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An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Baile Átha Cliath 2  
Dublin 2

11 May 2016

Mr. Jack O'Toole

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Our ref: FoI/Req/2016/049

Dear Mr. O'Toole

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in which you requested:

- 1. The amount of money given to the Football Association of Ireland for the calendar years 2014 and 2015;**
- 2. A list of the sporting organisations/associations the Department has given funding to in the aforementioned years; and,**
- 3. The amount of funding given to said organisations/associations during the aforementioned years.**

The following funds under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade have provided funding to organisations matching your request criteria in 2014 and 2015:

**Emigrant Support Programme**

The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's Emigrant Support Programme (ESP), provides funding to non-profit organisations and projects to support Irish communities overseas and to facilitate the development of more strategic links between Ireland and the global Irish.

Under this Programme three sporting organisations were funded in 2014 and 2015 as follows:

**(a) Football Association of Ireland**

Funding was provided in 2014 and 2015 under the Department's Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) to the Football Association of Ireland towards the UK Welfare Officer Programme. This Programme was established in 2008 to provide an independent source of assistance, front line advisory service and community care to young Irish players who relocate to the UK to become involved in the UK professional football game. Competition for places is fiercely competitive as is competition between clubs for top players. Players face various challenges of moving to a new country and environment, including homesickness which can be a major factor for young players.

This programme provides a support service to the players and also a support network for their parents and families and is funded on a 50:50 basis by the ESP and the FAI.

In the last two years funding has been provided as follows:

2014: €42,844

2015: €55,000

**(b) Gaelic Athletic Association**

In 2007 the Department entered a strategic partnership with the GAA to primarily support community orientated GAA activities in Britain and North America. This partnership has facilitated greater strategic direction in the further development of the heritage and sport dimension of emigrant services abroad. The GAA plays a key role in the social and cultural life of Irish communities abroad and underpins and promotes Irish heritage and identity across the globe. These clubs are often the first port of call for many newly arrived Irish emigrants.

Since 2012 the Emigrant Support Programme funding to the GAA towards Games Development has been divided between support for Games Development in Britain and North America and a Global Games Development Fund. The aim of the Global Games Development Fund is to support GAA projects abroad, outside of Britain and the US, which deliver and promote meaningful developmental games opportunities and which also further the aims of the Emigrant Support Programme. 34 projects were supported in 2015 across the globe from this fund in places as diverse as Vienna and Vancouver.

In the last two years funding has been provided as follows to the GAA:

2014: €372,270

2015: €371,000

In addition funding is on occasion provided to the GAA for a number of capital projects. By supporting such projects assistance is provided to secure the long term future of Irish communities overseas and in so doing is investing in the relationship between these communities and home.

**(c) London Irish Amateur Rugby Club**

This Club provides competitive and social rugby for a playing membership of over 500, from age 5 and upwards to the veterans' team. The Club runs a very large mini-rugby festival each year which attracts over 2,000 boys and girls from England, Ireland and France, and which receives ESP funding. The Club places great emphasis on its links with Ireland.

In the last two years funding has been provided as follows:

2014: £7,200

2015: £6,500

**Reconciliation Fund:**

The Reconciliation Fund awards grants to organisations working to build better relations within and between the traditions in Northern Ireland, the North and South, and Ireland and Britain. A number of the Fund's partners use the medium of sport to address these issues.

A full list of grants awarded by the Reconciliation Fund in 2014 and 2015 (as well as previous years) is available on the Department's website at: <https://www.dfa.ie/about-us/funding/reconciliation-fund/>.

**Irish Aid:**

Under the auspices of Irish Aid, funding was provided to a sporting organisation in Ethiopia (Great Ethiopian Run (Women's 5K Run)) in the previous two years as follows:

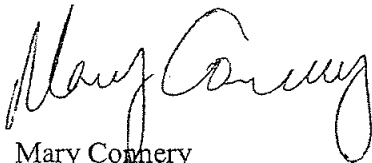
2014: €4,000

2015: €3,500

**Right of Appeal**

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 or by email to [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie). A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at [foi@dfat.ie](mailto:foi@dfat.ie), or 01-4082857.

Yours sincerely



Mary Connery  
Deputy Director  
Irish Abroad Unit