From:

John Treacy <

Sent:

19 March 2019 15:19

To:

**HOGAN Peter** 

Cc:

Paul McDermott; Colm McGinty; SPRATT Ken; GRIFFIN Betty

Subject:

RE: FAI

Dear Peter,

A letter has issued to the FAI this afternoon seeking clarification as to the matters raised by Minister Ross.

Regards, John

From: HOGAN Peter [mailto:PeterHogan@dttas.gov.ie]

Sent: 19 March 2019 11:44

To: John Treacy

Cc: Paul McDermott; Colm McGinty; SPRATT Ken; GRIFFIN Betty

Subject: FAI

Dear John

As per our conversation earlier, please see attached letter with respect to the Football Association of Ireland.

With kind regards,

## Peter Hogan

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

# An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60 Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T+353 (0)1 604 1631

Peterhogan@dttas.gov.ie www.dttas.gov.ie

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

Tá ár Ráiteas Príobháideachta le fáil ar www.dttas.gov.ie

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Mr. John Treacy
CEO
Sport Ireland
The Courtyard
Sport Ireland National Sports Campus
Snugborough Road
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 - D15 PN0N

19 March 2019

Dear John,

I am writing to you in relation to the recent media reports concerning a loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by its Chief Executive, Mr John Delaney, in 2017.

Minister Ross has noted these reports with concern, and has asked me to request Sport Ireland to seek clarification from the Board of the FAI as to the circumstances of this Ioan and its repayment. We would be grateful if you could prepare an information note for the Minister as and when such clarification is received from the FAI Board.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hogan Principal Officer From: John Treacy <

**Sent:** Monday 25 March 2019 11:10

To: SPRATT Ken
Cc: HOGAN Peter
Subject: FW: Letters

Attachments: Letter from FAI President 20.03.2019.pdf; Letter to FAI President re Loan & T&Cs

19.03.2019.pdf

Ken,

Please see attached our letter to the FAI and their reply.

I would appreciate of you would bring these letters to the Ministers attention.

Regards,

John

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Mr. Donal Conway President FAI National Sports Campus Dublin 15

19 March 2019

Re: Chief Executive Loan to FAI - URGENT

Dear Mr. Conway,

I am writing to you in relation to recent media reports concerning a loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by your Chief Executive, Mr. John Delaney, in 2017.

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD has noted these reports with concern, and has asked Sport Ireland to request clarification from the Board of the FAI as to the circumstances of this loan and its repayment. In so doing, I also refer you to the 'Terms and Conditions of Sport Ireland Grant Approval', which the FAI signed in 2017, and agreed to be bound by. Clauses 4.2 & 4.3 are as follows:

- 4.2 Each organisation must provide to Sport Ireland, forthwith on Sport Ireland's request at any time during or after the period to which the grant funding relates, such information and documentation as Sport Ireland may reasonably require to satisfy itself as to the viability and sustainability of the organisation's overall financial position.
- 4.3 In addition, each organisation undertakes to notify Sport Ireland in writing without delay in the event of any material deterioration in its financial position or of any other matter which may jeopardise the organisation's overall financial viability and/or its ability to comply with its commitments in the Approved Submission, and thereafter to provide Sport Ireland with such information and documentation as Sport Ireland may request in connection with the relevant matter and any steps being taken to rectify it.

I note that Sport Ireland were not notified at any stage in 2017 about any apparent deterioration in the FAI's financial position. In view of the recent reports, I would welcome an explanation on this matter.

As this matter is urgent, I would be grateful to receive your response as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc. John Delaney, Chief Executive, FAI



Mr John Treacy
Sport Ireland
The Courtyard
Sport Ireland National Sports Campus
Snugborough Road
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15
By Email: AMaher@sportireland.ie

20 March 2019

Re: Chief Executive Loan to FAI

Dear Mr. Treacy

Thank you for your letter of the 19 March relating to recent media reports regarding the above referenced matter.

As you may be aware the FAI have confirmed by way of a press release that the CEO did make a short term loan to the FAI in April 2017. I confirm that the amount was €100,000 and that this exact amount was repaid in full to the CEO less than 8 weeks later.

In relation to the Terms and Conditions of Sport Ireland Grant Approval to which you refer I confirm the following:

- 4.2 The Association has always provided such information and documentation as requested by Sport Ireland in compliance with this clause
- 4.3 The FAI did not consider the very short term loan as representing a material deterioration in its financial position or that it jeopardised the organisation's overall financial viability and/or its ability to comply with its commitments in the Approved Submission. It was, as I have said, a very short term cash flow issue that was resolved in less than 8 weeks.

Our overall financial position in 2017 resulted in a surplus of €2,750,000 on a turnover of €49,000,000 and we expect 2018 audited accounts to demonstrate a surplus also which will be the 10<sup>th</sup> surplus in a row. This confirms the strong financial position of the organisation. Furthermore we are also currently negotiating centralised TV rights with UEFA which will further strengthen our long term financial position.

Arising from an omission in the completion of our 2017 accounts this short term loan was not disclosed and we confirm that we have today written to the Office of the Director of Corporate













Hat onal Sports Cambus, Abbotstown, Dubin 15 7: +353 1 899 9500 Pt. 1350 1 699 9501 info@faile www.tfaile

Enforcement notifying him appropriately. We have assured the Director that we are reviewing our processes to ensure that such omissions will not occur in the future.

I trust that the foregoing allays any concerns you may have. However, if you would like to meet the Association to discuss this matter I would be most happy to arrange to do so immediately following the second of our European Qualifying Matches on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.

