



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Digital, Culture, Media
and Sport
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms

Mr Christopher O'Mahony
President, CCCBR
3 The Foss
Grove Hill
Harrow on the Hill
HA1 3HF

TO2018/15557/DC
22 November 2018

Dear Mr O'Mahony

ARMISTICE COMMEMORATIONS - 11 NOVEMBER 2018

I am writing to thank and congratulate the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers for supporting the commemorations of the Centenary of the Armistice which signalled the end of the First World War.

As you know, Sunday 11 November 2018 was the culmination of Her Majesty's Government's four-year programme commemorating the Centenary of the First World War and our ambition was for as many bells as possible to ring out, across the UK and globally, as part of our plans to mark this historic moment.

I was therefore delighted and enormously moved that, at 12.30pm that day as 10,000 members of the public processed past the Cenotaph in thanksgiving, bells rang out, not just in the immediate vicinity of the Cenotaph, but across the entire length and breadth of the country and indeed around the world. This was a highly symbolic moment and one which replicated the outpouring of relief which would have greeted the news of the Armistice one hundred years ago. I was delighted to learn that in excess of 2,500 bell ringing events were listed on the government's online Armistice events map and it is very likely that the number of actual bell ringing events that actually took place was even higher.

The CCCBR's efforts to encourage bell ringing to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice, supported by your work on the 'Ringing Remembers' project, and the efforts of the many thousands of bell ringers themselves that day is recognised and appreciated. I hope you and the many bell ringers who participated will reflect with pride on the role you played.

I am copying this letter to Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth at the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government.

Yours sincerely

Henry Ashton

Lord Ashton of Hyde
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport