

## FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATION - ART LOANS

### Executive summary

1. This Paper seeks the SPCB's views and approval for the temporary display of two loaned works of art in the Main Hall from Wednesday 1 to Thursday 30 October 2014.

### Issues and Options

2. PoppyScotland are requesting a public display area for a sculpture they plan to auction as part of their fundraising campaign during First World War commemorative activities. Their annual event in the Parliament will take place on Wednesday 29 October.
3. Titled 'France 1914' and made by sculptor Simon Burns-Cox to commemorate the First World War, the 6 feet tall sculpture takes the form of a tree and is made from Italian marble. It is inspired by the bare bones of trees on First World War battlefields after shelling and bombing (**Annex A**).
4. The second work is by glass artist Alison Kinnaird and is titled 'Unknown'. It comprises 52 glass figures, mainly of soldiers displayed as if in ranks, and a few civilians (**Annex B**). Although the artwork is not specifically about the First World War its display would be promoted in conjunction with the start of activities to commemorate the War. While the artwork has been publicly displayed in Edinburgh already, it is proposed that the Parliament would launch its tour in 2014-5 to a number of museums and visitor centres around Scotland.
5. From Tuesday 11 November onwards the 'John Bellany/Dr Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's Hospitals' exhibition will be on public display in the Main Hall as a key part of the Parliament's commemoration of the First World War. The display of these two artworks the preceding month offers the Parliament an opportunity to support the PoppyScotland event on Wednesday 29 October and additional opportunities to engage with the public on remembering the impact of the First World War in advance of the Bellany exhibition.

### Media approach

6. The auction will provide a positive news and social media opportunity for PoppyScotland, with the Parliament most likely mentioned within. A comprehensive communications campaign to promote the 'John Bellany/Dr Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Women's Hospitals' exhibition will be developed and delivered by the Parliament's Media Relations Team.

### **Resource Implications**

7. The costs to the SPCB for display and transport of the Alison Kinnaird artwork would be less than £1,000 which can be met from budgets already allocated to the exhibition and conservation sundries budgets.

### **Governance issues**

8. Loan agreements would be arranged between the SPCB and the lenders to cover indemnity and arrangements for display, transport, copyright and publicity.

### **Publication Scheme**

9. This Paper can be publicised once the loans have been publicly announced, on the basis that other display venues listed should be redacted so its publication does not impact on publicity by other venues.

### **Next steps**

10. The Events and Exhibitions Team will progress display and promotion with the artists, PoppyScotland and Media Relations Office.

### **Decision**

11. The SPCB is asked to consider this Paper and to approve the use of the Main Hall for the display of these loaned artworks.

**EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS TEAM**

March 2014