Yours sincerely formal Country

Donal Conway FAI President









From: John Treacy <

**Sent:** Monday 25 March 2019 15:48

To: SPRATT Ken

Cc: HOGAN Peter

Subject: FW: Signed Letter

Attachments: Letter 2 to FAI President re Loan 25.03.2019\_FINAL.pdf

Ken,

Please see attached letter issued this afternoon.

Thanks.

John

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Mr. Donal Conway President FAI National Sports Campus Dublin 15

25 March 2019

Re: €100,000 Loan to FAI by CEO - URGENT

Dear Mr. Conway,

Thank you for your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 regarding a €100,000 loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by your CEO, Mr. John Delaney, in 2017.

You are aware that the Minister for Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD has conveyed his concern with regard to media reports of this loan and has asked Sport Ireland to seek clarification from the Board of the FAI as to the circumstances of the loan and its repayment. Sport Ireland has also sought an explanation from the Board of the FAI on this matter with specific reference to the 'Terms and Conditions of Sport Ireland Grant Approval'.

The contents of your letter do not sufficiently explain the circumstances of this loan and its repayment. More detail is also required in order for Sport Ireland to assess compliance with the Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval.

As you will be aware, by March 2017 Sport Ireland had already provided the FAI with 50% of its Field Sport Grant (of over €1.35m) to fund the programme up to the end of June. You will also be aware that Sport Ireland, has always demonstrated a flexibility and willingness to facilitate the FAI (and other National Governing Bodies of sport) with early drawdowns of funding where possible and feasible to do so.

In light of these factors, the circumstances which gave rise to the situation where immediate funding was needed by the FAI in April 2017 is not clear. Could you further clarify these circumstances?

In light of recent developments, Sport Ireland also seeks re-confirmation that all state funding provided to the FAI has been spent for the purposes intended and in accordance with approved submissions.

In the interests of providing clarification to the Minister, and assuring Sport Ireland on compliance with the Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval, I would be grateful for the FAI Board's full and detailed response to each item raised above. Given Sport Ireland's significant annual grant to the FAI, I would also be grateful to be fully appraised of any other significant issues that may arise or are likely to arise, including key risks and actions proposed to manage them, in a timely manner.

As this matter is urgent, I would be grateful for your Board's immediate attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc. Rea Walshe, Interim CEO, FAI

From: Cian Spillane <

**Sent:** 26 March 2019 14:38

**To:** FERRIS Mary

**Cc:** David Gash; Anne McCarthy

**Subject:** Topical Issue FAI

Mary,

Please see below as requested. Let me know if you need anything additional.

# **Topical Issue FAI**

The Board of Sport Ireland approved the 2019 allocation of €2,565,410 to the FAI through the Field Sports Programme at their meeting in March. The Board also approved funding of €22,500 in relation to Cerebral Palsy football.

Sport Ireland's investment in the FAI is broadly aimed at encouraging and creating more opportunities for young people to participate in soccer across Ireland. Programmes are based on a shared ethos of developing the grassroots of the games, growing participation numbers, improving standards and embracing communities outside of the traditional base of the sport.

It is important to note that Sport Ireland's grant goes towards technical department staff costs only (Development Officers / National Coordinators / Programme specific admins) and <u>does not include any other salaries. E.g. High Performance salaries or salaries for those working in the Professional game.</u>

50% (€1,282,704) of the Field Sport Programme funding has been paid to date in 2019. There are other funding streams for decision in the coming months (Women in Sport, Women's National Team, Dormant Accounts). No payments or allocations have been made under these schemes.

# Kind Regards,

## Cian Spillane

Risk and Compliance Executive

Sport Ireland | The Courtyard | Sport Ireland National Sports Campus | Snugborough Road | Blanchardstown | Dublin 15| D15 PN0N



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From: David Gash <

**Sent:** 28 March 2019 14:32

To: GRIFFIN Betty
Cc: FERRIS Mary
Subject: Governance Code

Attachments: PQ 6660

Hi Betty,

Please see attached – I will call you about this shortly.

Many thanks,

David

David Gash - Communications Manager



## \*Please note the new Sport Ireland address\*

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(T) +353

(M) <u>+353</u>

(E)

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## **About Sport Ireland**

Sport Ireland brings together the Irish Sports Council, National Sports Campus Development Authority, Irish Institute of Sport and Coaching Ireland to form a new, streamlined and dynamic body to drive the future of Irish sport.

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From: David Gash <

**Sent:** 26 February 2019 15:57 **To:** Catherine Murphy

Cc: PQrequests
Subject: PQ 6660

Dear Deputy Murphy,

My name is David Gash; I am the official of Sport Ireland responsible for directly answering questions from the members of the Oireachtas.

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Questions to the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport (Ref 6660/19, Tuesday 12th February, 2019), regarding the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector.

To ask the Minister for Transport; Tourism and Sport the progress made to date on implementing the governance code of community, voluntary and charitable organisations in the context of sports bodies; the engagement he has had with an association (details supplied) in respect of same in 2018 and to date in 2019; if he has had engagements with Sports Ireland in the context of withholding funding to bodies that fail to subscribe to the code; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: the football association of Ireland

The Minister has asked Sport Ireland to respond to you directly on this matter, specifically in relation to progress made by supported sporting bodies in implementing the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charity Sector.

