



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Annual Report 2019





Sport Ireland Annual Report 2019

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Sport Ireland Vision:

A world-class sports sector operating to the highest standards of governance and accountability and contributing towards the National Policy objectives for sport

Sport Ireland Mission:

Sport Ireland leads the national sports agenda through:

- Communicating the value and leading the thinking on sport
- Promoting an inclusive and fair culture
- Generating value from finite resources
- Building strong sports organisations
- Realising the concept of ‘sport for life for everyone’
- Supporting high performance success

Sport Ireland Values:

Sport Ireland recognises that there are values which are central to development of Sport in Ireland.

Player: We respect the right of everyone to invest in, participate in and achieve their potential in sport

Team: We work collaboratively to achieve shared goals

Fairplay: The development of sport must be based on a strong ethos of fairplay

Precision: Sport generates great passion; it must also be exact in showing what it can deliver for individuals and communities

Research: Strong research programmes provide an empirical basis for practice and policy

Chairman's Statement

2019 was the first full year of implementation of the Government's National Sports Policy 2018-2027. As the statutory agency for the development of sport, Sport Ireland was pleased to play a lead role in the delivery of many of the 57 important actions of the policy across a broad spectrum of areas throughout the year.

The initial implementation of the policy has already had a transformative impact on the sport sector, as evidenced by the detailed and comprehensive overview of the work of Sport Ireland documented in this report.

In that regard, the 2019 Irish Sports Monitor mid-year report published in November showed good progress in meeting National Sports Policy targets. The key finding that 46% of the Irish population (approximately 1.78 million people) participated in sport at least once a week in 2019 compared to 43% for the equivalent period in 2017, representing an additional 100,000 regular sports participants, is to be welcomed. We look forward to further positive news when the full report is published in summer 2020.

The ongoing development of the Sport Ireland Campus is not only a key action in the National Sports Policy, but also in the Government's National Development Plan 2018-2027. While work is ongoing on a new masterplan for the Campus, the addition of Phase 2 of the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena and the opening of a new state of the art hockey pitch for our elite teams have been critical additions to the Irish sporting infrastructure.

The magnificent pitch and ancillary facilities added to the already impressive Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena is unrivalled on these shores. The IRFU has now made the Arena its home for its high performance operations. The new Tokyo standard hockey pitch will provide an additional edge to our senior women's hockey team as they prepare for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Matters pertaining to governance in sport were brought into sharp focus throughout 2019. The work of Sport Ireland in supporting our funded bodies in strengthening their governance has never been so important and it has been welcome to see so much activity in this space. The Organisational Development & Change function continues to provide plentiful capacity building opportunities, while the work of Sport Ireland's Audit & Risk Committee has played an important role in making sure our investment is protected and organisations are best placed to deliver a solid return on that investment.

As outlined in the National Sports Policy, all funded bodies are required to adopt the Governance Code for Sport. Sport Ireland was delighted in 2019 to be given the opportunity to take over the code from the board made up of voluntary and charitable organisations. In taking over the Code, Sport Ireland is reaffirming its commitment to supporting all of funded bodies in putting in place and maintaining robust corporate governance structures.

As we put together this report, it would be remiss not to reflect on the current situation in which sport, and society, finds itself in as a result of the global Covid-19 pandemic. While this statement should be looking forward to an Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, it is not to be the case. The safety and wellbeing of our athletes, coaches and supporters is the first priority; while it is disappointing that we won't be seeing Ireland again excel on the world stage in August and September, we are firmly committed to making sure no stone is unturned in preparing for the rescheduled Games in 2021.

We thank our athletes for all of the work they have put in up to this point. 2019 was another great year for our athletes on the international stage where they represented themselves and their country with great pride and distinction. We look forward to seeing you mix it with the best in the world in the not too distant future.

Sport Ireland very much appreciates the support given to us in 2019 by Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross, and Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Brendan Griffin, on behalf of the Government. This enabled us to continue our mission to improve standards in high performance sport and to increase participation rates.

Through another substantial budget increase for 2020, the Government has responded very positively to a strong return on investment delivered by the Irish sporting community in 2019. The additional funding will allow Sport Ireland to continue supporting the sustainable development of the Irish sporting sector through the National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships. The valuable work of these funded organisations in providing opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to get involved in sport cannot be underestimated.

