



**SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND
MARCH BOARD MEETING
Wednesday 16th March at 1pm**

AGENDA

<p>Present: Board members: George Lucas Jay Colville Wendy Elliot Gavin Boyd - Via Zoom Denise Burns Wilma Erskine Kyle Ferguson – Via Zoom Kieran Harding</p>	<p>In attendance: Antoinette McKeown, Chief Executive Adrian Doherty, Chief Operating Officer Richard Archibald, Interim Director of Sport Orlagh Watters, Interim Head of Sports Systems John Hart, Head of Policy & Innovation Iain Greenway, Deputy Permanent Secretary Kathryn Hill, Department for Communities Colm Jennings, Board Secretariat</p>
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ITEM	PAPER No.
Chair welcomed Deputy Permanent Secretary, Iain Greenway and Kathryn Hill from Department for Communities to meeting. Chair thanked them for their time and for their ongoing partnership with and support for Sport NI.	
1. Apologies	
Darryl Petticrew Richard Bullick	
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting	
Minutes of previous meeting approved	
Actions Chair raised an action from February meeting regarding a review of McBride Judgement and the impact on Delegated Decisions. Chair advised an update is scheduled for May Board meeting.	
3. Chairs Introduction	
Chair advised Members that COO has been appointed to a new role in the Police Ombudsman's Office and will therefore be leaving Sport NI. Chair offered congratulations to COO in his new role; recognising that The COO will be missed by all. Chair noted that the organisation is in a very different place as a result of COO's investment of skills, experience and sheer commitment over the last three years and on behalf of the organisation, we are very grateful for that. COO will remain in post until April and Sport NI will be advertising the post substantively, next week.	
Chair congratulated Wilma Erskine on behalf of the Board and staff, on receiving an honorary doctorate, which is well-deserved recognition of your contribution to your field.	

<p>Chair thanked Kathryn Hill for inviting Sport NI Board Members to the launch of the DfC 'Active Living' 10 Year Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity on 22nd March at the NI Civil Service Sports Pavilion in Stormont. Members were asked to advise Secretariat of acceptance or declination, before the 18th March. Secretariat will confirm with DfC.</p> <p>The Chair noted that Sport NI is a significant Lottery Distributor and advised Members that Camelot have lost the next licence to run the National Lottery to Allwyn Entertainment Ltd; a subsidiary of Europe's largest Lottery operator, Sazka, from February 2024.</p> <p>Chair noted that the Board took part in a workshop this morning, and that initial feedback and comments from the session were positive and constructive.</p> <p>Members were reminded that Decision Time training is scheduled for the 20th April at 9.30am and is added to the scheduled Sprint Meeting.</p> <p>The Chair informed Members that a Closed Session of the Board is scheduled on 24th March at 11am and will be attended by the CEO, COO and Interim Director of Sport in House of Sport. If you are unable to attend in person, please advise Board Secretariat and we can arrange to dial you into the meeting. Finally, 2pm at the House of Sport (and via Zoom), Sport NI's Corporate Plan launch at an all staff briefing is planned.</p>	
<p>4. Register of Member's Declarations of Interest</p>	
<p>5. PAC Report – Sports Sustainability Fund (For Information)</p> <p>COO presented SNI/22/11.</p> <p><i>Board Members noted information within SNI/22/11</i></p>	<p>SNI/22/11</p>
<p>6. COVID Recovery Decision Paper (For Approval) COVID Recovery Programme paper – Additional Information (For Approval)</p> <p>Director of Sport presented SNI/22/12 and additional information paper SNI/22/18 regarding the COVID Recovery Programme.</p> <p>Member queried if links between organisations regarding youth teams and senior teams, or some listed as limited companies has been considered. Director of Sport advised that any club that is listed as a separate legal entity is treated as one, but any with several branches is still treated as one legal entity.</p> <p>Member noted one application from Golf and asked if there was no appetite from smaller clubs seeking to apply. Discussed possible reasons for this and the awareness of clubs regarding the programme.</p> <p>Members discussed SNI/22/18 and appendices. Director of Sport advised that all the checks have been carried out, provided overview of paper, and advised that this additional information is to provide context on applications.</p> <p>Members noted and discussed the cap of £50,000. Members were advised of the scope to go beyond this through a financial test. Only Sport NI is in the position to identify the context of this through the process</p> <p>K Harding left the meeting.</p> <p>Members were advised that applicants had to demonstrate in their application if they considered themselves of strategic importance. If applicants did not demonstrate strategic importance in their application then the £50,000 "cap" came into play. This cap was implemented to attempt to manage the available budget.</p>	<p>SNI/22/12 SNI/22/18</p>

IG advised Board Members of caps within a programme DfC operated and noted the importance of Board making these decisions and the delegated authority where applicable to Sport NI management.

KH informed Board Members of Omicron hospitality support grant through LPS (DoF) and potential for duplicate applications. These will be checked with Sport NI applications to identify if clawback is necessary.

Director of Sport advised of exceptional circumstances criteria developed to address potential oversubscription or applications that appeared disproportionate.

Members noted the due diligence carried out and financial checks being met.

G Boyd joined the meeting via Zoom

Members discussed social club costings and were advised that there are multiple applicants that are in the same position and that the social club element has previously provided income to clubs to facilitate sports development but is now an additional cost to clubs

Members recapped on due diligence and the potential cap as well as how or when the cap would be applied, reasonableness of applying or not applying the cap. Members were informed that this was not an explicit cap, as applicants could request more than £50,000, but any that did had to meet the EY test. Members discussed justification for capping of awards and noted that this would be reasonableness.

Members discussed the test for strategic significance, and how up to date information provided from applicants was since previous funding schemes. Members were assured that this was up to date information starting from April 2021.

Members also discussed availability of information from other public funds in relation to applicants. Members were informed that even with other sources of income Sport NI is looking only at the deficit. IG also informed the Board that the only other Executive scheme in that time-period was the Omicron hospitality fund and comparison is still ongoing.

Following a lengthy discussion with significant scrutiny and constructive challenge a consensus was reached and Members approved paper SNI/22/12

Following a lengthy discussion with significant scrutiny and constructive challenge a consensus was reached and Members approved paper SNI/22/18 subject to financial information from GAA.

D Burns left the meeting.

7. Operations Report (For Information)

SNI/22/13

COO presented SNI/22/13 - Operations Report. COO advised paper was the same as that presented at ARAC.

Board Members noted information within SNI/22/13

7a COO presented new Corporate Risk Register for approval.

Board Members discussed and approved SNI/22/13 Corporate Risk Register

	<i>Board Members discussed and approved paper SNI/22/17</i>	
14.	A.O.B.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KH invited Board Members of launch of new strategy at Stormont Pavilion • KH informed members of Safeguarding event on Friday 25th. • KH invited Board to the Celebration of Sport 8th April. 	
	Date of next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Session of the Board 24th March at 11am in House of Sport • Sport NI Corporate Plan Launch to Sport NI Staff 24th March at 2pm in House of Sport & Zoom • Sprint Session & Decision Time Training Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 9.30am-11.30am in House of Sport and Zoom 	

Signed by Sport NI Chair: *George Lucas*

Date: 16/03/22