



Press Release

Statement by Irish Prison Service regarding excavation work at Cork Prison to locate the remains of Thomas Kent

Preparation work will begin today, Monday 22nd June 2015, by representatives of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in cooperation with the Irish Prison Service, to locate the mortal remains of Patriot Thomas Kent believed to be interred in a plot within the grounds of Cork prison.

Archaeologists from that Department will initially prepare the target area for the excavation work and this will proceed throughout this week. Subject to locating human remains, DNA samples will be taken for scientific identification verification purposes and until this is confirmed positively no further statement can issue. A period of 6 to 8 weeks will be required by the specialist laboratory, nominated by the State Pathologist's Office, to complete this work.

The Irish Prison Service has been requested by the Kent Family to wait until all results of the DNA testing are issued to the State Pathologist's Office and, in turn, to the Kent Family before any further statement can be made in relation to this important issue and the Irish Prisons Service will honour this request faithfully.

The Kent Family liaison representative has asked that all media cooperate in this regard and has assured that a full and comprehensive statement will issue at that time.

Ends

Monday 22nd June 2015