Finally, I want to thank and pay tribute to the Executive of Sport Ireland, my colleagues on the Board and Committee Members. I wish also to thank the Secretary General of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Graham Doyle, the Assistant Secretary Ken Spratt and their staff for their ongoing assistance and support.

Kieran Mulvey

Chief Executive's Review

This is the annual report of Sport Ireland for the year ended 31st December 2019.

It is submitted to the Minister for Sport as required under section 17 of the Sport Ireland Act, 2015.

This report outlines the major aspects of Sport Ireland's work including;

- the number of people participating in sport and physical activity
- sustaining high performance by ensuring Ireland's performance in elite international sport improves; and
- building the capacity of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs); and
- continuing the development of the Sport Ireland Campus

2019 was one of the busiest and productive years for Sport Ireland across all business areas.

Sport Ireland together with Sport Northern Ireland and Healthy Ireland published the first all-island Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity study. It provides rich insights into the experiences of children and adolescents throughout the island around their participation in physical activity, sport and physical education. While the report identified some challenges, it was welcome to see that the majority of children are participating in organised sport, at either community or school level.

It was a landmark year for Women in Sport with the publication of the first policy on Women's Participation in Sport, the establishment of a Women in Sport Steering Committee, the appointment of a Women in Sport Lead and the publication of a Maternity Policy for high performance athletes. This was underpinned by a multi-annual commitment to funding, which has already seen many innovative projects being delivered across the sector.

On the anti-doping front 2019 was another year where the collective fight against doping in sport was again put to the test. In 2019, Sport Ireland joined with key stakeholders in the anti-doping movement in stressing to WADA the need for transparency in all matters. In this regard, Sport Ireland brought together leaders in the anti-doping movement together for a special meeting to discuss this on the eve of the WADA Conference in Poland.

To support the work of our National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships in creating opportunities for people with disabilities and those from disadvantaged areas, Sport Ireland again invested a significant amount in projects through the Dormant Accounts Fund. That sport continues to be one of the top recipients of such funding is testament to the quality programmes and strong results delivered by these organisations.

In 2019, Sport Ireland published new Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport. This important resource reflects the challenges that National Governing Bodies and their clubs face on a day-

to-day basis, ensuring that current best practice is followed while also complying with today's relevant legislation.

The Covid-19 situation that has changed the landscape in early 2020 as this report is being prepared has had a marked and immediate impact on organised sport at all levels. The manner in which National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships have reacted and adapted to this unprecedented situation is commendable. We all look forward to getting back on the training grounds, playing fields and into stadiums soon, when it is safe to do so.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross, the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Brendan Griffin, the officials of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the staff of Sport Ireland throughout 2019 in making a strong case for the increased investment in sport. The additional funding secured will have a real impact on the Irish sports sector, allowing for a significant increase in funding to our funded organisations in 2020.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Board and staff of Sport Ireland for their ongoing excellence in the discharge of their duties.

John Treacy

Sport Ireland Board

Kieran Mulvey

Kieran Mulvey is Chairman of Sport Ireland and is the former Director General of the Workplace Relations Commission, a position he held from 1991 to 2016. He is a former General Secretary of the Association of Secondary Teachers, Ireland (ASTI) and Irish Federation of University Teachers (IFUT). He is a director of Independent News and Media and Chairman of Adare Human Resources. Kieran is a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland and is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). Kieran holds Honorary Doctorates from the National University of Ireland and University College Dublin. He has undertaken a number of projects for the Government, the European Union and International Labour Organisation.

Bernard Allen (to 30th September 2019)

First elected to Dáil Éireann in 1981, Bernard Allen retained his seat at each subsequent general election until his retirement in 2011. A front bench spokesperson for Health, Social Welfare, Environment and Local Government, Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Sport and Recreation, he was appointed Minister of State at the Department of Education and the Environment with special responsibility for Youth and Sport. Bernard is a member of the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland, Bol Chumann na hEireann, Golfing Union of Ireland, GAA and FAI. Bernard was a board member of the Irish Sports Council.

Lynne Cantwell

Lynne Cantwell is Ireland's most capped woman in Irish rugby and a former Vice-Captain & Captain for Ireland's 15s & 7s team. She has represented Ireland 86 times over a 13 year period and jointly led Ireland to their first ever Six Nations Triple Crown, Grand Slam title and victory over World Champions, New Zealand 2013/14. Since retiring she has continued to represent and help progress the game. Lynne is the Chair of Sport Ireland's Women in Sport Steering Committee.

