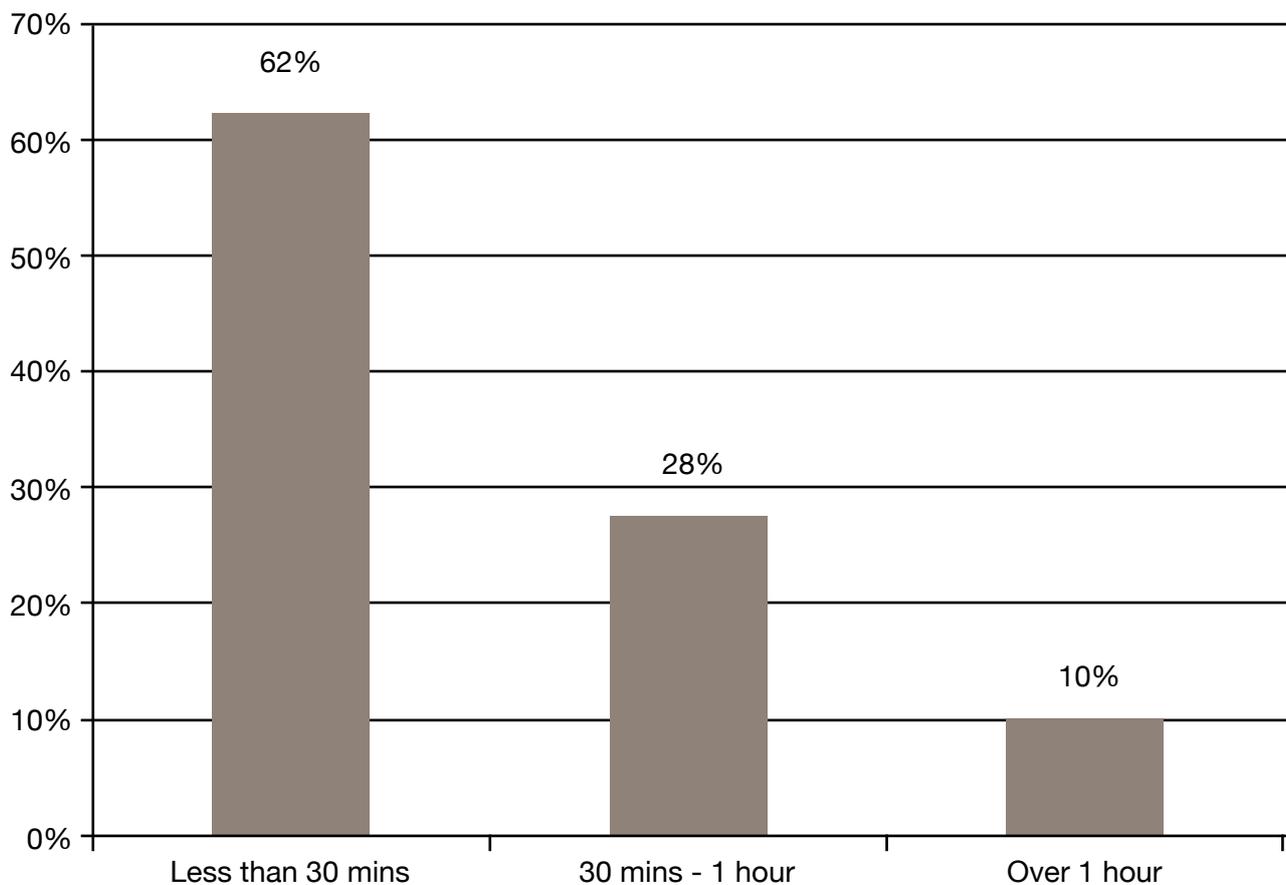
### HOW DID VISITORS RATE THE EXHIBITION?



**(Base: 285 respondents that answered)**

Overall 83% of respondents rated the exhibition as good with 42% rating as very good. 8% of respondents rated the exhibition as poor or very poor.

## HOW LONG DID RESPONDENTS SPEND IN THE EXHIBITION?



**(Base: 285 respondents that answered)**

62% of visitors spent less than 30 minutes in the gallery, 28% spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour and 10% spent over an hour.