## **Governance Code Adoption**

As stated by the Minister, Action 31 of the National Sports Policy 2018-2027 deals with the adoption of the Code by all Sport Ireland recognised National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships by the end of 2021. This action also deals with Sport Ireland identifying and putting in place the training and supports needed by the different organisations to assist with the adoption process.

Adoption of the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland is a self-certification process, with each organisation responsible for their own progress and adoption journey. Sport Ireland reviews the progress of funded bodies on the adoption journey on a quarterly basis, based on information obtained through the Governance Code registry (<a href="https://www.governancecode.ie/registry.html">https://www.governancecode.ie/registry.html</a>).

The information below is correct as of most recent quarterly report (31st December, 2018).

# **Fully Adopted:**

18 Sport Ireland supported bodies

- 14 NGBs
- 3 LSPs
- 1 Other

## On the Journey:

62 Sport Ireland supported bodies

- 48 NGBs
- 6 LSPs
- 8 Other

(Source: http://www.governancecode.ie/registry.html)

## **Supports**

Through its Organisational Development & Change Unit, Sport Ireland continues to support NGBs in building the Governance capability in their organisations.

During 2018 many Sport Ireland funded organisations attended a range of our free sector-wide training events in Governance related areas of Cyber Security, Risk Management, Understanding the Governance Code, Data Protection and Good Governance Principles.

A number of organisations also availed of Sport Ireland's free in-house Governance training for Board members in the areas of roles, responsibilities and governance best practice for Boards.

Sport Ireland offers a free of charge E-Learning programme that supports organisations who are adopting the Governance Code. This programme has been developed by the Carmichael Centre and features a range of governance training modules. In addition, it also includes access to a large number of templates for a range of the required organisational documents and policies referred to in the Code.

The comprehensive range of customisable templates combined with the ability to receive advice on the tailoring of these templates through Sport Ireland's free Governance Advisory service, is of great assistance to organisations on their adoption journey in advance of the 2021 deadline as laid out in the National Sports Policy 2018-2027.

Sport Ireland's Organisational Development & Change Unit will continue to build the Governance capability in the sector over Q1 and in to Q2 2019. The following services will continue to be provided free of charge in that regard –

- Governance and Risk Management Classroom based training for employees and board members
- In house governance training for Board members on a tailored basis
- Breakfast Seminars focusing on Governance Masterclasses in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration
- Provision of ELearning support in relation to understanding and implementing The Governance Code (includes access to required templates and policy documents)
- Provision of a free Advisory Service (by phone or face to face) to deal with queries on Governance related matters

If you have queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 01-8608806.

Regards,

David Gash

David Gash - Communications Manager



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(T) <u>+353-1</u> (M) <u>+353-</u>

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**About Sport Ireland** 

From:	David Gash

**Sent:** 28 March 2019 14:59

To: GRIFFIN Betty
Cc: FERRIS Mary
Subject: Further information

Hi Betty,

Please see below some further information which may be relevant and has been used in response to recent media queries:

National Governing Bodies for Sport, such as the Football Association of Ireland, are independent autonomous organisations and are responsible for their own governance procedures.

According to <a href="https://www.governancecode.ie/registry.html">https://www.governancecode.ie/registry.html</a>, the Football Association of Ireland are on the Governance Code journey. The FAI would be able to provide specifics on their own progress.

While Sport Ireland does not set term limits, it does support the adoption of the Governance Code among all funded bodies. While the Governance Code does not stipulate mandatory terms for board directors, in its 'Director Term of Office Guidance Note' it does state: "The most common practice is that directors are appointed for a three-year term" and "It is considered good practice to put a limit of two or three terms on a director's service so as to ensure a cycle of board renewal."

The Director Term of Office Guidance note can be viewed here: <a href="https://www.governancecode.ie/uploads/1/4/0/6/14069721/director\_term\_of\_office\_guidance\_note\_final\_2016\_1.pdf">https://www.governancecode.ie/uploads/1/4/0/6/14069721/director\_term\_of\_office\_guidance\_note\_final\_2016\_1.pdf</a>

Sport Ireland is of the view that all funded bodies, including the FAI, are moving in the right direction towards to the adoption of The Code.

Many thanks,

David

David Gash - Communications Manager



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From: John Treacy <

Date: 3 Apr 2019 10:29 AM

Subject: Letter to Sport Ireland 020419.pdf
To: SPRATT Ken < KenSPRATT@dttas.gov.ie >

Cc:

Ken, For your information.

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**Private & Confidential** 

John Treacy
Chief Executive
Sport Ireland
The Courtyard
Sport Ireland National Sport Campus
Snugborough Road
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15
D15 PN0N

2 April 2019

Dear Mr Treacy

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2019. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

I note the concerns expressed by Minister Ross with regard to media reports and your wish for clarification as to the circumstances of the short term loan by the then CEO to the Association. The Association has engaged Mazars to carry out an independent review of all matters in this regard. When that review is complete, I will write to you in more detail in relation to the circumstances involved as requested. In the meantime, the Association would be happy to meet with you or your officials to review the Association's financial records in relation to the use of state funding.

The terms and conditions of grant approval require us to satisfy certain conditions. I can confirm my understanding that the Association has utilised all state funding in compliance with the terms and conditions of grant approval.

As you are aware from our statement of 30 March 2019, the Association has engaged with the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement and is dealing with their enquiries. The Association has established a committee which I am chairing to work with our external advisers to urgently address the matters of concern.