Roy Dooney (to 30th September 2019)

Roy is the former Chair of the Sport Ireland Facilities DAC and is a Communications Consultant by profession. Roy was a Member of the National Sports Strategy Group from 1995-1997 and a former Commissioner of the Eircom League. He is a former international athlete who represented Ireland at Marathon, Road and Cross-Country championships at European and World levels. Roy is a former coopted member of the Board of Athletics Ireland.

Mary Dorgan

Mary is serving a second term on the Board of Sport Ireland. She is the Chairperson of the Audit & Risk Committee. Mary is a highly experienced board member across the public and private sectors. She was previously Assistant Chief Executive with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA). Mary is a CEDR accredited Mediator.

Olive Loughnane

Olive competed as a high performance athlete from 2000 – 2013. She became World Athletics Champion in 2009. She represented Ireland at four consecutive Olympic Games. Since retiring from competitive sport in 2013, Olive has been a member of the Sport Ireland High Performance Committee. She currently works as a Statistician in the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and was previously employed in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Kerry Group Plc. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Masters in Leadership and Strategy.

John Maughan

John Maughan served as Senior Football Manager of Mayo, Clare, Roscommon and Fermanagh and led his county to the 1996, 1997 and 2004 All-Ireland Senior Football Finals. John inspired Clare to win the Munster Football title for only the second time in 1992 and also managed NUI Galway in the Sigerson Cup. John held the position of Captain with the Defence Forces of Ireland and is currently employed by Mayo County Council as a Procurement Officer. John is also a football analyst for RTÉ Radio sport. John was a board member of the Irish Sports Council.

Padraic Moran

Padraic is a two-time Paralympian and a former world champion in the sport of Boccia. With over 20 years national and international competitive experience, he possesses a wealth of knowledge across the sports disability sector. Apart from extensive experience in existing disciplines, more recently he has been assisting in developing Power Chair Football within Ireland. He has worked with Youth Sport Trust UK and is currently working with East Coast FM and Sky Ireland.

Caroline Murphy

Caroline is a Broadcaster and Psychologist who runs her own Communications Consultancy. Caroline previously presented 'It Says in the Papers' on Morning Ireland and has many years' experience of Sports

Broadcasting in both Radio and Television. She was a member of the National Sports Campus Development Authority and its representative on the High Performance Committee of the Irish Institute of Sport.

Patrick O'Connor

Patrick O'Connor is a Solicitor, Coroner, Arbitrator and Notary Public. Patrick is a member of a number of professional and regulatory bodies and associations including The Law Society of Ireland, The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Mental Health Tribunal, and the World Rugby, Six Nations and IRFU Disciplinary panels. Patrick has previously served as member, chairman or director of a wide range of professional, sporting and philanthropic organisations including the Board of Management of St. Louis Community School, Hope House, the Irish Association of Suicidology, the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board, the Courts Service Board and the Press Council of Ireland. He has held various offices within the Law Society of Ireland most notably as President (1998-99). Patrick was a board member of the Irish Sports Council.

Roger O'Connor

Roger is highly qualified as a finance professional, having attained a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and a Master of Business Administration, both from UCD. He has been a full member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants since 1997. He has worked in elite professional sport since 2000, holding the positions of Managing Director and Head of Finance & Regulations at ERC, the organiser and rights holder of the Heineken Cup rugby tournament. Roger is Director Commercial Finance with ICON plc and is the Chair of the Sport Ireland Facilities dac.

Gary Ryan

Gary Ryan is the UL Beo Project Manager at University of Limerick. He is a twice Olympic Athlete, a World Indoor medalist, a former Director of Coaching for Athletics Ireland and has coached athletes and teams at World European and Olympic level from youths to seniors. He was also Head of Fitness for the Tipperary Senior Hurling team for several years. In his current role he is developing partnerships and programmes in Sport and Physical Activity with high performance, community and industry engagements that benefit individuals, sporting organisations, communities and industry and on the University of Limerick's teaching, service and research output.

Liam Sheedy

Liam Sheedy is Regional Manager with Bank of Ireland. A former Tipperary hurler he went on to manage his county to All-Ireland Minor glory in 2006 and delivered National League and two Munster titles at senior level before capturing All-Ireland success in 2010. Liam worked as an RTE hurling analyst on The Sunday Game prior to becoming Tipperary Manager for a second spell, leading to the 2019 All Ireland Senior Hurling title. Liam was a board member of the Irish Sports Council.

