

**BRIEFING NOTES
TO THE GOVERNMENT
AND 31ST DÁIL
ON**

IRISH SPORT

Sport is part of who we are as a country.

Sport wants to contribute to Ireland's economic recovery and can. But Sport does not JUST HAPPEN.

Government investment is vital. It is the seed capital for a sector that delivers a return of €149 for every €100 received.

Yet Sport is in danger of being taken for granted. Don't let that happen.

Sport needs YOUR support. Levels of CURRENT funding must be MAINTAINED.

BRIEFING NOTES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND 31ST DÁIL ON

IRISH SPORT

Sport helps define us a nation. It is part of who we are. It is no way elitist. Sport is for everyone. 1.7 million participants, 270,000 volunteers and 38,000 jobs. Sport stimulates household spending of €1.8 billion each year and contributes 1.4% to GDP. 46% of the population have attended at least one sporting event in the last year. On top of this sport has a significant role to play in the health of our nation. UK research indicates that up to 11% of health spending is attributable to physical inactivity – in an Irish context that is €1.4 billion in 2011.

There is a danger that sport be taken for granted. Sport does not just happen. Sport needs to be planned, managed, delivered and financed. Government investment in Irish sport commenced in 1997 – we have come a long way since then with increased access to sport and improved consistency on the international stage.

Investment in sport is an investment in the health and well-being of the country. To turn off the tap is to step back, there is no standing still. We need sport more than ever – let's not make a big mistake.

Sport is committed to working with government to ensure that sport delivers on its potential for Ireland across the economy, health, tourism, in our communities both home and abroad. However, in order to be able to ensure sport is able to deliver on this potential the current funding for sport must be maintained. The €46.7 million available to sport through the Irish Sports Council in 2011 (some 18% less than in 2008) is the seed capital for all else that happens.

Sport delivers a return of €149 for every €100 invested. Allow sport to continue making that return. Enable sport to be a tool in Ireland's recovery and not a victim of it.

Signed by:



Páirc Duffy, GAA



John Delaney, FAI



Patrick Hickey, OCI



Matt English, Special Olympics



Philip Browne, IRFU



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IRISH SPORT MATTERS

IRISH SPORT IS UNITED IN WANTING TO SEE:

- ☒ 1. Sport retained at the cabinet table.
- ☒ 2. Current funding to sport prioritised.
- ☒ 3. Completion of the sports facilities audit & strategy and the reintroduction of a sports capital programme with strategic input from the National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- ☒ 4. Construction of the National Sports Campus.
- ☒ 5. A commitment to review the disbursement of the National Lottery with a view to ring fencing a certain percentage for sport. Only 18% of the 2009 National Lottery proceeds would be required to fund the 2011 budget of the Irish Sports Council.
- ☒ 6. Multi-annual funding for sport – even if only in respect of a certain percentage of available funding – to facilitate improved strategic planning and enhanced use of available resources.
- ☒ 7. Incentivising of private sector investment in sport to include a review of the exclusion of amateur sport from the definition of charitable purpose in the Charities Act 2009.
- ☒ 8. No addition to the “Listed Events” under Free To Air legislation without the consent of the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.
- ☒ 9. No prohibition on the provision of sponsorship by alcoholic drinks companies. Sport does remain committed to working with government to ensure all such sponsorships are properly regulated and in particular, to educating young people on responsible use of alcohol and the dangers of misuse.
- ☒ 10. Development of a strategic sports tourism/event strategy in conjunction with National Governing Bodies of Sport.





For more reasons why Irish Sport Matters please contact

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