Yours sincerely

Aonal Conway

**Donal Conway** 

President











From: John Treacy <

Sent: Monday 8 April 2019 15:45

To: SPRATT Ken

Cc:HOGAN Peter; Colm McGintySubject:: Letter to Ken Spratt re FAI

Attachments: Letter to DTTAS re FAI 08.04.2019.pdf

Ken,

Please see attached.

Regards,

John

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Ken Spratt, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport Leeson Lane Dublin 2 D02 TR60

By Post & Email

8 April 2019

# Re: €100,000 Loan to FAI by CEO

Dear Ken.

I refer to Peter Hogan's letter of 19th March on the matter of a €100,000 loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by their then CEO, Mr. John Delaney, in 2017.

You will be aware that Sport Ireland has written three letters to the FAI seeking an explanation on the circumstances surrounding the loan and its repayment, and their compliance with Sport Ireland's Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval. On Friday 5th April Sport Ireland received a further letter of reply from the FAI President (Mr. Donal Conway). The contents of this letter are self-explanatory. All correspondence is now enclosed for your consideration.

The letter of 5th April from the FAI was received by Sport Ireland at a meeting convened at very short notice on Friday evening last at the request of Mr. Conway. The contents of the letter were discussed at the meeting. The meeting was constructive and shed more light on processes currently underway within the FAI.

At the meeting, the following specific actions were agreed:

- The outcome of Grant Thornton's ongoing internal review of the Association's books will be provided to Sport Ireland.
- The Terms of Reference for the review by Mazars will be provided to Sport Ireland, once they are finalised.
- Sport Ireland will be consulted by Mazars as part of their review process.
- Mazars' full and final report will be provided to us in a timely manner.
- The review by consultant Jonathan Hall & Associates will be provided to Sport Ireland.
- The FAI will discuss the composition of their new Governance review group with Sport Ireland.

At the meeting, the FAI informed Sport Ireland that they are engaging with the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement on their particular inquiries, which we understand are substantial. The Board of Sport Ireland meets tomorrow and will discuss these matters, which are of concern.

I would be grateful if you could bring this letter (and enclosures) to the attention of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD and the Minster of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin TD.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc: Peter Hogan, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport

Enclosures (6):

 Sport Ireland letters to FAI - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019
 FAI letters to Sport Ireland - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Sport Ireland letters to FAI - 19th March 2019, 25th March 2019, 4th April 2019



Mr. Donal Conway President FAI National Sports Campus Dublin 15

19 March 2019

#### Re: Chief Executive Loan to FAI - URGENT

Dear Mr. Conway,

I am writing to you in relation to recent media reports concerning a loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by your Chief Executive, Mr. John Delancy, in 2017.

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD has noted these reports with concern, and has asked Sport Ireland to request clarification from the Board of the FAI as to the circumstances of this loan and its repayment. In so doing, I also refer you to the 'Terms and Conditions of Sport Ireland Grant Approval', which the FAI signed in 2017, and agreed to be bound by. Clauses 4.2 & 4.3 are as follows:

- 4.2 Each organisation must provide to Sport Ireland, forthwith on Sport Ireland's request at any time during or after the
  period to which the grant funding relates, such information and documentation as Sport Ireland may reasonably require to
  satisfy itself as to the viability and sustainability of the organisation's overall financial position.
- 4.3 In addition, each organisation undertakes to notify Sport Ireland in writing without delay in the event of any material deterioration in its financial position or of any other matter which may jeopardise the organisation's overall financial viability and/or its ability to comply with its commitments in the Approved Submission, and thereafter to provide Sport Ireland with such information and documentation as Sport Ireland may request in connection with the relevant matter and any steps being taken to rectify it.

I note that Sport Ireland were not notified at any stage in 2017 about any apparent deterioration in the FAI's financial position. In view of the recent reports, I would welcome an explanation on this matter.

As this matter is urgent, I would be grateful to receive your response as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc. John Delaney, Chief Executive, FAI



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Mr John Treacy
Sport Ireland
The Courtyard
Sport Ireland National Sports Campus
Snugborough Road
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15
By Email: AMaher@sportireland.ie

20 March 2019

Re: Chief Executive Loan to FAI

Dear Mr. Treacy

Thank you for your letter of the 19 March relating to recent media reports regarding the above referenced matter.

As you may be aware the FAI have confirmed by way of a press release that the CEO did make a short term loan to the FAI in April 2017. I confirm that the amount was €100,000 and that this exact amount was repaid in full to the CEO less than 8 weeks later.

in relation to the Terms and Conditions of Sport Ireland Grant Approval to which you refer I confirm the following:

- 4.2 The Association has always provided such information and documentation as requested by Sport Ireland in compliance with this clause
- 4.3 The FAI did not consider the very short term loan as representing a material deterioration in its financial position or that it jeopardised the organisation's overall financial viability and/or its ability to comply with its commitments in the Approved Submission. It was, as I have said, a very short term cash flow issue that was resolved in less than 8 weeks.

Our overall financial position in 2017 resulted in a surplus of €2,750,000 on a turnover of €49,000,000 and we expect 2018 audited accounts to demonstrate a surplus also which will be the 10<sup>th</sup> surplus in a row. This confirms the strong financial position of the organisation. Furthermore we are also currently negotiating centralised TV rights with UEFA which will further strengthen our long term financial position.

Arising from an omission in the completion of our 2017 accounts this short term loan was not disclosed and we confirm that we have today written to the Office of the Director of Corporate













Flactional Sport of Camput Abbottomy Dublin 15 Truccol 1999-9500 Ft. 1550 1 398-9501 Info@tasile in vital fame

Enforcement notifying him appropriately. We have assured the Director that we are reviewing our processes to ensure that such omissions will not occur in the future.