Member Attendance at Board Meetings 2019

Sport Ireland held 9 meetings in 2019.

Member	Total
Kieran Mulvey	9
John Maughan	9
Liam Sheedy	6
Roy Dooney*	5
Mary Dorgan	8
Caroline Murphy	8
Patrick O'Connor+	8
Bernard Allen*	6
Lynne Cantwell	9
Gary Ryan	8
Olive Loughnane	9
Roger O'Connor	9
Padraic Moran+	8

*The term of Bernard Allen and Roy Dooney expired on 30th September 2019.

+Pat O'Connor and Padraic Moran were both re-appointed to the Board with effect from 1st October 2019.

Sport Ireland Staff

Chief Executive
John Treacy, Chief Executive Officer
Finance, Corporate Services and Communications
Jason McLoughlin, Director of Finance, Corporate Services, Governance and Communications
Colm McGinty, Director of Governance, Risk, Compliance, Strategy & HR
June Menton, Director of Finance Projects
Sarah Murphy, Human Resources Manager
Cian Spillane, Head of Risk & Compliance
Joanna Gurtman, Finance Manager
Nicola Connolly, Finance Executive
David Gash, Communications & Public Affairs Manager
Caroline O'Mahony, Communications Executive
Participation and Ethics
Una May, Director of Participation and Ethics
Siobhan Leonard, Director of Anti-Doping and Ethics
Emma Jane Clarke, Partnerships and Governance Director
Gerard Nowlan, Anti-Doping Science Officer
Melissa Morgan, Anti-Doping Testing and Quality Manager
Janine Merriman, Anti-Doping Executive
Colin Murphy, Safeguarding Executive
Benny Cullen, Partnership and Governance Manager
Brian Staunton, Sports Partnership Executive
Cormac MacDonnell, Outdoors Manager
Helen McHugh, Diversity, Inclusion and Safeguarding Manager
High Performance and National Governing Bodies
Paul McDermott, Senior Director of High Performance and National Governing Bodies
Niamh O'Sullivan, High Performance Manager
Shane Califf, National Governing Bodies Manager
Conor Molan, High Performance Planning & Programmes
Erika Murphy, Grants Manager
Peter Brosnan, High Performance Executive
Melanie Lettis, National Governing Bodies Executive
Louise Carey, High Performance Officer
Research
Peter Smyth, Director of Research
Sport Ireland Coaching
Michael McGeehin, Director of Sport Ireland Coaching
Deirdre Morrissey, PA to the Director
Diarmaid Moloney, IT Technician
Sheelagh Quinn, Head of Corporate Services
Ann McMahon, Administrator
Helen Quain, Administrator
Declan O'Leary, Head of Coaching Services
Adrian Byrne, Coach Education Development Officer
Fiona Larkin, Coach Education Development Officer
Hayley Harrison, Coach Education Development Officer
Yvonne Byrne, Coach Education Development Officer
Tony Wright, Coach Education Development Officer
Sport Ireland Institute
Bernie O'Shea, Receptionist
Sport Ireland Courtyard
Miriam Browne, Receptionist

Sport Ireland Committee Overview

Committee	Role	No. of Meetings
Audit & Risk Committee	To monitor and review the Sport Ireland internal control and risk management systems; To monitor the integrity of the financial statements, reviewing significant financial reporting judgments; To monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sport Ireland internal audit function.	7
High Performance Committee	To assist and advise Sport Ireland on strategic, investment and operational matters in relation to the High Performance Programme and Sport Ireland Institute/	4
NGB Grants Committee	To consider and recommend NGB grants on an annual basis.	2
Anti-Doping Committee	To assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to the performance of its functions including providing assistance and advice to Sport Ireland on policy formulation relating to the three strands of testing, education and research required under the terms of the council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, 1989 and providing assistance and advice to the Sport Ireland staff on policy execution.	3
Coaching Committee	To advise Sport Ireland on policy and strategy in relation to the development of Coaching on the island of Ireland.	3
Research & Participation Committee	The role of the Research and Participation Committee is to provide strategic guidance of research carried out by and on behalf of Sport Ireland and the participation plan developed by Sport Ireland in the context of the National Sports Policy and Sport Ireland's Strategy	5
Sport Ireland Campus Committee	The purpose of the Sport Ireland Campus Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to its functions relating to the development of a national sports campus on the site, in accordance with paragraph 6(4)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Sport Ireland Act, 2015.	6
Eligibility Committee	The role of the Eligibility Committee is to make recommendations to the Board as to whether applicant organisations satisfy eligibility criteria as agreed by the Board.	1
Steering Group to Oversee Government Support for Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie	To oversee the Government support for Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie.	1
Women in Sport Steering Group	To support the implementation of the Women in Sport Policy and to support and guide the work of the newly appointed Women in Sport Lead.	6

National Governing Bodies

The National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) recognised by Sport Ireland are at the centre of Irish sport. Sport Ireland is committed to developing a strong and diverse NGB sector that delivers for the sporting community in Ireland. NGBs are key delivery agencies for Sport Ireland in the achievement of its strategic and operational goals.

