

E. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

TP 151/3

PS/129/87/SW

cc Mr Elliott
Mr Cowling
Mr Bell
Mr Hewitt
Mr D Hill LOB

Mr Pearson

CROSSMAGLEN GAA CLUB

The Irish have raised with me the case of Crossmaglen GAA club which applied to DENI for capital grant in December last. The reply from DENI indicated that resources were limited and there was a long waiting list from other sporting clubs. While the application was not rejected, the letter seemed to imply that as the Crossmaglen GAA had received compensation of £150,000 in respect of their premises, the fact that they had this money would lessen their chances of receiving grant aid.

2. In responding to the Irish I referred to the very limited resources that had been available to DENI for all capital schemes over a number of years, the priority afforded to urgent educational building within these limits, and the inevitable queue of applicants for educational, youth, arts and sporting facilities. Although additional funds had been made available for capital work, there was a considerable number of applications which had been awaiting funding, in some cases for years.

3. I could not obviously comment on the Crossmaglen GAA application and in any event the club were about to have a meeting with the DENI officials at which they would no doubt be making their views known. I should be grateful for your advice please as to how I might respond further. For example if DENI could give details of the total budget for Sport and Recreation capital schemes in 87/88; the number of applications they have; the number of GAA clubs also in the queue and possibly ahead of Crossmaglen. It might also be helpful to be able to give the Irish details of the total amount DENI has paid to GAA in recent years and some indication as to the effect that the compensation factor would have on an application for grant.

4. I am also aware of the difficulties that DENI have had in making payments

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to GAA because of their rule relating to the security forces, and would be willing to go into this with the Irish if you or copy recipients thought it appropriate.

5. I should be grateful for your advice on this matter.

Principal Secretariat

10 March 1987

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