## WHAT HAD THE MOST IMPACT ON VISITORS AND WHY?

### 1. The blood-stained notebook had a powerful impact and was mentioned numerous times

- *The artefact of the diary is particularly powerful as it helps portray the human aspect of war*
- *The notebook stained by A. Stewart's blood. I was touched by the futility of youth being sent to this war*
- *Blood-stained notebook – emphasised the reality of war*
- *The blood-stained paper. The artefacts were great, would love to see more exhibits on local history with artefacts*
- *The blood-stained notebook as it was very interesting and emotional as it had a story behind it*
- *The blood stained notebook of a soldier killed in action really put it into perspective.*
- *Private Adam Stewart's blood stained prayer and notebooks is a sad strangely beautiful object, an oxymoron in material terms*

### 2. Other elements of the exhibition, notably the uniforms, photographs and machine gun

- *The various uniforms provide very good insight into rebels'/soldiers' lives*
- *The sash because it is what my father wore*
- *Learning about Louisa Nolan who was rewarded with a bravery medal for helping casualties of the Rising*
- *The Sash reminds me of my childhood*
- *I like the medals because of the fabric and the colour*
- *I liked all the uniforms that they wore and I also liked the guns they used*
- *Medals because they are very shiny*
- *The pictures, the letters because it means something special to me...*
- *The machine gun! I'd never seen one before*
- *Archival footage displayed on wall, communicates the Somme more vividly as opposed to reading out of a book*
- *The big green coats and big drum because if I lived in 1916 I would like to learn to play that drum*
- *The costumes because they gave you a real idea of what it was to be like to be a soldier*

### 3. The full impact of conflict on men and women at this time was also noted

- *The war was very dangerous and frightening*
- *The number of people who died from both sides*
- *The futility of war and loss of life*
- *How all the civilians lives were greatly affected*
- *I get to see what the war was really like*
- *The movies of the young men in the trenches. It showed how horrible it truly was during the war*
- *It makes me think that all those people who suffered should be felt sorry for*

- *All these men gave their lives for us...*
- *My great Grandfather fought at the Somme, great to look at the exhibits and see what that time would have been like for him*
- *The video showing the destruction of Dublin and the trenches in France*
- *The film footage brings home the reality of what happened*
- *The photographs and documents show the reality of the situation*

**4. As with all exhibitions covering this period there is a responsibility to provide a balanced point of view. Many visitors felt that we achieved this, however some felt covering the two key events of 1916 in one exhibition was inappropriate:**

**Positive viewpoints:**

- *The idea of a link between Easter Rising and Battle of the Somme. I never associated the two events before*
- *I didn't expect such controversial topics to be so well integrated*
- *Fairness: fair treatment of the subject on both sides*
- *A good place to learn and read both sides of the story*
- *In any public setting concerning this pivotal year in Irish history I've never seen the two stories aligned or historiography used to inform a more balanced account... So progressive*
- *I really liked how the parallel experiences of the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme were presented side by side*
- *I loved the archival film and the reminder that 1916 wasn't just the Easter Rising but WW1 in which many Irish people were involved*

**Negative viewpoints**

- *Very poor interpretation of an Irish event and made worse by combining with Somme. Rising big enough event on its own story*
- *I think it is a disgrace that you have compared the Easter Rising with Somme. There is no comparison*
- *Not happy that 1916 was in the same place, the Somme is far more important*
- *Linking the Somme with the Dublin Rising actually obstructs understanding of both. The connection is a contingent one and helps to explain neither*
- *I think it is heavily outbalanced on the British side – I hope this will be rectified with further exhibits*
- *If you want to make an exhibition about the Battle of the Somme, do it, don't link it with the Easter Rising*
- *Interesting displays but I would question placing the Somme and the Rising in such close proximity. They were not directly related and must be confusing to younger children. The link would seem political to keep both sides of the political religious spectrum happy and to secure funding perhaps*
- *The fact that a foreign country's rebel failed uprising is displayed along with the heroes of WW1*
- *Surprised that a terrorist uprising is given the same status as those brave men who fought in the First World War*

## **DID VISITORS LEARN ANYTHING NEW FROM THIS EXHIBITION? IF SO, WHAT?**

It is important that all exhibitions communicate information about collections and encourage active learning and discovery. Approximately 48% of respondents felt they had discovered new or surprising information in the exhibition. The most common answers to this question:

### **1. Many people appreciated the opportunity to supplement their knowledge of the two key 1916 events and the wider context of the time:**

- *I didn't know that the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme happened at the same time*
- *I learned a lot because I didn't know anything about the Easter Rising before*
- *Yes, that people from the Falls fought in the Somme*
- *I didn't realise just how many were killed at the Battle of the Somme*
- *I learnt many new things, for example, how the two events were related.*
- *I knew a little on 1916 I learnt a lot as this was not covered in history when I was in school*