The work of NGBs should feed into and complement the strategic priorities identified in both the National Sports Policy and the Sport Ireland strategy. Sport Ireland currently recognises over 60 governing bodies of sport with the majority of them in receipt of financial investment and support services on an annual basis.

A key focus of Sport Ireland is to assist NGBs to develop sustainable and effective structures to facilitate increased numbers of participants and volunteers in sport. Sport Ireland invests in NGBs in line with its strategic priorities. Investment is made with the specific aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of NGBs.

The work of the NGB Unit is focused on the ongoing operations, governance and financial management of the NGBs. It also has a key role in liaising with other operational units within Sport Ireland such as High Performance, Coaching, Participation and Anti-Doping.

Programme Overview:

Governing Bodies Investment

Many NGBs receive funding primarily to support core operations. The NGB Core Grant covers the implementation of strategic plans and participation programmes, coach development, the employment of professional staff and the administration costs associated with developing and delivering the sport. Core funding also supports the implementation of the Sport Ireland Code of Ethics and Anti-Doping Programmes.

Sport Ireland takes into account the national significance of each sport, quality of programmes & operations, levels of participation, membership, volunteerism and social capital when investing in NGBs.

Sport Ireland also wishes to see a diverse range of sports available to the Irish public and continues to invest in a wide variety of NGBs. Sport Ireland acknowledges that smaller NGBs will be limited in their capacity to deliver on wider government policy.

Sport Ireland expects that NGBs in receipt of significant levels of funding will deliver against Sport Ireland's stated aims and wider government policy at a community level.

All NGBs are expected to demonstrate that they are fit for purpose and are in compliance with core legal, governance, ethical, operational, risk management and taxation/fiduciary policies.

2019 saw an 18% increase in the overall core funding budget for the NGB Sector with funding increasing from €10.845 to €12.845 million. This increased investment provided an opportunity for Sport Ireland to further strengthen the NGB sector to deliver on both its strategic objectives and those identified in the governments sports policy. Given the significant uplift on 2018 levels, Sport Ireland was in a position to provide the majority of performing governing bodies with an increase. Some notable allocations for 2019 include:

Strategically Significant & Participation Focused Sports: The National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027 recognises that certain sporting activities are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the wider government agenda of life long sports involvement and health. The policy identifies swimming, cycling and running as three sports that merit particular attention and support. Sport Ireland's 2019 core funding investment in the three relevant governing bodies reflect those policy aims.

- Athletics Ireland :€950,000 (+€63K)
- Swim Ireland : €910,000 (+€83K)
- Cycling Ireland €350,000 (+€45K)

Increased funding also allowed Sport Ireland to provide additional investment to support and recognise the excellent work that has been done in expanding the participation base in sports such as triathlon, gymnastics, rowing, cricket and tennis.

Volunteer Led Sports: Increased levels of overall funding provided Sport Ireland with an opportunity to strengthen and enhance the volunteer led bodies. Sport Ireland is committed to assisting NGBs to make the transition from volunteer led organisations to ones with professional staff. Over the last number of years Sport Ireland identified a number of volunteer led sports that showed the potential to make that transition. Sport Ireland will work closely with these sports over the coming years to further develop them. As overall funding increases into the future it is proposed to continue to identify and assist additional volunteer led sports to significantly expand.

Special Projects & Events: In addition to the core grant funding, Sport Ireland also ring-fenced €299,000 to support development projects and strategically important events of certain identified NGBs. An additional €250,000 was also allocated to Special Olympics towards its participation in the 2019 World Games.

Targeted Funding: During 2019, the NGB Unit continued its work with both the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, and the Department of Health to identify additional investment opportunities for the NGB sector. This resulted in additional NGB support under both the Dormant Accounts (€1,165,000) and Healthy Ireland (€455,000) Funding Schemes.

