



[REDACTED]

26th June 2013

Freedom of Information Unit,
Department of Transport, Tourism
& Sport,
25 Clare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: FOI Request – IAFA records.

Dear Sir/Madam,

[REDACTED] would like to receive copies of the following categories of records under the Freedom of Information Acts:

All records which contain mention of, reference to or concern the Irish American Football Association (IAFA) dating from 2009 to the present day.

The Department can exclude any records which have already been provided to [REDACTED] in FOI/2013/0031 from this request.

Please find enclosed a cheque for €15 to cover the application fee.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

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

Lo-Call 1890-273000 +353-64-662 7300
+353-64-662 7360 www.dttas.ie
eolas@dtas.ie

Our Ref: FOI/2013/0051

21 August 2013

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer further to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 for all records which contain mention of, reference to or concern the Irish American Football Association (IAFA) dating from 2009 to the present day (excluding records which have already been provided [REDACTED] in FOI/2013/0031).

As previously noted, I am the decision maker in relation to your request, in respect of documents held by Tourism Division of this Department. I have made a final decision to part grant your request on today, 21 August 2013. If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by telephone at 064-6627382.

I am advised by my colleague Mary Ferris that there are no documents falling within the scope of your request in Sports Policy and National Sports Campus Division, that were not already provided to me in respect of the previous FOI request 2013/0031.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision. This explanation has the following parts:

1. A schedule of all of the records covered by your request;
2. Concerning records to which access is granted, an explanation and a statement of the arrangements for this access and its form;
3. Concerning records to which access is denied, or part granted, an explanation of the relevant findings; and
4. A statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these four parts in turn.

1. Schedule of records

A schedule is attached at the end of this letter. It shows the documents that this Department considers relevant to your request. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decision as a whole.

The schedule describes each document, and indicates whether the document is released in full, released with deletions or not released. The schedule refers to the sections of the FOI Act which apply to prevent release. As to these documents, the schedule also provides brief reasons for the decision which are meant to supplement the fuller and more detailed explanation given under heading 3 below.

Please note that, to avoid duplication, I have excluded from my deliberations those documents that:

- a) Are within the scope of this request; and
- b) Were within the scope of FOI 2013 /0031 but were not released under my decision in that case; and
- c) Were released following the internal review of FOI 2013 / 0031.

The documents in question are as follows:

Document Number (from FOI 2013/0031)	Description
26.	Email (part) from Bernard O'Shea to John Kelly regarding funding announcements under the Festivals and Events Initiative 2012; forwarded to Nick Miller 25-31/05/2012
41.	Email correspondence between Catherine Blake (DTTAS), John Kelly, Ray O'Leary, Margaret O'Reilly (Tourism Ireland) and Keith McCormack (Fáilte Ireland) regarding query by The Journal.ie.
49.	Email correspondence with Mr. Paul Hyland (The Journal.ie) regarding the Navy v. Notre Dame event 27/8/2012.
56.	Email from Mr. Patrick Steenberge (Global Football) to Mr. Greg Loughran (Irish American Football Association), copied to Paul Bates and Donagh Morgan 11/9/2012, forwarded to John Kelly 12/9/2012.
58.	Email from Mr. Cillian Smith (Irish American Football Association) to Mr. Patrick Steenberge and Ms. Jane Magnier 11/09/2012 copied to Donagh Morgan and Paul Bates.

2. Access Arrangements

As you have not specified the format in which the documents should be provided, the documents will be provided in photocopy form.

There are no charges associated with processing this request.

3. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access.

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption

provisions.

Following detailed examination of the records held by this Department, I have ascertained that a total of 14 records fall within the scope your FOI request.

Of the 15 records, 7 records are released, and 8 are refused.

Please note that, in relation to some of the records released in full, I have redacted the personal telephone and/or email contact details for third party individuals who are not employees of this Department or other Departments or State bodies.

In relation to those records which are part-released or refused, there are a number of areas of the Freedom of Information Acts on which I have based my decision.

The first area under which I have refused to release some documents, or redacted part of a document, is on the basis of Section 21 (1) (c) of the Freedom of Information Act. This section of the Act states that

“A head may refuse to grant a request under Section 7 if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to disclose positions taken, or to be taken, or plans, procedures, criteria or instructions used or followed, or to be used or followed, for the purpose of any negotiations carried on or being, or to be, carried on by or on behalf of the Government or a public body.”

In coming to this decision I have taken into account that the documents concerned contain details positions taken by the Department and the State tourism agencies in commercial negotiations with other parties, and may use similar positions in negotiations with third parties in relation to future events, and that on balance the public interest is not served by releasing documents or parts of documents that would disclose such positions, as it may disadvantage this Department or the State tourism agencies in such negotiations that may take place in the future.

A second area under which I have refused to release some documents, or redacted part of a document, relates to matters of commercial sensitivity.