### **2. Information about particular individuals was new for some people:**

- *That William Orpen was an official war artist*
- *Hugh Lawson was Belfast born*
- *I learned about Gusto Spence*
- *The role of (General Oliver) Nugent was unknown to me*
- *Louisa Nolan and the bravery of ordinary civilians of Ireland*

## **IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE VISITORS WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS TOPIC?**

### **1. Some visitors felt that the exhibition met all their needs and there was nothing more to learn.**

- *No, there is just enough things here. Very well put together*
- *No, pretty clear, short ,not too long and boring*
- *Nothing really. This exhibition has told me things I never knew about 1916*

**2. The role of women at this time was also something that many visitors would like to know more about.**

- *I would like to find out more about women because this exhibition was mostly about men*
- *The role of women in the Easter Rising and 1916*
- *More about women's history*
- *I would like to find out about how the mothers fed the children*

**3. Many visitors felt that there was much more detail to go into and mentioned some areas of interest that they felt they would like to investigate further.**

- *Yes, more about the effect/the actions of the people from the North during the Rising*
- *Yes more detailed information on what happened on Easter Sunday, more information on the effects on everyday people and the lives of people then*
- *Yes I would like to find out how children lived back in 1916*
- *What about the sailors at war?*
- *The impact the Rising had on civilians and the families of leaders*
- *More information on the UVF and working-class Protestants and Catholics*



# GENERIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Arts Council England's 'Inspiring Learning for All' framework identifies five generic learning outcomes (GLOs). These are:

- **Knowledge and Understanding**
- **Skills**
- **Enjoyment, Inspiration and Creativity**
- **Attitudes and Values**
- **Activity, Behaviour and Progression**

• **Knowledge and Understanding**– Knowing what or about something. Learning facts or information. Making sense of something. Deepening understanding. How museums, libraries and archives operate. Making links and relationships between things.

• **Skills**– Knowing how to do something. Being able to do new things. Intellectual skills. Information management skills. Social skills. Communication skills. Physical skills.

• **Attitudes and Values** – Feelings. Perceptions. Opinions about ourselves (e.g. self-esteem). Opinions or attitudes towards other people. Increased capacity for tolerance. Empathy. Increased motivation. Attitudes towards an organisation. Positive and negative attitudes in relation to an experience

• **Activity, Behaviour and Progression** – What people do. What people intend to do. What people have done. Reported or observed actions. A change in the way people manage their lives

• **Enjoyment, Inspiration and Creativity**– Having fun. Being surprised. Innovative thoughts. Creativity. Exploration, experimentation and making. Being inspired

## EVIDENCE OF THESE GLOS CAN BE IDENTIFIED IN THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

### KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING (Approx.36 % of responses)

- *The idea of a link between Easter Rising and Somme, I never associated the two events before*
- *The movies of the young men in the trenches, it showed how horrible it truly was during the war*
- *I learned more about the Easter Rising and how it affected those in Belfast*

- *I learnt about the starkly different lives of the Irish and the English from the televised projection*
- *I didn't realise how young some people were when they went to war*
- *Learning the divisive sense of community*
- *A good place to learn and read both sides of the story*

### **ENJOYMENT, INSPIRATION & CREATIVITY** (Approx. 17% of responses)

- *Everything is so good, I liked everything here because I love the 1916 story*
- *The artefacts were great, would love to see more exhibits on local history with artefacts*
- *I loved all the artefacts from people who fought at the Somme. It made the whole event seem more vivid*
- *I am impressed by the talent of those who planed this exhibition*
- *I loved the archival film and the reminder that 1916 wasn't just the Easter Rising but WW1 in which many Irish people were involved*
- *I loved the personal artefacts very moving*

### **ATTITUDES & VALUES** (Approx.21 % of responses)

- *For evil to flourish it takes good men to do nothing*
- *It shows that there is hope for a more integrated future*
- *Our country hasn't come as far as it could have*
- *I felt you tried too hard in including Somme commemorations in the anniversary year of Easter Rising, the link seemed tenuous*
- *Can see why totemic events – the Rising and the Somme - were linked but I found it unnecessarily stage managed*
- *I've never seen the two stories aligned or historiography used to inform a more balanced account... So progressive*
- *The importance of real historical facts shoes how wrong common assumptions are*

### **ACTIVITY, BEHAVIOUR & PROGRESSION** (Approx.19 % of responses)

- *Would like to know of others who fought in different regiments in the First World War*
- *I'd like to look at the establishment of the IFS and what impact the Rising had on the Civil War*
- *Would like more digitised info such as photographic related to regiments and theatre of war, more exhibits – would like to buy a map of the trenches etc. and understand their story better*
- *I was particularly fascinated by the picture of the 36th Ulster Division as my Grandfather served himself*
- *Stories about the people who fought as I find these things interesting*
- *Stories about the people who fought as I find these things interesting*
- *What I have learned is how successfully use public history to approach sectarian divides and try to undermine traditions drawn on in a dangerous way*

# #MakingHistory 1916

## Exhibition Evaluation

The following evaluation was conducted and analysed by the Nerve Centre.