Dormant Accounts Funding was made available to National Governing Bodies to develop innovative sport and physical activity initiatives that aim to engage with one or more of the following beneficiaries:

- The personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged
- The educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged
- Persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000)

Healthy Ireland Funding seeks to support Governing Bodies in delivering innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan.

Recognition Programme

Sport Ireland operates a recognition process for organisations wishing to become eligible for support as National Governing Bodies of Sport. The recognition criteria establish minimum requirements for all organisations wishing to apply for Sport Ireland financial support.

The current Criteria is in place since October 2018.

Sport Ireland recognised no additional governing bodies during 2019.

Governance

As outlined in Action 31 of the National Sports Policy 2018 -2027 all NGBs will be required to adopt the Governance Code for Sport by the end of 2021.

Sport Ireland continues to support NGBs in building the Governance capability in their organisations ahead of this deadline. Throughout 2019, many Governing Bodies attended a range of our free sector-wide training events in Governance related areas of Cyber Security, Risk Management, Understanding the Governance Code, Data Protection and Good Governance Principles.

A number of NGBs also availed of free in-house Governance training for Board members in the areas of roles, responsibilities and governance best practice for Boards.

During 2019 NGBs continued to be provided access to a free of charge E-Learning programme that supports organisations who are adopting the Governance Code. This programme has been developed by the Carmichael Centre and features a range of governance training modules. In addition, it also includes access to a large number of templates for a range of the required organisational documents and policies referred to in the Code.

The comprehensive range of customisable templates combined with the ability to receive advice on the tailoring of these templates through Sport Ireland's free Governance Advisory service, is of great assistance to NGBs on their adoption journey.

Sport Ireland will continue to build the Governance capability in the sector and the following services will continue to be provided free of charge in that regard

- Governance and Risk Management Classroom based training for employees and Board members
- In house governance training for Board members on a tailored basis
- Breakfast Seminars focusing on Governance Masterclasses in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration
- Provision of E-learning support in relation to understanding and implementing The Governance Code (includes access to required templates and policy documents)
- Provision of a free Advisory Service (by phone or face to face) to deal with queries on Governance related matters
- As of December 31st 2019, 26 NGBs have fully adopted the Code with an additional 36 NGBs currently on the adoption journey.

In addition, all Sport Ireland recognised NGBs have included a dispute resolution mechanism within their Constitution. Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland (previously Just Sport Ireland), a function of the Federation of Irish Sport is supported by Sport Ireland and is the mechanism of choice for many of the NGBs. Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland is an independent dispute resolution service for Irish Sport offering both a Mediation and Arbitration facility.

Continued monitoring and evaluation of the compliance requirements of NGB funding was carried out by the NGB Support Unit through its Annual Grants Process, Mid-Year Review and NGB Audit programme.

High Performance

The Sport Ireland High Performance Unit provides supports to athletes and programmes seeking to deliver performances at European, World, Olympic and Paralympic level. The objective of the High Performance Unit is to develop a world-class high performance system which is led Sport Ireland and delivered by National Governing Bodies. The strategic areas, which shape the work of the High Performance Unit, include funding; partnerships; governance of high performance sport; monitoring and evaluation; strategy and policy.

Funding

High Performance Programme Funding

In 2019, Sport Ireland allocated €8.46m in High Performance Programme Funding. High Performance Programme funding increased by €1.5m in 2019. Sport Ireland allocated this funding in broad alignment to the additional funding received in 2018. This funding provided an important boost to the system at a critical time in the Games cycle.

High Performance Programme Funding supports the delivery of NGBs' performance programmes. Sport Ireland allocated 80% of High Performance Programme Funding to the top ten NGBs. This funding supports the salaries of performance staff including coaches and service providers; attendance at training camps and competitions; and assists the NGB in developing its performance pathway.

Tokyo 2020

In 2019, through the supplementary estimate process, Sport Ireland secured €800k in additional funding for Tokyo 2020. This funding was primarily allocated to the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland representing the second stage of Sport Ireland's Tokyo support package. The remainder of this funding was allocated to NGBs who had made requests to Sport Ireland for Tokyo specific projects throughout the year. Sport Ireland's priority for investment was to reduce the financial pressure in the system by offsetting a portion of the Tokyo costs a year in advance.

