

## SOURCE 8

**Letter from the Ministry of Information about government paintings and exhibitions, September 1918**

**(PRO ref: T 1/12216/34453)**

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### **HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :**

Look carefully at this source and consider what it tells you about the aims, methods or effectiveness of government propaganda. You should consider:

### **ASK YOURSELF:**

- Why was the British government commissioning paintings?
- Does it suggest British propaganda is well organised?
- Does it suggest that British propaganda is reaching a wide audience?

## SOURCE 8

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Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Information to refer to your letter of the 24th ult. <sup>(29010/18)</sup> on the subject of his proposals relating to the acquiring of pictures for the purposes of propaganda.

The commissioning of pictures for purposes of reproduction and of exhibition was instituted in the early days of official propaganda in this country, and successful exhibitions have been given in the leading cities and towns of Great Britain of the work of Muirhead Bone, Francis Dodd and James McBey. An exhibition of the paintings of William Orpen, which were commissioned by this Ministry, was recently held at the Agnew Galleries. These pictures are now being exhibited at Manchester, and together with other paintings which are being borrowed from various sources, they will shortly be sent out to America for exhibition in New York, Washington, Boston and other important centres.