The basis for this is Section 27(1) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 27 (1) (b) of the Act states that:

“A head shall refuse to grant a request under section 7 if the record concerned contains financial, commercial, scientific or technical or other information whose disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial loss or gain to the person to whom the information relates, or could prejudice the competitive position of that person in the conduct of his or her profession or business or otherwise in his or her occupation.”

In coming to a decision in relation to your request, I must take into account that third parties may be in discussions with other parties in relation to future commercial opportunities. I have examined each of these documents and I have decided that the information contained therein is of a nature that, if disclosed in full or in part, may adversely affect the third parties concerned in any contractual negotiations which it may hold with other third parties in the future, relating to their area of economic activity.

A third area under which I have refused to release some documents, or redacted part of a document, relates to the issue of economic and industrial development in Ireland generally.

The basis of this is Section 31 (1) (a) and Section 31 (2) (k) and Section 31 (2) (n) of the Act.

Section 31 (1) (a) of the Act, states:

“A head may refuse to grant a request under Section 7 in relation to a record (and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality otherwise of this subsection, to a record to which subsection (2) applies) if, in the opinion of the head access to the record could reasonably have serious adverse effect on the financial interests of the State or on the ability of the Government to manage the national economy”

Section 31 (2) (k) states:

“This subsection applies to a record relating to industrial development in the State”

Section 31 (2) (n) states:

“This subsection applies to a record relating to information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to affect adversely the competitive position of a public body in relation to activities carried on by it on a commercial basis”.

Tourism is an important driver of economic activity for Ireland. As well as being Ireland’s longest-standing source of service export earnings, it also directly and indirectly supports employment across the country for a range of skill levels – often in areas where the scope to develop other export-focused sectors is constrained. The tourism and hospitality industry currently employs approximately 185,000 people and generates in the region of €5.5 billion per year in revenue from home and abroad.

In coming to a decision in relation to your request, I have taken account of the fact that the Government has made a considerable investment into the hosting of major sporting events in recent years, and that the goal of this investment is to assist the Irish tourism industry, and thereby the Irish economy in general.

The hosting of a major sporting event will directly assist the tourism sector by stimulating demand for accommodation and other tourism-related services before and during the event itself. Also, the hosting of the event provides an opportunity to generate significant positive international media coverage of Ireland as a tourism destination. Such positive coverage encourages potential visitors to choose Ireland as a holiday destination. Thirdly, those overseas visitors (whether participants, media, officials or spectators) who visit Ireland for an event will have an enjoyable and memorable stay, and that they will describe their positive experience to family and friends on their return home, and thereby encourage others to also visit Ireland subsequently.

The State tourism agencies, Fáilte Ireland (and its subsidiary The Gathering Ireland 2013) and Tourism Ireland, though non-commercial State bodies, carry out activities that are commercial in a nature, particularly with regard to negotiations with third parties in relation to sponsorship opportunities around major sporting events. It is important, from the point of view of supporting the tourism industry and the economy in general, that the ability of the State tourism agencies to negotiate the most favourable terms possible for the State in relation to such sponsorship opportunities is not compromised by the release of certain commercial information into the public domain.

Therefore, on balance, it is considered that the public interest is served by refusing the records in question.

A fourth area under which I have refused to release some documents, or redacted part of a document, relates to the deliberative processes of a public body.

The basis for this is Section 20 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act. This section of the Act states that

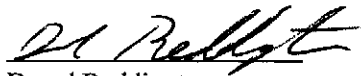
“A head may refuse to grant a request under Section 7 if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of a public body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purposes of those processes).”

This section is applied to documents that concern matters currently under examination, which may include matters arising as a consequence of past events.

4. Rights of appeal

You may appeal this decision. Please note that a fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee. The level of this has been set at €75. In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, 25 Clare Street, Dublin 2 enclosing the appropriate fee. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely



Donal Reddington
Higher Executive Officer
Tourism Development

Telephone: 064-6627382

Email: donalreddington@dtas.ie

Schedule of Records for FOI Request 2013 /0051

Record Number	Brief description and date of record	No. of pages	File Ref.	Decision:	Basis of Refusal (Section of Act)	Reason for Decision
1	Diary (part) for Minister Mary Hanafin for period from 13 July 2010 to 11 August 2010.	1	T-3-14-47 (all records)	Grant		Remainder of document outside scope of FOI request.
2	Email correspondence from Ms. Jane Magnier of the Inbound Tour Operators Association (ITOA) to Paul Bates 9/8/2012, and reply from Paul Bates to Jane Magnier 9/8/2012.	2		Refuse	Section 27(1) (b) and Section 21(1) (c) and Section 31 (1) (a) and Section 31 (2) (k) and Section 31 (2) (n)	Contains commercially sensitive information provided by a third party, and release would disclose positions taken, and information on industrial development in the State and the competitive position of a State body.
3	Email from Martin Murphy (Aviva Stadium) containing letter from Chet Gladchuck (U.S. Naval Academy Athletic Association) to Donagh Morgan, forwarded to Paul Bates and John Kelly 11/9/2012.	6		Refuse	Section 27 (1) (b) and Section 21 (1) (c) and Section 20 (1) and Section 31 (1) (a) and Section 31 (2) (k) and Section 31 (2) (n)	Contains commercially sensitive information provided by a third party, release would disclose positions taken, and deliberative process information, and information on industrial development in the State and the competitive position of a State body.
4	Email from Donagh Morgan to Mr. Kieran Mulvey (Department of Enterprise) 11/9/2013.	2		Refuse	Section 21 (1) (c) and Section 20 (1)	Release would disclose positions taken, and deliberative process information.