I trust that the foregoing allays any concerns you may have. However, if you would like to meet the Association to discuss this matter I would be most happy to arrange to do so immediately following the second of our European Qualifying Matches on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.

Yours sincerely Loway

Donal Conway FAI President











Mr. Donal Conway President FAI National Sports Campus Dublin 15

25 March 2019

# Re: €100,000 Loan to FAI by CEO - URGENT

Dear Mr. Conway,

Thank you for your letter of 20th March 2019 regarding a €100,000 loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by your CEO, Mr. John Delaney, in 2017.

You are aware that the Minister for Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD has conveyed his concern with regard to media reports of this loan and has asked Sport Ireland to seek clarification from the Board of the FAI as to the circumstances of the loan and its repayment. Sport Ireland has also sought an explanation from the Board of the FAI on this matter with specific reference to the 'Terms and Conditions of Sport Ireland Grant Approval'.

The contents of your letter do not sufficiently explain the circumstances of this loan and its repayment. More detail is also required in order for Sport Ireland to assess compliance with the Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval.

As you will be aware, by March 2017 Sport Ireland had already provided the FAI with 50% of its Field Sport Grant (of over £1.35m) to fund the programme up to the end of June. You will also be aware that Sport Ireland, has always demonstrated a flexibility and willingness to facilitate the FAI (and other National Governing Bodies of sport) with early drawdowns of funding where possible and feasible to do so.

In light of these factors, the circumstances which gave rise to the situation where immediate funding was needed by the FAI in April 2017 is not clear. Could you further clarify these circumstances?

In light of recent developments, Sport Ireland also seeks re-confirmation that all state funding provided to the FAI has been spent for the purposes intended and in accordance with approved submissions.

In the interests of providing clarification to the Minister, and assuring Sport Ireland on compliance with the Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval, I would be grateful for the FAI Board's full and detailed response to each item raised above. Given Sport Ireland's significant annual grant to the FAI, I would also be grateful to be fully appraised of any other significant issues that may arise or are likely to arise, including key risks and actions proposed to manage them, in a timely manner.

As this matter is urgent, I would be grateful for your Board's immediate attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc. Rea Walshe, Interim CEO, FAI



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Private & Confidential
John Treacy
Chief Executive
Sport Ireland
The Courtyard
Sport Ireland National Sport Campus
Snugborough Road
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15
D15 PN0N

2 April 2019

Dear Mr Treacy

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2019. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

I note the concerns expressed by Minister Ross with regard to media reports and your wish for clarification as to the circumstances of the short term loan by the then CEO to the Association. The Association has engaged Mazars to carry out an independent review of all matters in this regard. When that review is complete, I will write to you in more detail in relation to the circumstances involved as requested. In the meantime, the Association would be happy to meet with you or your officials to review the Association's financial records in relation to the use of state funding.

The terms and conditions of grant approval require us to satisfy certain conditions. I can confirm my understanding that the Association has utilised all state funding in compliance with the terms and conditions of grant approval.

As you are aware from our statement of 30 March 2019, the Association has engaged with the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement and is dealing with their enquiries. The Association has established a committee which I am chairing to work with our external advisers to urgently address the matters of concern.

Yours sincerely

Aoual Conway

**Donal Conway** 

President













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**Private & Confidential** 

John Treacy
Chief Executive
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Dublin 15
D15 PN0N

2 April 2019

Dear Mr Treacy

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 2019. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter.

I note the concerns expressed by Minister Ross with regard to media reports and your wish for clarification as to the circumstances of the short term loan by the then CEO to the Association. The Association has engaged Mazars to carry out an independent review of all matters in this regard. When that review is complete, I will write to you in more detail in relation to the circumstances involved as requested. In the meantime, the Association would be happy to meet with you or your officials to review the Association's financial records in relation to the use of state funding.

The terms and conditions of grant approval require us to satisfy certain conditions. I can confirm my understanding that the Association has utilised all state funding in compliance with the terms and conditions of grant approval.

As you are aware from our statement of 30 March 2019, the Association has engaged with the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement and is dealing with their enquiries. The Association has established a committee which I am chairing to work with our external advisers to urgently address the matters of concern.

Yours sincerely

Aonal Conway

**Donal Conway** 

President













Mr. Donal Conway President FAI National Sports Campus Dublin 15

4 April 2019

# Re: €100,000 Loan to FAI by CEO - URGENT

Dear Mr. Conway,

I refer to your letter of 2nd April.

Firstly, we are extremely disappointed in the timing of the letter, which was received hours before Sport Ireland's appearance at the Joint Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport yesterday.

Secondly, the content of the letter falls far short of what was both requested and expected by Sport Ireland. The letter does not provide any explanation on the circumstances surrounding the loan and its repayment. The Board of the FAI has not provided any legitimate reason as to why it cannot provide the information requested. As the state body that has invested over €52m in the FAI over a 20 year period, and that hosts the FAI as tenants on the National Sports Campus, this is very disappointing. You will likely be aware that members of the Joint Committee also considered the FAI's response disrespectful and unacceptable.

Based on previous FAI press statements which stated that "the Board of the FAI has been kept fully informed in relation to this matter at all times" Sport Ireland does not accept that the FAI Board can't provide information on the circumstances of the loan before the Mazars review is complete. In the absence of information we cannot make an adjudication on whether the FAI have complied with our Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval. In such circumstances, as a state body we feel obliged to notify other public bodies who also invest taxpayer's funding in FAI programmes of our serious concerns.