Tokyo 2020 is widely accepted as an expensive Games for Ireland across Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. In collaboration with the Olympic Federation of Ireland, Sport Ireland has clarity on many of the Games related costs. Notwithstanding this, there will continue to be a degree of uncertainty regarding costs until athletes secure their qualification in quarters 1 and 2 of 2020. This is also applicable to the Paralympic Games, where the team size for Ireland will not be fully known until May 2020.

Direct Athlete Funding

The International Carding Scheme operated by Sport Ireland provides financial assistance to Ireland's most talented athletes. The aim of the Scheme is to ensure athletes can prepare effectively for major championships including European, World, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In 2019 Sport Ireland allocated €1,934,000 in funding through the International Carding Scheme. This Scheme supported over 90 athletes from 16 sports. In addition to funding, athletes on the International Carding Scheme have access to a range of services and facilities at the Sport Ireland Institute.

For 2019 and 2020, the International Carding Scheme is awarded as a two-year Scheme. Athletes who are awarded Carding in 2019 will be funded until December 2020, subject to terms and conditions. The most important benefit from this change is to allow athletes to fully focus on Olympic & Paralympic qualification and performance, and reduce the negative pressures associated with chasing funding criteria.

Governance and Partnerships

High Performance Committee

The High Performance Committee is a sub-committee of the Board of Sport Ireland. It works to assist and advise on an ongoing basis on matters relating to Sport Ireland's function under section 6 (1) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015; "to encourage the promotion, development and co-ordination of competitive sport and the achievement of excellence in competitive sport".

The Sport Ireland High Performance Unit reports to the High Performance Committee on funding, policy, and the performance of NGBs. The Sport Ireland Institute reports to the Committee on services, performance related initiatives; and performance leadership development programmes.

Development of a new strategy for high performance sport was a significant body of work by the High Performance Committee in 2019. Chaired by Liam Sheedy, the High Performance Strategy Development Group oversaw the consultation process; considered the findings of these engagements along with analysis of international best practice in high performance sport; and provided guidance on strategic priorities.

Olympic Federation of Ireland

Sport Ireland provides funding to the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) to support its administration and programme costs. Funding from Sport Ireland is prioritised towards performance related activities that both directly and indirectly benefit Irish athletes. The working relationship between Sport Ireland and the OFI has transformed throughout the Tokyo cycle. Through the Tokyo Working Group, collaboration between the OFI and Sport Ireland High Performance Unit has advanced the process of determining each NGBs specific need for Tokyo 2020. The Sport Ireland Institute is also continuing to successfully partner with the OFI ahead of Tokyo 2020.

Paralympics Ireland

Sport Ireland provides funding to Paralympics Ireland to support its administration and operational costs. Sport Ireland also provides High Performance Programme funding to Paralympics Ireland to support the delivery of its para programme, which supports Irish athletes in reaching finals and achieving medals at European Championships, World Championships, and the Paralympic Games. Paralympics Ireland directly manages the programmes of para swimming and para athletics.

Under its new strategy, Paralympics Ireland plans to change its current model, which will involve embedding the sports of swimming and athletics within their respective NGBs. This will be a long-term initiative and require high levels of collaboration between Paralympics Ireland, Swim Ireland and Athletics Ireland.

High Performance Strategy 2020-2029

The High Performance Strategy 2020-2029 reached the final stages of development in July 2019 and was approved at all governing levels in October 2019. The strategy identifies medal targets for Paris 2024 and L.A 2028, and is supported by seven key strategic pillars which, when achieved, will advance the high performance system in Ireland significantly. The strategy has been socialised within the high performance community and will be launched in 2020.

Performances

In 2019, Irish athletes in recognised World Championship, European Championship, or equivalent competitions at senior, junior/youth/under 23 level, won eighty medals. Detailed below is the gender breakdown of these medals:

- 45 medals achieved by females
- 25 medals achieved by males
- 10 medals achieved in mixed team events

Notably, 11 medals were secured at World Championships in Olympic/Paralympic disciplines. Sport which achieved these podium performances include Rowing; Gymnastics; Para Cycling; Para Swimming; Para Athletics; and Para Shooting.

In 2019, 41 athletes (plus 5 reserves) achieved initial Olympic qualification standard for Tokyo 2020. 5 athletes achieved automatic quota places for Tokyo 2020 via World Championship performances.

