Heritage Council launches survey on impact of Covid 19 on heritage sector

The Heritage Council today launched a survey on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the heritage sector.

In keeping with other sectors of society, the heritage sector has faced closures, job losses, delays and increased home working. Some heritage sites have seen increased pressure from visitor numbers and many organisations have been busy developing new online content for those engaged in home schooling or cocooned.

This survey attempts to quantify the impact of this on community groups, specialised businesses, visitor sites and organisations. The Heritage Council anticipates that the findings of this will help advise government about supports for the sector.

The survey was devised after examining equivalent surveys carried out in Ireland and the UK and was tested by a leading marketing research company.

Commenting today the Heritage Council CEO Virginia Teehan stated that:

“This crisis affects us all, our families, our friends and our colleagues, we have all felt anxiety or fear and the discomfort as we experience a rapidly changing world. At the Heritage Council we are acutely aware also of the impact of Covid-19 on our sector, as part of the wider economy and society.

So the question that we are asking you is: “How can we survive this crisis, and indeed possibly thrive in the future?

In short, how can we survive this crisis, and ensure that our heritage assets and organisations are able to thrive in the future?

“We urge our partners within the wide heritage sector to complete this survey, so as to give us a full picture of the impact of the Covid 19 restrictions on heritage practitioners, communities and organisations. While we know of innovative responses to this unprecedented situation we also know of the strain it has caused. We hope this this survey will provide an evidence base to allow us to develop responses to help the sector.”

The findings from this will be published and presented to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.


Note

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Note to Editors:

About the Heritage Council: The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995 with responsibility to propose polices and priorities for the national heritage. It works in co-operation with a range of agencies, communities and individuals to promote education, enjoyment and understanding of our national heritage. For further information, visit: www.heritagecouncil.ie.

The Covid 19 survey is available https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/news-features/heritage-sector-survey and asks a series of questions on heritage areas, size of organisation or group, the challenges and impacts faced in the current crisis and seeks to identify any opportunities that may exist.