5	Email correspondence between Ms. Gail McGibbon (South Dublin County Council), Ms. Sarah Brooks (South Dublin County Council), Eimear Nelsson (DTTAS) and Donal Reddington, with attachment (part) 'The Gathering Dublin Meet to Compete - South Dublin County Tourism The Gathering Dublin 2013.' 12-24/9/2012.	9		Grant		Some contact details redacted. Remainder of attachment outside scope of request.
6	Email correspondence between Mr. Patrick Steenberge and Paul Bates, forwarded to John Kelly and Ray O'Leary (DTTAS) 13-14/12/2012	4		Refuse	Section 27 (1) (b) and Section 21 (1) (c) and Section 20 (1)	Contains commercially sensitive information provided by a third party, release would disclose positions taken, and deliberative process information.
7	Email correspondence between Mr. Patrick Steenberge, Paul Bates, Bernard O'Shea, John Kelly, Ray O'Leary, John Concannon (Fáilte Ireland) 13/12/2012.	4		Refuse	Section 27 (1) (b) and Section 21 (1) (c) and Section 20 (1)	Contains commercially sensitive information provided by a third party, release would disclose positions taken, and deliberative process information.

8	Email correspondence between Mr. Patrick Steenberge and Paul Bates 15/02/2013, forwarded to Donagh Morgan, Tim Scully, Betty Griffin (DTTAS) and Donal Reddington. Copy of email forwarded by Betty Griffin to Paul McDermott (Irish Sports Council) 15/02/2013.	7	Refuse	Section 27 (1) (b) and Section 21 (1) (c) and Section 20 (1)	Contains commercially sensitive information provided by a third party, release would disclose positions taken and deliberative process information.
9	Email from Mr. Cillian Smith (AFA) to Donagh Morgan, and discussion of same between Donagh Morgan and Paul Bates 18/02/2013.	2	Refuse	Section 20 (1)	Deliberative process information.
10	Email from Mr. Patrick Steenberge to Donagh Morgan, Paul Bates, Niall Gibbons (Tourism Ireland), Keith McCormack (Fáilte Ireland), Shaun Quinn (Fáilte Ireland) and A. McMahon (Irish Sports Council) 25/02/2013. Forwarded by Betty Griffin to Paul McDermott (Irish Sports Council) 12/03/2013.	2	Refuse	Section 27 (1) (b) and Section 21 (1) (c) and Section 20 (1)	Contains commercially sensitive information provided by a third party, release would disclose positions taken and deliberative process information.
11	Letter from Mr. Cillian Smith to Minister Michael Ring 25 March 2013, containing copy of letter to Minister for Justice and Equality, acknowledgement letter 28 March 2013.	4	Grant		
12	Email from Donal Reddington to John Kelly (DTTAS) 15 May 2013.	1	Grant		

	<p>Letter to Minister Varadkar from Mr. Todd Stansbury (University of Central Florida) 1 May 2013, acknowledgement letter 9/5/2013, email from Maurice Quinn (DTTAS) to Minister Varadkar 23/5/2013, reply 23 May 2013.</p>	5		Grant		Some contact details redacted.
13	<p>Email from Mr. Cillian Smith 19 June 2013 to Donal Reddington, inviting the Minister to the EFAF Atlantic Cup, forwarded to the Minister's Office 20 June 2013. Internal emails between Donagh Morgan, Maurice Quinn and Donal Reddington 20-21 June 2013, email from Donal Reddington to Darren Clarke (Minister Varadkar's diary team), Cormac Lynch (Minister Varadkar's diary team), Chris Smith (Private Secretary to Minister Varadkar) and Brian Murphy (Special Advisor to Minister Varadkar) 21 June 2013.</p>	4		Grant		
14	<p>Letter from Maurice Quinn (DTTAS) to Mr. John Treacy (Irish Sports Council) and covering email 19 June 2013.</p>	3		Grant		
15						

Record 1

REDDINGTON Donal

From: Keith O'Donnell <keithodonnell@tcs.gov.ie>
Sent: 13 July 2010 09:38
To: John Kelly; Donal Hannigan; Gerri O'Sullivan; Bernard O'Shea; Noel Sheahan; Donal Reddington; Anthony Donnelly
Subject: Fw: DIARY