We ask again for an explanation on the circumstances surrounding the loan and its repayment.

Further, can you please provide the Terms of Reference for the Mazars review, and assure us that Sport Ireland will be consulted by Mazars as part of their review process. Please assure Sport Ireland that Mazars' full and final report will be provided to us in a timely manner.

I request that you please provide these assurances to Sport Ireland by 5pm Monday, 8th April.

I request that you bring this letter to the immediate attention of all of your Board.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc. Rea Walshe, Interim CEO, FAI



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Mr. John Treacy Sport Ireland National Sports Campus Abbotstown Dublin 15

5th April 2019

#### Private and Confidential

Dear Mr. Treacy,

At the outset, I wish to put on record the respect the Football Association of Ireland has for you, your colleagues and your Chairman. Your financial support and advice to us over 20 years has been unstinting and we were honoured to become the first NGB to move into the Abbotstown Campus. I know we have much work to do to rebuild your trust and confidence in us and I hope we can do that over time.

I confirm that I have brought all your letters to the attention of the sub-committee of the Football Association of Ireland established to look in to these matters. The Association notes the comments made by you and your Chairman at the Oireachtas Committee and acknowledges your concerns.

The Association regrets that it was not in a position to assist Sport Ireland with answers to its questions before you and your Chairman attended the Committee. We are moving as fast as we can being mindful of the complexity of the issues involved, including legal issues and the need to ensure that all statements we make are accurate and processes are fair and robust. No disrespect was intended by the lateness of the letter of 2 April or its brief contents. I apologise for this and accept more information would have assisted Sport Ireland and the Committee.

The Board is seeking to fully address the concerns and many steps are being taken to do so and to establish the requisite detail for Sport Ireland and the Oireachtas Committee. Pending the review by Mazars, the Association has separately and urgently engaged Grant Thornton to conduct an internal review of the Association's books, record and ledgers in relation to the bridging loan transaction and other matters. Grant Thornton are on site at FAI HQ from Tuesday of this week. The steps outlined are taking considerable time and resources. There is the ability for the Board to consider to appoint an independent person to the sub-committee of the Board. In the meantime, the sub-committee













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would be happy to meet with your audit staff and with the assistance of Grant Thornton to go through the relevant accounts to assure Sport Ireland that funding has been properly spent since your last audit.

The involvement of Grant Thornton should also allow to address the queries you have raised regarding the bridging loan and to ensure that our response to your queries is comprehensive and accurate.

The FAI has received a new invitation from the Oireachtas Committee and will attend on Wednesday next. The Association recognises and shares the desire for the matters to be addressed as soon as possible, with due regard to the different ongoing processes.

The FAI is also engaging with the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement in dealing with its particular inquiries.

As well as the Board's work, the global auditing and consulting group Mazars has been commissioned by the sub-committee to conduct an independent and in-depth external review of matters. The Association's advisors are working wth Mazars to finalize the terms of reference for the review so work can begin as soon as possible. The Board has also requested that this review be completed as soon as possible. It is our intention to provide Sport Ireland in a timely manner with a copy of the full and final report.

You will be aware that the FAI has a governance group which has assisted us in making some changes in compliance with the Governance Code. We would now like to strengthen our commitment to reform through the establishment of a new group to review and recommend changes in governance to the Association. Our thinking at this point is that the group would have an external Chair to be nominated in consultation with Sport Ireland. The majority of the membership would be external with some representation of FAI Board and executive. We would be happy to discuss the composition of the group with Sport Ireland.

At a meeting of the Board of the FAI on Wednesday evening, concerns were expressed that some press releases issued did not accurately reflect the Board's level of awareness of the existence of the €100,000 loan to the Association in 2017. This matter is being considered by the Board subcommittee.











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There has been much work done since to create a more financially-sustainable organisation. Cash flow management is now at the forefront of our financial planning and reviews to ensure such a scenario of potentially breaching our overdraft facility does not arise in the future. I can confirm that as of 5 April 2019 the Association has a cash position and overdraft facility to meet its financial obligations. The Association would be happy to brief you and your officials if you so wish.

I appreciated that Sport Ireland, despite the understandable hostility to the FAI, confirmed at the Oireachtas Committee on Wednesday that in the past Sport Ireland and your auditors were satisfied that all monies granted to the FAI were expended in the manner for which they had been provided.

Finally, while I welcomed Sport Ireland's comments confirming that you are satisfied with the way in which the FAI expends funds provided by Sport Ireland, I hope the processes that we are putting in place in the short term and the long-term processes around Governance and reform will help to restore your faith in the Football Association of Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

Joral Conway

FAI President











From: Colm McGinty <

Date: Tue 9 Apr 2019, 3:56 PM

To: SPRATT Ken < KenSPRATT@dttas.gov.ie >

CC: HOGAN Peter < Peter Hogan adttas.gov.ie >, John Treacy <

Subject: Letter re FAI

Dear Ken,

Please see attached letter from John Treacy regarding the FAI.

Regards, Colm

Colm McGinty

Sport Ireland | The Courtyard | Sport Ireland National Sports Campus | Snugborough Road | Dublin 15 | D15 PNON (T) +353-



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Ken Spratt,
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
D02 TR60

By Post & Email

9 April 2019

# Re: €100,000 Loan to FAI by CEO and Related Matters

Dear Ken,

I refer to the matter of a €100,000 loan to the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) by their then CEO, Mr. John Delaney, in 2017.

