

FAQs

Governance

1. Who will fund the long-term day-to-day operations of the museum?

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd has been developed within a sustainable business model to ensure long-term stability. In addition to core income generation, the museum will also be subsidised by grants, such as those from the Army Ogilby Trust (Charity Number 1195441).

2. How is the new museum managed?

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd has been established as a charitable company limited by guarantee (Charity Number 110074). This Board of Trustees will be responsible for the development and subsequent management of the new museum. A second charitable company limited by guarantee has been established to hold the collections in trust, **UNTOLD: The Collections & Archives** (Charity Number 110361). The collections Board will manage the consolidated archives, and will loan artefacts to UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd. A service level agreement will outline the roles and responsibilities

3. What about the museums in Armagh and Enniskillen?

The consolidation of the regimental museums and collections in Northern Ireland is driven by the need for sustainability, and for the first time will bring together six collections: The Inniskillings Museum, The Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum, The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum, The Royal Irish Regiment Museum, and the collections of the North Irish Horse and The Royal Irish Regiment. The collections are being consolidated under a new charity UNTOLD: The Collections & Archives.

This is an ongoing process and will be completed by 2027. The North Irish Horse collection and The Royal Irish Regiment Museum have already undergone transition of care, and The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum collection is currently being reviewed prior to transfer.

The Enniskillen galleries will be retained, and once Belfast opens in 2027, will be redeveloped to reflect the new museum brand. The Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum collection will relocate to Belfast and Enniskillen.

4. Will the new museum be Accredited?

Yes, the new museum will initially work towards accreditation. Full accreditation will be sought once the museum opens to the public.

5. Is our money going towards this?

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd is heavily involved in fundraising for the delivery of the new museum and operates independently of The Royal Irish Regiment Benevolent Fund and The Royal Irish Regiment Charity. As such, it does not utilise funds from the 'Days Pay' Scheme or regimental charitable funds.

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd has been established on a robust business case and will develop diverse income streams to ensure organisational sustainability. For example, events, talks, dining and conference facilities and a museum shop.

6. When will the Belfast galleries open?

Development of such an ambitious project takes time to ensure it is delivered to the highest standard, and predicted opening is summer 2027. Keep up to date with key project milestones on our website and social media platforms. If you would like to speak to a member of the museum team or Museum Board, please contact Dr Laura Patrick at project-manager@royal-irish.com.

7. Pricing, will there be discounts for veterans, etc.?

To ensure organisational sustainability, UNTOLD will charge an admission fee. However, the Museum Board will develop a pricing structure over the next year which will provide appropriate discounts for eligible visitors, i.e. veterans, students, 65+, and flexible pricing for families. Affordability for all is important to the Trustees.

8. Is this just a gateway for recruitment?

UNTOLD: The Museum Ltd is established as a charitable company with two charitable objectives: preservation and conservation of heritage and advancement of education. The museum will not act as a recruitment vehicle. Full detail on UNTOLD's charitable objectives can be found here: [Charity Details | The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland](#)

9. Can I donate family items to the new museum?

The donation of all artefacts and stories are welcomed by the new museum and will be held in trust by the charity UNTOLD: The Collections & Archives. The charitable objects of this trust are the conservation and preservation of heritage and the advancement of education. The Board work to the highest museum standards to ensure the long-term care of all collections and archives.

The Experience

1. Will this just be another boring museum?

UNTOLD Stories of the Irish in the British Army will be designed with people for people. In adopting a co-design approach with community and education groups, the team will make sure the museum is an immersive experience, with something for everyone.

2. Will the Ulster Defence Regiment story be told?

Yes. The Ulster Defence Regiment are a foundation regiment for the modern The Royal Irish Regiment Museum, existing for 22 years, and their story will be told.

3. Will this just be another Brit museum?

The story of the Irish in the British Army stretches back to the 17th century and is an all-island and all-community story. 40% of Queen Victoria's army was recruited from Ireland, and during The Second World War, 80,000 men and women volunteered to fight. This is a complex story which will be explored against significant social upheaval and development over the last 350 years: it will shine a light on the experiences of the Irish men and women who have served in all capacities in the British Army.

4. Is this just another male dominated, military museum?

An army does not exist in isolation, and UNTOLD will not only explore all those who serve in the army, medics, photographers, and civilian staff, but also the families and communities that support it. New research will shine a light on the experiences of wives and mothers, communities devastated by lost during The Great War and The Second World War, and critically, the experiences of females who serve and who have served.

5. This isn't my heritage.

UNTOLD has been created to increase access to a rich shared heritage, which spans five centuries and is all-island and all-communities. New galleries and resources do not seek to change opinion by decree, but to offer an inclusive space where discussion and debate is encouraged. UNTOLD seeks to examine the wealth of lived experiences that exist in society and explore the reality of layered narratives.

Nineteenth century rural Ireland was producing strong men who were suited to the army and as a result recruiting sergeants were sent here to swell the units of the British Army. But this came at a cost. Of an estimated 30,000 Irish troops in the Boer ten percent were killed. Because of that sacrifice Queen Victoria and the British government approved a new regiment -The Irish Guards – with soldiers granted privilege of wearing shamrock on St Patrick's Day – a tradition which remains to this day.