- A total of 133 forms analysed Monday 22 August 2016 (66 of the forms included more detailed comments)
- 46 spent under 30 minutes in the exhibition (including one under 2 minutes and one under 1 minute), 25 spent 30 – 60 minutes; and 19 over 1 hour (including one who spent more than 2 hours). 43 did not specify the length they had been in the exhibition.
- 41 rated the exhibition 'Excellent', 42 rated it 'Good', 4 rated it 'Average', 2 rated it 'Poor' and 2 rated it 'Very Poor'. 42 did not rate it.

### IF YOU CAME SPECIFICALLY TO SEE EXHIBITION, WHY DID YOU COME?

In total, 17 stated they came specifically to view the exhibition.  
Reasons given were as follows:

- "Saw the posters. Understood the exhibition was on war & innovation which I found an interesting approach." (Female, age 54, from Germany, who spent over 2 hours viewing the exhibition).
- "We want to know more about your history [sic] because we heard a lot about it." (Female, aged 24, from Northern Ireland)
- "Heard about it." (Age 40-59, from Northern Ireland, gender not specified)
- "To learn about the history." (Female, aged 12, from Northern Ireland)
- "The creative things." (Female, aged 22, from Republic of Ireland)
- "Personal interest." (Female, aged 60+, from Republic of Ireland)
- "We wanted to come to have fun." (Age 11 from Northern Ireland, gender not specified)
- "Never been before. Nanny & I took the kidz." (Female, aged 20, from Northern Ireland)
- "To see both versions of 1916." (Female, aged 45, from Northern Ireland. Spent 30-60 minutes in exhibition. Rated it 'poor' – see answer below: "It was too two dimensional not enough genuine primary artefacts to look at.")
- "It is an awesome place. I will pass it on to others." (Female, aged under 16, from Northern Ireland)
- "It is a place to visit in the Belfast City." (Female, aged 25-39, from Wales)
- "1916 & to learn about Ulster." (Male, aged 7 ½, from Republic of Ireland)
- "Because I like hearing about the war and the olden day[s]." (Female, age 8, from Northern Ireland)
- "Heard some great things & wanted to check it out for ourselves." (Male, aged 32, from Northern Ireland. In a party of 2)
- "To learn and discover as a group how our country came through WW1." (Male, aged 30, from Republic of Ireland)

## WHAT HAD THE MOST IMPACT ON YOU IN THE EXHIBITION? WHY?

### Sample comments:

- “The authentic diaries gave me a remarkably intense realisation that real humans created history: those that lived before us shaped today.” (Female, age 18, from Northern Ireland)
- “The horror of war.” (Female, age 54, from Germany, who spent over 2 hours viewing the exhibition).
- “The book with the drawings and Mrs Clarke talking.” (Aged 21 from Northern Ireland, both male and female circled).
- “Maultsaid.” (Male, aged 40-59, origin not specified)
- “The diaries.” (Female, aged under 16, from Northern Ireland)
- “1916 stuff and the diaries.” (Aged 21 from Northern Ireland, both male and female circled)
- “Snaps from war album.” (Female, aged 60+, from Republic of Ireland)
- “The writings of old soldiers as you can see they were just human.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “The use of art made it more personal knowing many sketches were done by troops/nurses at the front.” (Male, aged 46, from Republic of Ireland).
- “I like all cause you take care of all your stories and it [is] necessary to keep it like this to give all people chance to see this important thing.” (Female, aged 24, from Northern Ireland)
- “This, I mean the war. It’s fascinating and horrific at the same time.” (Female, aged 17, from France)
- “The info on Easter Rising and the images.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “Recruitment posters – they show the mind-set of the time. Dublin Housing Report 1914 – the poverty.” (Male, aged 67, from Northern Ireland)
- “Guns.” (Age 12 from Northern Ireland. Circled both ‘Male’ and ‘Female’)
- “It was the songs and information from it.” (Female, aged 12, from Northern Ireland)
- “Carpet bombing ‘blew’ my mind – UNREAL.” (Female, aged 9, from Northern Ireland)
- “The art style of how it is presented.” (Female, aged 14, from Northern Ireland)
- “It’s v. informative whilst also being creative.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “The music because it was classy.” (Female, aged 6, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘Making the future’ – gave people an opportunity to voice their thoughts/hopes/opinions.” (Female, aged 20, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘Making the future – having an opinion! Loved it all!’” (Female, aged 20, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘Making the future cards.’” (Female, aged 22, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘Weapon technology’.” (Female, aged 22, from Republic of Ireland)
- “‘Tribute to the fallen heroes.’” (Male, aged 18, from Derry, Northern Ireland)
- “‘Learning the amount of deaths and casualties made the rawness of war more prudent.’” (Male, aged 15, from Northern Ireland).
- “‘The combination of primary artefacts and new responses – the comics, for example, alongside the posters.’” (Female, aged 23, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘It is good to see the exhibition being so informative and helpful.’” (Female, aged 29, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘Visually interesting.’” (Female, aged 13, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘The film of men going over the top at the Somme/Thiepval.’” (Male, aged 32, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘The women of the war section.’” (Female, aged 22, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘The exhibition – it shows the horror of war, the sadness of loss, the stupidity of killing.’” (No personal details given)
- “‘The rug and the films excellent.’” (Male, aged 32, from Northern Ireland)
- “‘Making War.’” (Age 11 from Northern Ireland, gender not specified)