Keith O'Donnell
Tourism Division
Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport
New Rd
Killarney
Co Kerry
064 6627346
email keithodonnell@tcs.gov.ie

----- Forwarded by Keith O'Donnell/TANDT on 13/07/2010 09:35 -----

From: Sylvia Lynam/TANDT
To: Keith O'Donnell/TANDT@TANDT
Date: 13/07/2010 09:35
Subject: DIARY

Mary Hanafin

13-Jul-10 - 11-Aug-10

Calendar

Sunday, August 8

14:00 17:00 TBC Guest of Honour Shamrock Bowl XXIX Tallaght Stadium contact Cillian Smith IAFA Board 087 4158196 kick off 2pm

Record 5

REDDINGTON Donal

From: Sarah Brooks <[REDACTED]@SDUBLINCOCO.ie>
Sent: 24 September 2012 10:36
To: Gail McGibbon; REDDINGTON Donal
Subject: RE: Launch of the Gathering 2013
Attachments: The Gathering Dublin 2013 Master.doc

Hi Donal,

MC on the day will be Chairperson of South Dublin County Tourism Ltd. Brian O'Gabhain.

Mayor of South Dublin County Cathal King will also be speaking at the event.

I will circulate a running order of the event early next week.

Please see attached our background document for the Ministers speaking notes.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Kindest Regards
Sarah Brooks
Tourism Executive
South Dublin County Tourism Ltd
County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24
Tel: 086 [REDACTED] / 01 [REDACTED]
www.southdublintourism.ie

www.dublineventsbyureau.com

www.thegatheringdublin.com

From: Gail McGibbon
Sent: 24 September 2012 07:29
To: REDDINGTON Donal
Cc: Sarah Brooks
Subject: Re: Launch of the Gathering 2013

Hi Donal,

My colleague Sarah will have a document to you asap.

Regards,
Gail
Sent from my iPad

On 21 Sep 2012, at 15:13, "REDDINGTON Donal" <DonalReddington@dttas.ie> wrote:

Dear Gail

I will be preparing speaking notes for Minister Ring's planned appearance at your launch event for The Gathering.

Please can you provide some information on the activities planned by the Council as part of the Gathering programme.

Thank you

Best regards

Donal Reddington

Higher Executive Officer

Tourism Development Policy Unit

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

New Road

Killarney

Co. Kerry

Tel. 064-6627382

Fax. 064-6627386

From: NELSON Eimear
Sent: 12 September 2012 17:16
To: Tourism2
Subject: FW: Launch of the Gathering 2013

Hi guys,

Minister Ring is hoping to attend and open the launch of The Gathering Dublin 2013 on 3rd October.

I am awaiting confirmation from Gail McGibbon who is confirming that this date suits the Lord Mayor.

If notes could be prepared for this it would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

Eimear

From: NELSON Eimear
Sent: 12 September 2012 17:09
To: [REDACTED]@SDUBLINCOCO.ie
Subject: Launch of the Gathering 2013

Hi Gail,

As per our conversation just now, how would Wed 3rd October suit for the launch of The Gathering Dublin 2013.

The Minister is available between 2-5pm that day. You might let me know what time suits if the 3rd is agreeable with you.

Many thanks

Eimear

Eimear Nelson

Minister of State Ring's Office
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2
Ph: (01) 6041118
Fax: (01) 6041672
Email: eimearnelson@dtas.ie

Supporting The Gathering Ireland 2013. Go to www.thegatheringireland.com and Be Part of it!

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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--->> You may be interested in -

FixYourStreet:

Get the fixyourstreet.ie Android app >> <http://bit.ly/JUNk8P>

Household Charge:

Funding Local Services - <http://www.householdcharge.ie>

Water Usage:

Stop running water! Use 10% less now, or we could all run into trouble - see <http://bit.ly/lgEw4G> [you tube]

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Is eolas faoi rún an t-eolas atá sa ríomhphost seo agus d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh sé faoi phribhléid ó thaobh an dlí de. Is don té ar seoladh chuige/chuici agus dósan/dise amháin an t-eolas. Ní ceadmhach do dhuine ar bith eile rochtain a bheith aige/aici ar an ríomhphost seo. Murar duit an ríomhphost seo tá nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh ná aon ghníomh eile a dhéanamh nó aon ghníomh eile a fhágáil gan déanamh ar iontaoibh an ríomhphoist seo toirmisce orthu agus d'fhéadfadh siad sin a bheith neamhdhleathach. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo trí earráid téigh i dteagmháil, le do thoil, leis an té a sheol í nó le postmaster@sdublincoco.ie. Glanadh an teachtaireacht seo le bogearraí Frithvíreas.



South Dublin County Tourism
The Gathering Dublin 2013

American Football

Tallaght Stadium is a recent addition to the sports venue portfolio of the county. With approximately 6,000 seat capacity, the stadium has hosted a wide variety of international and domestic sports. In 2012, the stadium will host the Shamrock Bowl, the Irish league final of the Irish American Football Association.