6. Whose story will you tell?

UNTOLD will tell the story of all those from the island of Ireland who have served in the British Army, their families and communities. The museum will also highlight the contributions of individuals from across the Commonwealth who have served in Irish Regiments, offering a broader perspective on this shared history.

7. Is this a 'Troubles' museum?

While the experiences of the 'Troubles' will be explored within UNTOLD, this is not a 'Troubles' museum. The heritage encompassed within the UNTOLD project spans five centuries and will focus on the all-island story of the Irish in the British Army.

8. Will this tell the Somme story?

Yes, the regimental collections being consolidated as part of the UNTOLD project include the Somme story. Soldiers from the regiments served in both the 16th (Irish) Division and 36th (Ulster) Division at the Somme, and their stories will be told. Four of the nine Victoria Crosses awarded on 1 July are held in the UNTOLD collections. Find out more here: [Battle Honour 'SOMME 1916,'18'. | Royal Irish - Virtual Military Gallery](#)

9. Is this all-island?

Yes. The British Army began recruiting in Ireland from the 17th Century onwards, and the experiences of those from across the island will be explored within new museum galleries and comprehensive online resources.

10. Why would we want a museum that commemorates 700 years of foreign occupation?

The history of the island of Ireland is complex, with layered narratives and a wealth of lived experiences. While other museums address these complexities, UNTOLD will focus on the experience of the Irish in the British Army, shedding light on this often overlooked aspect of Irish history.

11. Why are you trying to take our heritage...I'm not Irish?

Whilst we appreciate the complex nature of identity in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, this shared heritage predates the formal creation of two new states in 1922. For the new museum to appeal to the widest audience base, helping ensure sustainability, extensive research predated the creation of the brand **UNTOLD Stories of the Irish in the British Army**. This title proved popular and allows us to address a wide range of topics, such as, 'Irish Regiments', 'Irish Rangers', etc., therefore telling your story.

12. Why would you want to glorify war?

For society to progress, it is crucial to understand the mistakes of the past, ensuring we do not repeat the same patterns in the future. UNTOLD will not seek to glorify war; instead, it will delve into the social, economic and political drivers behind war, while highlighting the personal experiences of those who served. Through these stories, UNTOLD aims to foster reflection, understanding and engagement with the complexities of war and its lasting impact on individuals and communities.

13. Why would you want to glorify colonisation and empire?

To understand where we are going, we must acknowledge where we have been. UNTOLD will not glorify colonization and empire; instead, it will critically examine the actions of those involved, placing their experiences within the broader social, political, and historical contexts of their time.

14. How will you reflect ethnic minority stories?

Working with local ethnic minority communities, UNTOLD seeks to create layered narratives within the museum to present a range of experiences and interpretations in respect to artefacts, battles and wars. Through this collaboration, UNTOLD will provide a more inclusive and comprehensive exploration of history.

15. Will it be dual language?

Yes, all displays will be in English and Irish, and leaflets/audio guides will be available for a range of further languages.

Access

1. Can I bring my children

Yes, the new museum galleries will be designed for all ages and will be accessible for families.

2. Will there be a café?

Yes, there will be an onsite café.

3. Will there be school visits and tours?

Yes, an extensive education programme will be established in partnership with formal and informal education groups. This collaborative approach will ensure that the offering is tailored to meet curriculum requirements, while also aligning with the needs and interests of visitors.

4. Is there parking at the Belfast museum?

While there is no dedicated parking at the Belfast galleries, on-street parking is available, along with several nearby multi-story car parks. No. 28 Bedford Street is just a 5-minute walk from the bus terminal at Belfast City Hall, and a 10 minute walk from Grand Central Station. Bus drop-off is available directly at the front of the building for convenience.

5. Will there be public consultation?

Yes, over the next two years, the museum team will be working with volunteers, community groups and education groups to design the new galleries in Belfast. Public consultation will be an integral part of this process, with opportunities for input through workshops, events, and a travelling exhibition, ensuring UNTOLD reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of the community.

6. Will it be accessible and accommodate neuro-diverse visitors?

Yes, all spaces will be fully accessible for all, and the project team will work closely with an accessibility consultant to ensure best practice is followed. Additionally, the new spaces will undergo thorough checks and adjustments to ensure they are fully accessible and ready for public use before opening. The

needs of neurodiverse visitors will be carefully considered to create an inclusive environment for all.

7. Opening hours

Opening hours will be determined by the management team over the next year, however, ideally the museum would be open 10am – 5pm Monday to Saturday, with the possibility of Sunday opening to be considered based on demand.

8. Where can I learn more about it?

To keep up to date on project progress and events/workshops, keep an eye on our website and social media platforms (insert links).

9. How can I get involved with development design?

If you would like to get involved in the development of the museum, please contact Dr Laura Patrick at project-manager@royal-irish.com.