At a meeting of the Board of Sport Ireland today, the Board had a lengthy discussion on the €100,000 loan and related matters. The Board noted the recent admission by the FAI in its written opening statement to the Joint Committee on Transport, Tourism and Sport that Clause 4.3 of the 'Further Reporting' section of Sport Ireland's Terms & Conditions of Grant Approval was not met, whereby the FAI did not notify Sport Ireland in 2017 of any material deterioration in its financial position. Notwithstanding some positive steps taken by the FAI in recent days, it has now been acknowledged by the FAI that there has been a breach of Clause 4.3.

In light of this acknowledgement, the Board decided to suspend and withhold funding to the FAI in accordance with Clause 1.1 of the Terms and Conditions of Grant Approval. In making this decision the Board of Sport Ireland is aware that 50% of the Youth Field Sport funding has been already paid to the FAI in 2019.

The Board will review the decision when it is satisfied that the FAI has addressed its current governance and financial issues. In the meantime, the Board agreed to keep the FAI's progress in relation to all relevant issues under review at each Board meeting. Sport Ireland will continue to provide non-financial assistance and guidance to the FAI, which may be helpful in advancing matters.

I would be grateful if the Department could notify other relevant Government Department's (and public bodies under their aegis) who also invest funding in FAI programmes of Sport Ireland's decision.

I would also be grateful if you could bring this letter to the attention of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD and the Minster of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin TD.

Yours sincerely,

John Treacy Chief Executive

cc: Peter Hogan, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport

Colm,

Thanks for replying so quickly.

Regards, Betty.

**Betty Griffin** 

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

An Bóthar Nua, Cill Airne, Co. Chiarraí, V93 A49X New Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 A49X

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Bettygriffin@dttas.gov.ie www.dttas.gov.ie

From: Colm McGinty | Sent: 11 April 2019 12:55

**To:** GRIFFIN Betty **Cc:** FERRIS Mary

Subject: RE: Publishing letter dated 8 April

Betty,

Sport Ireland are ok with the proposed approach. We note that this material is already in the public domain and published by several online media channels (albeit the specific cover letter to the Department is not).

Regards, Colm

From: GRIFFIN Betty [mailto:BettyGriffin@dttas.gov.ie]

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:25 PM

To: Colm McGinty <

Cc: FERRIS Mary < MaryFerris@dttas.gov.ie > Subject: RE: Publishing letter dated 8 April

Sorry, attached now.

**Betty Griffin** 

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

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Bettygriffin@dttas.gov.ie www.dttas.gov.ie

From: GRIFFIN Betty Sent: 11 April 2019 12:24

To: Colm McGinty ()
Cc: FERRIS Mary

Subject: Publishing letter dated 8 April

Colm,

As you know, Minister Ross said that he would publish the report he received from Sport Ireland. We are proposing to publish the attached letter from John to Ken (with letters between John and Donal Conway enclosed) on the Department's website later today. Are you ok with John's letter dated 8 April being released in full. Please let me know as early as you can if you have any obs.

Regards, Betty.

## **Betty Griffin**

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

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From:

**GRIFFIN Betty** 

Sent:

12 April 2019 12:14

To:

Colm McGinty

Subject:

RE: Notifying relevant Departments

Thanks Colm.

#### **Betty Griffin**

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

# An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

An Bóthar Nua, Cill Airne, Co. Chiarraí, V93 A49X New Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 A49X

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Bettygriffin@dttas.gov.ie www.dttas.gov.ie

From: Colm McGinty [mailto:

Sent: 12 April 2019 11:53

To: GRIFFIN Betty

Subject: RE: Notifying relevant Departments

Betty,

We haven't received a copy of the FAI's 2018 Financial Statements yet (typically we receive them later in Q2 (around June)).

Regards, Colm

From: GRIFFIN Betty [mailto:BettyGriffin@dttas.gov.ie]

Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 11:38 AM

To: Colm McGinty <

**Subject:** Notifying relevant Departments

Colm,

If you have a copy of the FAI's 2018 Accounts, can you check what Departments/State Bodies FAI received funding from in 2018. I have the detail from the 2017 Accounts. I want to make sure we have written to all of the relevant Departments to notify them of the Board's decision, as requested in John's letter of 9 April.

Regards,

Betty.

## **Betty Griffin**

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

# An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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Colm McGinty <

Sent:

Sunday 14 April 2019 16:23

To: Cc: HOGAN Peter John Treacy

Subject:

RE: FAI

Attachments:

Football Association of Ireland Rulebook Effective 27th June

2018.pdf; Note on FAI Committees.docx

Hi Peter,

As discussed, see attached copy of the FAI Rulebook. It explains all you'll need to know about the FAI's Committees and the rules and processes around their composition (covered from pages 17-23 (Under Part B (Governance) - Rule 26). I think this should address your queries.

I also attach a short general note taken mainly from the FAI's website.

Regards,

Colm

From: HOGAN Peter [mailto:PeterHogan@dttas.gov.ie]

Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2019 1:42 PM

To: Colm McGinty <

Subject: Re: FAI

If you have anything it would be great. Minister was hoping to hear back from me today, if that's possible.

Regards

Peter

----- Original Message -----

From: Colm McGinty <

Date: Sun 14 Apr 2019, 1:29 PM

To: HOGAN Peter < Peter Hogan @dttas.gov.ie>

Subject: Re: FAI

Peter,

Not sure I've much but I'll check it out. I'm out at the moment so it'll be later this afternoon. What's your time line?