Operation

South Dublin County Tourism (SDCT) is the lead organiser for this proposal and the programme has an increased likelihood of success due to the high level of support received from numerous strategic partnerships and alliances.

Additional partners supporting the proposed project are as follows:

- ✓ Baseball Ireland
- ✓ Basketball Ireland
- ✓ Citywest Hotel, Conference, Leisure & Golf Resort
- ✓ Contract Bridge Association of Ireland
- ✓ Corkagh Park
- ✓ Corkagh Park Fisheries
- ✓ County Dublin Vocational Education Committee
- ✓ Cycling Ireland
- ✓ Elaine Kavanagh, ADCRG Irish Dance Teacher
- ✓ Failte Ireland
- ✓ Fingal Leader Partnership
- ✓ Football Association of Ireland
- ✓ Grange Castle Golf Course
- ✓ Irish American Football League
- ✓ Irish Canoe Union
- ✓ Irish Family Ancestry
- ✓ Irish Wheelchair Association
- ✓ Joe O'Reilly Ireland Group
- ✓ Leinster Cricket & Cricket Ireland
- ✓ Milenio Sports Management
- ✓ National Basketball Arena
- ✓ Peamount United Football Club
- ✓ Poker Ireland
- ✓ Retired Active Mens Social, Rathcoole Community Council, St Mark's Community School & South Dublin Senior Citizens Club
- ✓ South Dublin County Council
- ✓ South Dublin County Sports Partnership
- ✓ South Dublin Sports Development Officer, SDCC
- ✓ Tallaght Community Council
- ✓ Tallaght Photographic Society
- ✓ Tallaght Stadium
- ✓ The Gathering Ireland 2013

Marketing

The Gathering Dublin 2013 is registered to South Dublin County Tourism as a company trading name. South Dublin County Tourism has registered the www.thegatheringdublin.com and www.thegatheringdublin.ie.

The brand, logo and website are under construction. The company is also augmenting the features of the mobile app iGuideSouthDublin and will have a dedicated app. for the Gathering Dublin 2013.

Sport	Event	Venue	Date in 2013	No of days
American Football	Shamrock Bowl (Irish College Teams)	Tallaght Stadium	July	1 day
	Atlantic Cup (Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg & IRL)	Tallaght Stadium	July	2/ 3 days
	US College Tournament	Tallaght Stadium	August	1 week

Record 11



Irish American Football Association

131156/m7s

19 Castle Park,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22,
Ireland.

+353-87-4158196
iafa@americanfootball.ie
<http://www.americanfootball.ie>

25th March 2013

Mr. Michael Ring TD,
Minister for Sport & Tourism,
44 Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

SEEN BY MINISTER
24-03-13

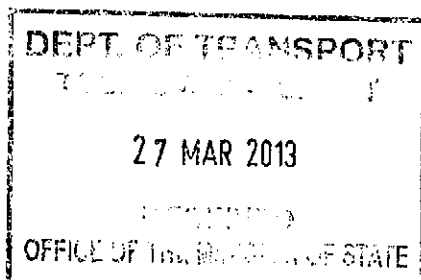
Re: Visit of Canadian Minister for The Gathering Bowl.

Dear Minister,

Please see attached correspondence sent to Mr. Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice & Equality concerning the above.

Yours sincerely,

Cillian Smith
Commissioner





Irish American Football Association

19 Castle Park,
Clondalkin, Dublin 22,
Ireland.

+353-87-4158196
iafa@americanfootball.ie
<http://www.americanfootball.ie>

25th March 2013

Mr. Alan Shatter T.D.,
Minister for Justice & Equality,
94 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

Re: Visit of Canadian Minister for The Gathering Bowl.

Dear Minister,

The Irish American Football Association is hosting a number of sporting events involving overseas teams as part of The Gathering 2013.

In the spirit of The Gathering, we are hoping that these events will provide an excellent opportunity to forge international cooperation and trade links between Ireland and the places of origin of the visiting teams. As such, we have been encouraging visiting teams to ask politicians and dignitaries to accompany them to Ireland.

In late August, we are hosting a game involving a team from Canada at Tallaght Stadium. We have been informed that the Honorable Ms. Christine Melnick, Provincial Minister of Multiculturalism and Immigration wishes to accompany this team. As you are the equivalent Minister of the Irish Government we would be very grateful if you would agree to host a meeting with Ms. Melnick during her visit to Ireland.

Mr. Russell Kerley is coordinating these events on our behalf. He can be contacted at russell@americanfootball.ie or 041-9887700.

Yours sincerely,

Cillian Smith
Commissioner

c.c. Mr. Michael Ring T.D., Minister for Sport.

