

# Easter Sunday State Ceremonial Commemoration at the GPO and Parade in Dublin

27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

This event was attended by President Michael D. Higgins and was the principal Easter Sunday State Commemoration Ceremony and Parade to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. The ceremony began with a reading of the 1916 Proclamation under the GPO Portico. The President then laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Ireland, followed by a minute's silence. The National Flag on top of the GPO was raised and the ceremony concluded with the playing of the National Anthem and an Air Corps flypast.

The Parade followed the wreath laying ceremony and the participants included the Defence Forces with full military parade, including a UN peace-keeping element as well as representatives of An Garda Síochána and other State Emergency Services.

The State Ceremonial event took place at the GPO on O'Connell Street.

The Parade commenced at St. Stephen's Green and travelled via Cuffe Street, Kevin Street, Patrick Street, Thomas Street, Parliament Street, Dame Street, Westmoreland Street past the GPO on O'Connell Street, North Frederick Street, Dorset Street and finished on Bolton Street.

This was the main public event of Easter Sunday, but certain restrictions were in place for public safety reasons.

5,000 relatives of 1916 participants registered on the Department of Defence database received invitations to the parade on Easter Sunday. A further 1,000 invitations issued to the following categories – elected representatives (TDs, Senators, MEPs), Northern Ireland Representatives, members of the Judiciary, the Diplomatic Corps, Council of State, Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations, Local Authorities, Faith Organisations, Senior Defence Forces Personnel (including Veteran Organisations), An Garda Síochána, Public Service, Workers and Employers Representatives, Media, Dublin Business Community, international invitees (those with close links to Ireland), Sporting and Cultural Organisations and others from across the spectrum of Irish life.

There were large public viewing screens placed along the Parade route. The event was broadcast live on RTÉ One, RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ News Now, RTÉ.ie and RTÉ Player.

In addition, overflow areas at St. Stephen's Green, Merrion Square, Trinity College, King's Inns (Broadstone) and Smithfield were provided with large viewing screens.

*The Easter Sunday Commemoration brochure is available [here](#) and a hard copy of the brochure is available by contacting [protocol@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:protocol@taoiseach.gov.ie).*