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AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

SA/2

15 January 1987.

Dear Brian,

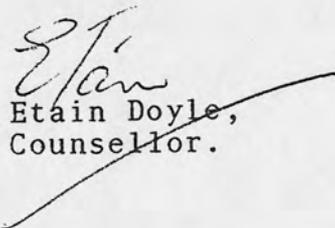
Further to our discussions last year concerning the playing of gaelic football in the Maze, I have finally been given the following information which may be of interest to you.

There is no GAA size pitch in the Maze, but one of the two soccer pitches was at one time used by PIRA prisoners for gaelic football. It has not been so used for some time as there are not sufficient prisoners (there are only 32 PIRA special category) interested in forming teams. There is no objection to the use of one of the soccer pitches for gaelic football and I am told, no restriction on the height to which footballers can be kicked in the course of a game.

In other prisons because of limited sports facilities, only soccer is provided as it is a widely-supported game in which most prisoners can participate. I may add that there does not appear to be any consistent demand for the provision of gaelic football facilities.

As I am moving to another desk - Development Aid - may I thank you now for all your assistance on this and other matters and wish you well for the future.

Yours sincerely,


Etain Doyle,
Counsellor.