Representation Tracking

Visit of Canadian Minister for the Gathering Bowl

Author: Deirdre Essig/DEPARTMENT

Created: 27/03/2013

Reference No: 131156/MTS

Date Of Letter: 25/03/2013 Date Received: 27/03/2013

Category : Non-Departmental issues

Urgent Further Query

Representor Details:

Representee Details:

Mr. Cillian Smith,

Irish-American Football Association

Forwarding Details:

Forwarded to: Ailish Kavanagh

Division: Minister's Office

Cc.

Forwarded for: Minister to See

Date Forwarded: 27/03/2013

Date for Reply:

17/04/2013

Date Interim Return:

Date Final Return:

Date Signed:

Re:

Comments/Notes:

Letter from Cillian Smith, IAFA informing Minister of visit of Canadian Minister for the Gathering Bowl with copy of letter sent from him to Minister Alan Shatter. Ack



**An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt**

**Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport**

Oifig an Aire Stait • *Office of the Minister of State*

Oifig an Aire Stait
44 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

Office of the Minister of State
44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Lo-Call 1890-443311 +353-1-604 1034

+353-1-604 1672 www.dttas.ie

MinisterRing@dttas.ie

Our Ref: 131156/MTS

28 March 2013

Mr. Cillian Smith
Commissioner
IAFA
19 Castle Park
Clondalkin
Dublin 22

Dear Mr. Smith,

On behalf of Minister Ring I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 25th March 2013 regarding visit of Canadian Minister for the Gathering Bowl, the contents of which I have brought to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

Ailish Kavanagh
Private Secretary to Minister Michael Ring

Record 12

REDDINGTON Donal

From: REDDINGTON Donal
Sent: 15 May 2013 15:19
To: KELLY John
Subject: IAFA v UCD

For info.

<http://thescore.thejournal.ie/ucd-penn-state-909876-May2013/>

D

Donal Reddington
Higher Executive Officer
Tourism Development Policy Unit
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
New Road
Killarney
Co. Kerry

Tel. 064-6627382

Fax. 064-6627386

Record 13



INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

MLUC13/1226
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
TOURISM AND SPORT
08 MAY 2013
MINISTERS OFFICE

May 1, 2013

Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D.
Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
Transport House
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2, Ireland

Dear Minister Varadkar,

On behalf of the University of Central Florida, I am writing to express interest in playing an American football game in Ireland in 2014. We would like to solicit your feedback and gauge your level of interest in this event. We intend that the game would take place on August 30, 2014, and our opponent would most likely be Penn State University.

Many hurdles currently prevent this opportunity from materializing, not least of which is funding. An event of this scale obviously requires significant financial investment, and yields tangible benefits for participants and hosts alike. To that end, we respectfully request €1.5 million in financial assistance. These Euro will be critical to the success of the game and will be used primarily to assist with the travel expenses for both teams and universities, as well as many operational and promotional expenses that will be incurred. Reports indicate that the 2012 Emerald Isle Classic between the University of Notre Dame and the US Naval Academy brought in an estimated €100 million economic impact to Ireland, so I hope you agree that this would be a most worthwhile investment.

We also ask for your department's commitment to support the game. This support extends to granting full authority over the game itself to us and our chosen partners, without any involvement from the Irish American Football Association (IAFA). This would be a regular season NCAA game and as such the IAFA has no jurisdiction.

Time presents another obstacle, and we must move quickly to organize this event if we are going to do it successfully. UCF has witnessed the great success of past American college football games in Ireland, and we hope to partner with you to participate in yet another of those successes. Please let me know your level of interest in pursuing this event, and we will be happy to visit you personally to finalize plans.

Best regards

John P. Wene
for Todd Stansbury

Todd Stansbury
Vice President and Director of Athletics

cc: Anthony Travel, Inc.
Abbey Tours

UCF ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION, INC • P.O. Box 163555
ORLANDO, FL 32816-3555 • (407) [REDACTED] FAX (407) 823-1274 • WWW.UCFATHLETICS.COM

John Kelly
for Dermot O'...

8/1/13

Mr John Kelly
Tourism Development


For draft reply for the Minister's signature please to reach this office by 21/05/2013.

Chris Smith
Private Secretary

9 May 2013

Our Ref: MLVC13/1226

Mr Todd Stansbury
Vice President and Director of Athletics
UCF Athletics Association Inc.

 athletics.ucf.edu

Dear Mr. Stansbury,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 1st May 2013 on behalf of the University of Central Florida regarding your interest in playing an American football game in Ireland in 2014.

A further reply will issue to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Smith
Private Secretary to Minister Varadkar

REDDINGTON Donal

From: KELLY John
Sent: 23 May 2013 13:20
To: OSHEA Bernard; REDDINGTON Donal
Subject: FW: MLVC13.1226
Attachments: DOC001.PDF; letter to UCF May 13.doc

FYI

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

From: QUINN Maurice
Sent: 23 May 2013 13:15
To: VARADKAR Leo
Cc: MURPHY Brian; KELLY John
Subject: FW: MLVC13.1226

Minister

I suggest we send the attached reply to the University of Central Florida in advance of their visit next week. I spoke directly to them and clarified the scope for funding and how funding requests are managed through the agencies.