Colm

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: HOGAN Peter

Date:14/04/2019 10:16 (GMT+00:00)

To: Colm McGinty

Subject: FAI

Colm

Sorry to bother you. Minister Ross has enquired about the different Committee structures in the FAI and how members are appointed. I spoke to Paul McDermott who suggested that you might have some further corporate information which could shed some light on this. Would you have that information?

Thanks and regards
Peter Hogan
DTTAS

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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## General Note for DTTAS on FAI Committees

The Association's structure can best be split into three sections: the FAI Council, The Board of Management and Committees, and the FAI Administration Staff.

The FAI Council is made up of 60 members from across the Irish football family. Council elects the FAI's President, a number of committee members and also pass major decisions.

The Board of Management comprises of the following members: President (Donal Conway) Vice President (Noel Fitzroy) Honorary Secretary (Michael Cody) Honorary Treasurer (Eddie Murray)

# Chairpersons of the following committees:

International (Mick Hanley)
Domestic (Jim McConnell)
National League Executive (Eamon Naughton)
Legal & Corporate Affairs (Paraic Treanor)
Underage (John Earley)
Women's Football (Niamh O'Donoghue)

The **Finance committee** is chaired by the Honorary Treasurer and the **Development committee** is chaired by the Vice President.

The committees comprise of 12 members and each will be made up of people with knowledge that will be beneficial to the committee.

Committees are balanced and represent all stakeholders interests, with a number of committee members elected by Council and a further number selected by the CEO, President and Council Representative (other than an officer). For balance within the committees, the person selected cannot be from the same affiliate as the person elected by council, while no one person can sit on more than two committees.

The Chief Executive also sits as a voting member on the Finance and Legal and Corporate Affairs Committees.

The FAI's Administration staff are based in the Association's headquarters in Abbotstown, Dublin and handle the day-to-day running of the Association.

#### **Audit Committee**

The 2017 Financial Statements state that the Board has established an Audit Committee with responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of the Association's risk management and internal control systems. The audit committee comprises of members from the National Council. As per the FAI Rulebook:

"The Honorary Treasurer shall ensure that an Audit Committee be established annually, comprising of four (4) members of the Finance Committee one (1) of whom shall act as chairperson. This committee shall meet at least twice each year with a representative of the External Auditors. The Chief Executive Officer, the Honorary Treasurer and the Director of Finance shall be available to attend if required to do so by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall see the External Auditors draft and final management letters".

#### **Governance Committee**

A Governance Committee was established by FAI in 2017 to ensure implementation of the Code of Practice for Good Governance in Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland. Sport Ireland understands this Committee was established by the Board.

In the letter from Donal Conway (FAI President) to Sport Ireland on 5th April 2019, Mr. Conway outlined the FAI's wish to "strengthen our commitment to reform through the establishment of a new group to review and recommend changes in governance to the Association. Our thinking at this point is that the group would have an external Chair to be nominated in consultation with Sport Ireland. The majority of the membership would be external with some representation of FAI Board and executive. We would be happy to discuss the composition of the group with Sport Ireland".

Note: The Association has established a sub-committee, from amongst its board members, which is working closely with the FAI's external advisers and auditors to urgently address these matters.

From:

Adrienne Maher <

Sent:

18 April 2019 13:23

To:

**GRIFFIN Betty** 

Cc:

FERRIS Mary

Subject:

RE: Date for meeting re FAI

Hi Betty

John confirmed he is available to meet on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 2pm to discuss the above, thanks.

With best wishes Adrienne



Adrienne Maher

PA to Chief Executive John Treacy

Sport Ireland | The Courtyard | Sport Ireland National Sports Campus | Snughborough Road | Blanchardstown | Dublin 15 | D15 PNON



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Planning, Leading and Coordinating the sustainable development of competitive and recreational sport in Ireland

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## **About Sport Ireland**

Sport Ireland brings together the Irish Sports Council, National Sports Campus Development Authority, Irish Institute of Sport and Coaching Ireland to form a new, streamlined and dynamic body to drive the future of Irish sport.

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From: GRIFFIN Betty <BettyGriffin@dttas.gov.ie>

Sent: Thursday 18 April 2019 13:20

To: Adrienne Maher < AMaher@sportireland.ie>

Subject: RE: Date for meeting re FAI

Thanks Adrienne.

# **Betty Griffin**

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

An Bóthar Nua, Cill Airne, Co. Chiarraí, V93 A49X New Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 A49X

T +353 (0)64 662 7339 M +353

Bettygriffin@dttas.gov.ie www.dttas.gov.ie

From: Adrienne Maher [mailto:

**Sent:** 18 April 2019 13:18

To: GRIFFIN Betty

Subject: RE: Date for meeting re FAI

Thanks Betty, I will check with John and come back to you shortly. My apologies I was just about to return your call from earlier when your email came in! Adrienne

From: GRIFFIN Betty < <a href="mailto:bettyGriffin@dttas.gov.ie">bettyGriffin@dttas.gov.ie</a>>

Sent: Thursday 18 April 2019 13:13

To: Adrienne Maher <

Cc: FERRIS Mary < MaryFerris@dttas.gov.ie >

Subject: Date for meeting re FAI

Hi Adrienne,

Would John be available to meet on the afternoon of Wednesday  $\mathbf{1}^{st}$  May to discuss progress on FAI issues. If that doesn't suit, can you suggest an alternative date that week.

Many thanks,

Betty.

#### **Betty Griffin**

Sports Policy and National Sports Campus

An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don