



# MUSEUM

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National Museum of Ireland Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

28 August 2007

Dear Mr Blanch,

Thank you for your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> July to the Director, Dr Wallace, which he has asked me to respond to. The Museum is about to embark on a number of major capital projects to be funded under the National Development Plan which include the redevelopment of the Natural History Museum and the Phase II development of the Collins Barracks site which will involve the construction of a new central block to take a number of key new exhibitions as well as the building of a pavilion to house the *Asgard* which is currently undergoing conservation at the Museum. While the development of an exhibition specifically devoted to the Famine is not among these plans, one of the key exhibitions in the Central Block will be a gallery devoted to the social and economic history of Ireland from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day and it is intended that the Famine will feature as part of this. It is difficult at this early stage to be certain of when the exhibition will open as construction work has yet to begin but we estimate that the new galleries in the Central Block will open sometime in 2010. As the exhibition concept develops we will begin to think about what material is required to illustrate this important event in our history and we would appreciate any suggestions you might have in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Ragnall Ó Floinn

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