- “How you can see people’s opinions and not just a single person being biased.”
- “Great use of technology to look at the past.” (No personal information given)
- “What I learned; the concept; the quality of the documents.” (Female, aged 56, from Portugal)
- “Headphones and music.” (Female, aged ‘nearly 8’, from Northern Ireland)
- “The music.” (Female, aged 16, from Northern Ireland)
- “People’s card feedback.” (Male, aged 25, from Republic of Ireland)
- “The Making the future part.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “The signing ‘Making the future’.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “It was too two dimensional not enough genuine primary artefacts to look at.” (Female, aged 45, from Northern Ireland. Spent 30–60 minutes in exhibition. Rated it “poor”)
- “The comic books because they were very easy to understand.” (Male, aged 13, from Northern Ireland)
- “The Easter Rising, to think of all the people who died.” (Female, aged 12, from Northern Ireland)

## DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING NEW? IF SO, WHAT?

### Sample comments:

- “The Irish presence at the Front in France was new to me.” (Female, age 54, from Germany).
- “I learn something amazing every time I come.” (Female, aged 37, from Northern Ireland).
- “The Germans invaded [sic] Belfast.” (Age 18 from Northern Ireland. Circled both ‘Male’ and ‘Female’)
- “The songs; I never knew they were that recent.” (Female, aged 12, from Northern Ireland)
- “More about the Easter Rising.” (Female, aged 9, from Northern Ireland).
- “More or less what we learn in school in more detail.” (Female, aged 14, from Northern Ireland)
- “I learnt that a long time ago there was a war.” (Female, aged 6, from Northern Ireland).
- “Alice Milligan.” (Male, aged 30, from Republic of Ireland)
- “Much about Irish history.” (Male, aged 15, from Germany)
- “Exact number of deaths on the Somme.” (Male, aged 15, from Northern Ireland).
- “The way Irish women were targeted and used as pawns of wartime propaganda.” (Female, aged 23, from Northern Ireland)
- “Yes, I learnt about women and how they were viewed in society.” (Female, aged 13, from Northern Ireland)
- “What life was really like.” (Male, aged 60+, from Northern Ireland)
- “Yes, the war was even more horrible than I thought.” (Male, aged 13, from Northern Ireland)
- “Yes, too much to say!” (Female, aged 22, from Northern Ireland)
- “I learnt that there is so much history do not have a clue about.” (Under 16, from Northern Ireland, Gender not specified)
- “Yes – lots of new technology and advancements from the time.” (Male, aged 32, from Northern Ireland)
- “The names of different planes.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “I knew most as a background – but we need reminding of what we already know.” (Male, aged 67, from Northern Ireland)
- “How it started.” (Age 11 from Northern Ireland, gender not specified)
- “Yes. More shared stories.” (No personal information given)
- “Yes. Lots of interesting anecdotes.” (Male, aged 32, from Northern Ireland)
- “Lots about complexities of 1916.” (Male, aged 31, from Northern Ireland)
- “No, you included everything.” (Female, aged 12, from Northern Ireland)