I would support a courtesy call. Ireland is not as familiar to UCF (the home team) as it was to Notre Dame.

The game in Ireland is not a done deal. They will visit both Croke park and Aviva and intend to decide quickly thereafter.

It is an ESPN game which is very exciting for TI in terms of marketing.

Regards

Maurice

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2013 expressing the interest of the University of Central Florida in playing an American football game in Ireland in 2014.

I can assure you of my full support and that of the Government for the staging of American college football games in Ireland. The game between University of Notre Dame and the US Navy Academy was successful for the two colleges, the visiting fans and the tourism industry and I am confident that, together with Penn State University, you would have a similar experience in 2014. The game also caught the imagination of Irish sports fans many of whom will want to attend future games such as yours.

I understand that my officials have been in direct contact with you in relation to the potential financial support that may be made available for this event from the State Tourism agencies (Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland).

My Department is quite satisfied that this is a regular season game coming within the jurisdiction of the NCAA and that it should be managed as such by you and your chosen partners. The University of Notre Dame and US Navy Academy game proceeded on this basis notwithstanding the on-going claim by the Irish American Football Association of sanctioning authority.

I would be very happy to have a courtesy meeting with you on your visit to Ireland in the coming week to discuss this exciting prospect.

Ding an Aire

Minister of the Gaeltacht



An Roinn Iompair,
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt



Mr Todd Stansbury
Vice President and Director of Athletics
UCF Athletics Association INC
PO Box 163555
Orlando
Florida 32816-3555
United States of America

21 May 2013

Dear Mr Stansbury,

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2013 expressing the interest of the University of Central Florida in playing an American football game in Ireland in 2014.

I can assure you of my full support and that of the Government for the staging of American college football games in Ireland. The game between University of Notre Dame and the US Navy Academy was successful for the two colleges, the visiting fans and the tourism industry and I am confident that together with Penn State University, you would have a similar experience in 2014. The game also caught the imagination of Irish sports fans many of whom will want to attend future games such as yours.

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I would be very happy to have a courtesy meeting with you on your visit to Ireland in the coming week to discuss this exciting prospect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eoin Ó Súilleabháin'.

Eoin Ó Súilleabháin
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport

Record 14

REDDINGTON Donal

From: REDDINGTON Donal
Sent: 21 June 2013 15:10
To: Clarke Darren; LYNCH Cormac; SMITH Chris; MURPHY Brian
Cc: OSHEA Bernard
Subject: FW: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013

Importance: High

Colleagues

Please be advised that Donagh Morgan and Maurice Quinn have both recommended that the Minister decline this invitation.

Donal

Donal Reddington
Higher Executive Officer
Tourism Development Policy Unit
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
New Road
Killarney
Co. Kerry

Tel. 064-6627382
Fax. 064-6627386

From: REDDINGTON Donal
Sent: 20 June 2013 09:18
To: MINISTER'S OFFICE
Cc: Cillian Smith (cillian@americanfootball.ie)
Subject: FW: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013
Importance: High

Colleagues

Please see below an invitation to the Minister from the Irish American Football Association, to attend the European Federation of American Football Atlantic Cup final on 30th June.

The invitation was sent to me, but it is a matter for the Minister's diary team.

Donal

Donal Reddington
Higher Executive Officer
Tourism Development Policy Unit
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
New Road
Killarney
Co. Kerry

REDDINGTON Donal

From: QUINN Maurice
Sent: 21 June 2013 15:06
To: REDDINGTON Donal; MORGAN Donagh
Cc: OSHEA Bernard; MURPHY Brian
Subject: RE: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013

Donal

Will you relay them please for certainty.

Thanks

Maurice

From: REDDINGTON Donal
Sent: 21 June 2013 14:28
To: QUINN Maurice; MORGAN Donagh
Cc: OSHEA Bernard
Subject: RE: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013

Donagh / Maurice

Will I relay your views to Minister's diary team or have they been already advised?

Thanks

Donal

From: QUINN Maurice
Sent: 21 June 2013 14:12
To: MORGAN Donagh; REDDINGTON Donal; OSHEA Bernard; KELLY John; GRIFFIN Betty
Subject: RE: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013

I agree.

Maurice

From: MORGAN Donagh
Sent: 20 June 2013 14:52
To: REDDINGTON Donal; OSHEA Bernard; KELLY John; QUINN Maurice; GRIFFIN Betty
Subject: RE: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013

I would recommend against acceptance.

Donagh

From: REDDINGTON Donal
Sent: 20 June 2013 09:21

To: OSHEA Bernard; KELLY John; MORGAN Donagh; QUINN Maurice; GRIFFIN Betty
Subject: FW: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013
Importance: High

For info below.

