

Impasse on museum Childers road closed investigation

The Hunt Museum.



THE lack of an intermediary arts body to act between the interests of the State and museum practitioners has been criticised by Virginia Teehan, director of the Hunt Museum.

Ms Teehan was voicing her disappointment that the investigation into claims by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre that part of the museum's collection was looted by the

Nazis, is being delayed due to a funding row.

Stressing that the museum is fully committed to co-operating with the commission in its investigation into the claims following a directive from Arts Minister, John O'Donoghue last February, she expressed optimism for an early outcome to the investigation.

Minister O'Donoghue declined

to fund the investigation following claims by the Wiesenthal Centre that John and Gertrude Hunt had "intimate business relationships with notorious dealers in art looted by the Nazis".

The museum had originally planned to finance the investigation but the commission deemed this inappropriate and the Minister also ruled out State funding as "inappropriate".

A commission chaired by retired supreme Court judge, Mr Justice Donal Barrington was set up by the museum but a conflict of interest has since arisen regarding funding.

Now an impasse has been reached with unconfirmed reports that the Royal Irish Academy will provide the required funding and the Minister stating that he has no statutory responsibility for the Hunt Museum and that it must fund its own inquiry.

LIMERICK City Council has promised that roadworks on Childers Road which commenced last week will be completed in less than two weeks.

Emergency work on the road is extensive and will continue until September 1, before the city schools reopen.

"We have been monitoring the situation for a number of months and we found that the surface of the Tipperary road roundabout had got progressively worse," informed John O'Shaughnessy of the Council's engineering department.

Traffic diversions at Ballysimon roundabout and Childers Road are in place for the next two weeks and some sections of the Childers Road will be closed to traffic to facilitate the work including a stretch from the Parkway roundabout and from the Kilmallock road roundabout to the Ballysimon Road roundabout.

Mr O'Shaughnessy said that the Ballysimon roundabout itself will not be closed to traffic for the duration of the road works.

Traffic delays during peak periods are expected at Ballysimon for the duration of the roadwork but the level of

disruption has been kept to a minimum according to Mr O'Shaughnessy.

Residential and commercial access will be

available to residents and businesses on Childers Road between Ballysimon roundabout and the Parkway roundabout.



Roadworks continue on Childers Road.

Job-losses fears grow at Airport

THE very future of Shannon Airport is now under severe threat in the wake of the Aer Lingus decision to seek 1,300 job cuts, the Limerick branch of Republican Sinn Féin said this week.

RSF vice-president Des Long from Corbally, said that coupled with the new legislation to break up Aer Rianta, the airline's attitude towards Shannon spelled "a potential disaster for the airport".

"While no one objects to change and improved standards and services, the fact is all this is uncharted waters for Shannon Airport," said Mr Long.

"Shannon is much more than just a commercial airport. It is a vital economic centre for the west from Limerick to Galway and it must be supported by national policy."

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