## HOW COULD THE EXHIBITION BE IMPROVED?

### Sample comments:

- “I’m sure there is, but I can’t think of it – it’s very good.” (Male, aged 67, from Northern Ireland)
- “Bigger.” (Female, aged 17, from Northern Ireland)
- “I’d expect a positive outlook, a guided learning from history and maybe questions on a personal level (what would you have done), what were the alternatives to entering the war – anything that promotes a clear anti-war standpoint, pro-negotiations, peace groups, by the museum. Collecting the ideas and thereby interacting with the public is great though. Thank you for asking.” (Female, age 54, from Germany, who spent over 2 hours viewing the exhibition).
- “Had difficulty following themes. Style strange.” (Male, aged 40-59, origin not specified)
- “More games?” (No personal information given)
- “More interactive zone for young children.” (Female, aged 37, from Northern Ireland, in a party of 3).
- “Playtime area.” (Female, aged 14, from Northern Ireland: BT38 8PW)
- “More interactive displays for children perhaps.” (Female, aged 20, from Northern Ireland)
- “More interactive displays.” (Male, aged 30, from Republic of Ireland)
- “No! This is perfect, seriously! The paper thing #Making the future is perfect!!” (Female, aged 17, from France)
- “No. It was great!” (Female, aged 16, from Northern Ireland)
- “Maybe less pictures & more info? It’s great though.” (Female, aged 15, from Northern Ireland)
- “I enjoyed it as it is now.” (Female, aged 6, from Northern Ireland)
- “More needed on 36th Ulster Division.” (Female, aged 236, from Northern Ireland)
- “More staff, more tours, facts sent out in post if people wish or via email so people can be more educated about their history.” (Female, aged 20, from Northern Ireland)
- “More staff. Tours and booklets about each thing please. Otherwise really good.” (Female, aged under 16, from Northern Ireland)
- “A tour guide option would be great.”
- “Yes 1916 (Dublin/Easter) and 1916 Somme separated better it all blended.” (Female, aged 45, from Northern Ireland. Spent 30-60 minutes in exhibition. Rated it “poor”)



## NMNI REMEMBERING 1916 EVENTS PROGRAMME

The *Remembering 1916: Your Stories* exhibition was accompanied by an extensive events programme, delivered in partnership with the Living Legacies First World War Engagement Centre. In addition, the Creative Centenaries' #MakingHistory 1916 exhibition was displayed in the Ulster Museum June – September 2016.

DATE	EVENT	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
05/03/2016	Digital Fabrication Family Day	120
19/03/2016	Digital Fabrication Family Day	125
26/03/2016	Tours (4) of <i>Remembering 1916</i> exhibition	70
02/04/2016	Discover History: Make a Trench Rat	25
06/04/2016	Lecture: Professor Fran Brearton, "Easter 1912, 1914, 1916: Poetry and Sacrifice"	17
12/04/2016	Family History Workshop	8
19/04/2016	Tour of 1916 Gallery	17
22/04/2016	Outreach Visit to Newtownhamilton High School	44
April 2016	1916 Objects in Focus Talks	28
04/05/2016	Lecture: Dr Margaret Ward, "Women, War & Revolution in Ireland"	34
07/05/2016	Discover History: Make a Tank	60
10/05/2016	Family History Workshop	26
11/05/2016	Outreach Visit to Newry Commons Orange Hall	24
14/05/2016	Workshop on 1916 Legacy & Commemoration with Philip Orr & Tom Hartley	25
17/05/2016	Sacred Heart Grammar School WW1 workshops	118
18/05/2016	Outreach visit to County Armagh Community Development Association, Altnaveigh	44
19/05/2016	Workshop & Gallery Tour for Westmont College students, USA	17

May 2016	1916 Objects in Focus Talks	15
01/06/2016	Lecture: Professor Brendan Kelly, "Shock, Shell Shock & the 1916 Easter Rising"	44
03/06/2016	Talk on Jim Maultsaid's diaries	21
03/06/2016	#MakingHistory 1916 gallery tour	10
04/06/2016	Discover History: Make a Trench Rat	24
04/06/2016	Green Screen Workshop	40
05/06/2016	'The Box' – Nurse Olive Swanzy play	36
10/06/2016	#MakingHistory 1916 gallery tour	13
11/06/2016	'The Box' - Nurse Olive Swanzy play	44
12/06/2016	'The Box' - Nurse Olive Swanzy play	50
16/06/2016	Hollywood U3A Tour of <i>Remembering 1916</i> & #MakingHistory1916 exhibitions	13
17/06/2016	#MakingHistory 1916 gallery tour	8
18/06/2016	'The Box' - Nurse Olive Swanzy play	55
18/06/2016	Virtual Reality Workshops	100
19/06/2016	'The Box' - Nurse Olive Swanzy play	93
22/06/2016	Outreach visit to Donacloney (Somme Association)	43
27/06/2016	Outreach visit to Belfast Central Library (WW1 Home Front)	9
June 2016	1916 Objects in Focus Talks	33
02/07/2016	Discover History: Make a Tank	50
02/07/2016	Battle of the Somme Film screening at Ulster Museum	43
03/07/2016	Battle of the Somme Film screening at Picture House, Cultra	63
06/07/2016	Lecture: Dr Tim Bowman, "The Battle of the Somme: Three Armies at War"	62