Donal

From: REDDINGTON Donal
Sent: 20 June 2013 09:18
To: MINISTER'S OFFICE
Cc: Cillian Smith (cillian@americanfootball.ie)
Subject: FW: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013
Importance: High

Colleagues

Please see below an invitation to the Minister from the Irish American Football Association, to attend the European Federation of American Football Atlantic Cup final on 30th June.

The invitation was sent to me, but it is a matter for the Minister's diary team.

Donal

Donal Reddington
Higher Executive Officer
Tourism Development Policy Unit
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
New Road
Killarney
Co. Kerry

Tel. 064-6627382
Fax. 064-6627386

From: Cillian Smith (IAFA Commissioner) [mailto:cillian@americanfootball.ie]
Sent: 19 June 2013 23:26
To: REDDINGTON Donal
Subject: VIP invite to Atlantic Cup - Tallaght Stadium, 30th June 2013
Importance: High

Donal,

Please find below an invitation for the Minister for the EFAF Atlantic Cup,

Regards

Cillian

VIP Invitation to EFAF Atlantic Cup Final – 30th June 2013

Dear Minister,

The EFAF Atlantic Cup tournament is taking place in Tallaght Stadium over the weekend of 29th/30th June 2013. This event is part of The Gathering Dublin and being run with the kind assistance of South Dublin County Council, South Dublin Tourism, Tallaght Stadium, the European Federation of American Football and The Gathering.

The tournament is being contested by teams from Brussels (Belgium), Amersfoort (The Netherlands), Belfast (Northern Ireland) and local team Trinity College Dublin and is the official Western European Championship for purely amateur teams.

The IAFA would be very grateful if you would accept an invitation to attend the Final, which is due to kick-off at 3pm on Sunday 30th, as a guest of honour.

Entrance to the event for VIPs is via the stadium's main reception. Some refreshments will be provided. RSVP to cillian@americanfootball.ie

Kind Regards,

Cillian Smith
Commissioner
Irish American Football Association

Record 15

REDDINGTON Donal

From: KELLY John
Sent: 01 August 2013 15:08
To: REDDINGTON Donal
Subject: FW: IAFA
Attachments: Document.pdf

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

From: QUINN Maurice
Sent: 19 June 2013 15:00
To: jtreacy@irishsportsCouncil.ie
Cc: MORGAN Donagh; KELLY John; SCULLY Tim; MURPHY Brian
Subject: IAFA

John,

The attached letter sets out the Minister's concerns in relation to the IAFA and visiting college teams, and the action requested of the ISC.

Tim has the hard copy.

Regards

Maurice

Maurice Quinn
Assistant Secretary General
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2

01 604 1042
087 9154934



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

Príomh Oifig
44 Sraid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.
Head Office
44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Lo-Call 1890 443311 +353-1-670 7444
+353-1-670 9652 www.dtas.ie

19 June 2013

Mr. John Treacy
Chief Executive Officer
Irish Sports Council
Top Floor
Block A
Westend Office Park
Dublin 15

Dear John,

The Minister has asked me to raise his concerns with you about the stance of the Irish American Football Association (IAFA) in relation to American football college teams visiting Ireland.

Tourism is an important driver of economic activity in Ireland. It generates in the region of €5.5bn in revenue, employs an estimated 185,000 people and is deeply rooted in the fabric of Irish economic life, urban and rural.

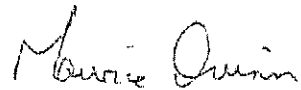
It is a sector that is returning to growth after some difficult years and employment numbers have bucked the overall trend and are moving upward. The Government has recognised the potential of tourism to contribute to our economic recovery and has invested in initiatives such as the Gathering as well as setting a number of actions in the Programme for Government and the Action Plan for Jobs. A key part of this is the development of sports and event tourism. This includes encouraging major sporting events involving overseas teams as well as less high profile competition between overseas and Irish teams. The game between the Naval Academy and Notre Dame last year showed the great potential of such events.

American College Football teams of all standards travel widely playing matches against each other as well as against club or national teams in the host country. This expands the horizons of the American students, raises the profile of American football worldwide and is a valuable source of tourists to the host country. The governing body in the host country benefits from the increased profile for the game and through playing against, spectating and general engagement with their visitors.

The Minister is concerned that teams considering visiting Ireland are being actively discouraged by the stance that has been adopted by the IAFA towards these visits. These potential visitors are of the opinion that, whilst Ireland is an attractive destination for them, they are being obstructed by the IAFA and are receiving significantly more cooperation and encouragement in every respect from the governing bodies of competing host countries.

The Minister has requested that the Sports Council urgently engage with the Irish American Football Association to ensure that, as a Government recognised and funded national governing body for sport, the Association does not in future act in a manner that is damaging to the development of tourism as a crucial area of economic activity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Maurice Quinn
Assistant secretary General

CC Mr. Donagh Morgan