



12th April, 2023

EIRCODE V94 EH90

TO : THE MAYOR AND EACH MEMBER OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

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**Re : Visit to Huy, Belgium to access site that has been identified as the likely place of Patrick Sarsfield's burial in the quest to repatriate his remains back to Limerick
30th May – 1st June 2023**

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

An invitation has been received by the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick from the Consul Honoraire de France to accompany him to access the site that has been identified as the likely place of Patrick Sarsfield's burial in the quest to repatriate his remains back to Limerick. They will be accompanied by the Director of Aegis Archaeology Limited from 30th May – 1st June, 2023.

Extensive research has been undertaken by the Consul Honoraire de France Mr. Loic Guyon, on General Patrick Sarsfield's life following the siege of Limerick which has led to an ambitious project to locate and repatriate the remains of Patrick Sarsfield.

Patrick Sarsfield was fatally wounded at the battle of Neerwinden, near Huy, Belgium in July 1693 but his exact burial place has remained unknown since that time. Following extensive research, supported by Limerick City and County Council, the French Ministry of Defence Archives and the Huy City Historical Records, identified that the possible location of Sarsfield's remains could be near the site of St. Martin's Church in Huy according to records.

The site of the Church and burial ground is now a residential area and has been purchased by Huy City Council. They granted permission for an archaeological dig to be conducted to secure DNA samples for genetic testing with descendants of Patrick Sarsfield to establish identification. If DNA sampling establishes the remains in Huy are those of Patrick Sarsfield then the repatriation of his remains to Limerick can begin. The purpose of this visit is to access this site.

The Council is proposing to send Councillor Francis Foley, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick, to Huy 30th May – 1st June, 2023.

In accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, the approval of the Council is hereby sought for this proposed visit to Huy with an estimated cost (flights and hotel accommodation) of €700.00.

Is mise le meas,


Laura Flannery
Senior Executive Officer
Corporate Services, Governance & Customer Services