07/07/2016	Battle of the Somme Film Screening at Ulster Museum	31
07/07/2016	Battle of the Somme Film Screening at Ulster Museum	31
08/07/2016	<i>#MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	9
15/07/2016	Green Screen Workshop	40
15/07/2016	Green Screen Workshop	77
22/07/2016	<i>#MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	19
22/07/2016	Virtual Reality Workshop	122
23/07/2016	Virtual Reality Workshop	84
29/07/2016	<i>Modern History, Remembering 1916 &amp; #MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	32
29/07/2016	Gaming Workshop	24
30/07/2016	Gaming Workshop	8
July 2016	1916 Objects in Focus Talks	28
03/08/2016	Lecture: Dr David Murphy, "War, Risings and Rebellions: the Strategic Context of 1916"	40
05/08/2016	<i>#MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	27
06/08/2016	Animation Workshop	18
06/08/2016	Discover History: WW1 Food	70
12/08/2016	<i>#MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	1
13/08/2016	Tour of <i>Remembering 1916</i> exhibition	21
26/08/2016	<i>#MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	18
August 2016	1916 Objects in Focus Talks	18
Summer 2016	Guided 1916 Home Front tours at UFTM	50
02/09/2016	<i>#MakingHistory 1916</i> gallery tour	46
03/09/2016	Discover History: Make a Tank	22

06/09/2016	Lecture by Kate Adie, "Fighting on the Home Front: the Legacy of Women In WW1"	160
07/09/2016	Lecture: Dr Margaret O'Callaghan, "Roger Casement and his Northern Nationalist Circle"	43
09/09/2016	#MakingHistory 1916 gallery tour	16
10/09/2016	European Heritage Open Day Family History afternoon	240
10/09/2016	Tour of <i>Remembering 1916</i> exhibition	7
11/09/2016	Home Front talk	6
13/09/2016	Tour of 1916 exhibitions for North Down U3A History Group	15
14/09/2016	"Shelter" talk by Anne Tallentire	30
15/09/2016	Imperial War Museum WW1 Centenary Partnership Meeting	44
17/09/2016	Roadshow in Donaghadee	25
17/09/2016	Outreach visit to Rathfriland	83
22/09/2016	Roadshow in Holywood Library	62
September 2016	1916 Objects in Focus talks	32
01/10/2016	Discover History: WW1 Food	40
05/10/2016	Lecture: Professor Mary Daly on commemoration of the Easter Rising	22
05/10/2016	Tour of <i>Remembering 1916</i> exhibition	7
08/10/2016	Roadshow to Portico, Portaferry	28
11/10/2016	Talk to accompany unveiling of two Ulster History Circle blue plaques to WW1 women, Newry	52
12/10/2016	WW1 Drama workshop for 15 year old students from Vechtstede College, Netherlands	47
13/10/2016	WW1 Drama workshop for Year 10 students from Ballymoney High School	34

13/10/2016	Talk to Royal College of Nursing on Irish Female Experience of WW1, focusing particularly on nurses	39
14/10/2016	WW1 Drama workshop for Year 10 students from St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick	28
16/10/2016	Outreach visit & talk on Somme, Newcastle Centre	43
21/10/2016	WW1 Drama workshop for students from Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch	34
21/10/2016	Period Fashion Show at Cultra Manor	74
28–30/10 2016	Kabosh street theatre at the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum (“No News is Good News”)	164
October 2016	1916 Objects in Focus talks	10
02/11/2016	Lecture by Nuala Johnson: “Ireland, the Great War and the Spaces of Remembrance”	31
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,923</b>

In addition, around 50 members of the public attended the following Living Legacies Roadshows:

- Orange Museum on 27 February 2016
- Somme Heritage Centre on 1 July 2016



## EVENT FEEDBACK

### Lecture Series:

- *I have been going to a lot of 1916 events and am learning something at every one. It is all very new to me. Was never really interested until the centenary events this year*
- *This talk has enlightened my interest in the poetry surrounding the 1916 uprising and the contrasts between the English and Irish poets' perspectives*
- *The aspect of stress, shock etc. after the Easter Rising, and war, hasn't been examined much before – a good idea*
- *Learned about different perspectives on the role of women suffragettes in this particular era*
- *I wasn't really aware of the number of other rebellions which occurred in 1916*

### **School Workshops (Teacher Feedback):**

- *Excellent and interesting workshop. Both sessions very useful, in particular the drama. Would like to repeat it*
- *Kids involved the whole time....new knowledge about life during WW1 – soldier and civilian*
- *Group work very engaging*

### **'The Box'**

#### **Nurse Olive Swanzy Play**

A more detailed evaluation of this event was conducted by Kabosh Theatre Company.

#### **Audience Statistics**

Audience capacity: 800 (10 performances with a capacity of 80 per show) Estimated audience: Audiences estimated at 30 per show Actual audience: 313

Below statistics are drawn from returned data capture forms (66 returned, 21%)

Audience Gender: 70% Female 30% Male

Audience Age range Under 18 5% 18 – 25 0% 26 – 50 34% 51 – 65 47%  
Over 65 14%

Geographic spread: Local residents (BT1 – BT13) 40% Visitors to region 60%

Previous Kabosh Audiences:

Had never seen a Kabosh show before 39%

Had seen a Kabosh show before 61%

#### **Audience Feedback**

Audiences unanimously loved The Box with 100% respondents agreeing that they enjoyed the performance (97% stating they really enjoyed the performance) with 100% of audiences saying that found the performance moving. Also all audiences agreed that they found the piece especially interesting in the context of the decade of centenaries.

- *It was fabulous*
- *Thought it was excellent. Actors were very good*
- *Brilliant set - loved the projection of some of the soldiers' work on the brick wall. Really good acting. Liked the last speech, placing Olive and the play in context.*
- *The actors in particular were fabulous. I loved the language also*
- *Spot on. Resonated powerfully with WW1 / Somme.*
- *Emotional wreck after watching the story of Nurse Olive Swanzy @KaboshTheatre @UlsterMuseum Well done all involved!*

31% of audiences reported that the performance had changed their thoughts regarding WWI and the legacy of war, whilst another 63% reported that they found it added to but did not necessarily change their thoughts. 100% of audiences found the performance moving (75% stating it was very moving ) and 100% would consider going to see more

performances like this in similar locations (81% would definitely like to see more of this performance ).

- *I have been to a lot of 1916 centenary events including other Kabosh events and have learned quite a lot I didn't know or think about before.*
- *Not sure it changed my thoughts - it did bring lesser known aspects into focus*
- *Interesting not least in the interaction between the two characters, hinting at deeper feelings... Projecting the autograph pages up on screen helped a lot.*
- *Liked the idea of drama as an integral part of a wider exhibition*

56% of audiences also visited the Creative Centenaries' #MakingHistory 1916 exhibition whilst at the Ulster Museum.



Royal Irish Rifles troops photographed in a communication trench early on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916. © /WM

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

**Partnerships were established or developed with the following individuals and organisations:**

- Living Legacies First World War Engagement Centre
- QUB School of History
- Creative Centenaries
- Imperial War Museum
- The Nerve Centre
- Belfast Somme 100
- Connaught Rangers Research Group
- Easter Rising Commemorative Committee
- Kabosh Theatre Company
- PRONI
- National Museum of Ireland
- CDDA Centre for Data Digitization and Analysis QUB

## **LEARNING POINTS FOR NATIONAL MUSEUMS NORTHERN IRELAND**

- Presenting diverse events and experiences in one exhibition can be controversial but makes a positive contribution to stimulating critical thinking and discussion
- The power of objects cannot be over-estimated, particularly when they communicate human stories
- Connecting the repercussions of an historical period to our current situation and attitudes makes history more immediate, relevant and enlightening for audiences
- Extensive community engagement work has beneficial results, reaching new audiences and enhancing displays and interpretation through community loans
- There is an appetite for more information about and interpretation of the Decade of Centenaries period, which is encouraging for our longer-term programming

# WAR

PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS  
EXECUTED ON THE WESTERN FRONT BY  
MAJOR WILLIAM

## ORPEN



EXHIBITION  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION  
AT  
MESSRS. AGNEW'S GALLERIES

43 OLD BOND STREET PICCADILLY W  
ADMISSION 1/- OPEN 10 TO 6.

Catalogue from an exhibition of the paintings and drawings produced on  
the Western Front by Major William Orpen.  
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