Additional Achievements:

In addition to the above areas of work, the High Performance Unit delivered on the following in 2019:

- Monitoring and evaluation of the performances delivered by high performance funded sports
- First stage development of an Athlete Welfare Policy
- Development and launch of a Maternity Policy for the International Carding Scheme

Sport Ireland Institute

Under the Sport Ireland Act (2015) Sports Ireland's functions which are delivered in whole or in part by the Sport Ireland Institute are:

- to encourage the promotion, development and co-ordination of, and the achievement of excellence in, competitive sport;
- to support elite athletes in achieving excellence in sport;
- to disseminate information concerning competitive sport or recreational sport

The Sport Ireland Institute works directly with the High Performance National Governing Bodies and provides the following:

- Sport Science and Medicine services
- Athlete lifeskills and advisory support
- HP People Development programmes from our Capability & Expertise department
- Performance planning support
- High Performance Training Centre

Programme Highlights:

Tokyo 2020 Preparations

The 2019 EOC European Games in Minsk provided an opportunity to road-test the effectiveness of the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) / Sport Ireland Institute partnership and trial plans for the Tokyo Games. The OFI's evaluation report of the Minsk 2019 European Games drew the following conclusion:

"The positive working relationship between the OFI and SII was highly commented on and should continue to be fostered to ensure consistency of support to athletes across the cycle and through Games."

Other highlights of the OFI / Sport Ireland Institute partnership delivered in 2019 included:

- Appointments to Team Ireland for 2020 of nine of the Sport Ireland Institute Team.
- A team of five from the Sport Ireland Institute provided support to Team Ireland at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Baku.
- The OFI Science & Medicine Commission was established with Prof. John O'Byrne appointed as Independent Chairperson.
- Institute support on a range of inspection and preparation visits to Tokyo and cities of pre Games holding camps including Fukuroi, Hamamatsu, Masuda, Narita and Miyazaki.
- Extensive research and planning on the heat, travel and acclimatisation strategies for Team Ireland.
- Research, development and launch of the Tokyo 2020 Games Transition Programme.

In 2019, Sport Ireland Institute concluded a partnership agreement with Paralympics Ireland designating us as the *‘Performance Support Delivery Partner for Paralympics Ireland’*. The initial partnership delivery milestones included the appointment of five Institute team members to Team Ireland for Tokyo 2020 and the Pre Games Holding Camp in Narita City, and the development and rollout of the Games Transition Programme to Para athletes.

High Performance Centre Usage

The level of usage of the Institute by all groups has increased significantly with a large amount of cross sharing of knowledge, experience and support evident across all groups. The High Performance Centre has become a focal point for HP activity of many of the NGBs ranging from training and support services to hosting of events and NGB board and High Performance Committee meetings.

The headline figure of total number of visits to the Sport Ireland Institute grew to 13,963 in 2019. This represented a 47.3% increase from the 9,479 visits in 2018. The total number of unique users (athletes, coaches etc.) from a total of 28 sports grew substantially to 1,482 in 2019.

Athlete Performance Impact

The results of the recent Sport Ireland Institute Sentiment Survey of athletes indicates the high level of satisfaction of athletes with the support provided by the Sport Ireland Institute. The satisfaction rating of 4.42 out of 5 (88.4%) from carded athletes is a highly satisfactory outcome.

Sport Ireland Institute Strategy 2020-2024

The Institute Statement of Strategy has been reviewed and realigned to the new Irish HP Strategy.

The revised strategy retains the six strategic priorities with some minor additions and altered the vision for the Sport Ireland Institute to:

“To be an essential support partner with Irish high performance athletes in achieving sustained and repeatable podium success on the world stage.”

The Institute strategy will be published in due course.

HPX 2019 Conference

Over 200 invited delegates from the high performance community attended the HPX 2019 Conference held at the Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort. The event had a host of top class speakers including Steve

Ingham (Supporting Champions), John Donnelly (UK Sport), Patricia Heberle (Team Ireland Chef de Mission) and a host of Performance Directors, coaches and athletes through a range of panel sessions. Former Olympian, David Gillick, acted as MC for the event and provided great personal insight to many of the discussion topics.

In line with the focus on Games readiness and athlete welfare, the Tokyo Ready Transition Programme was formally launched at the event by Eoin Rheinisch, Head of Performance Lifeskills. This programme will offer a range of supports to athletes and staff in managing their transition through the Olympic/Paralympic year.

Programme Overview:

The Sport Ireland Institute provides a large range of performance supports to Irish High Performance Sports. The following is a brief summary from each support discipline in 2019:

Performance Lifeskills & Advisory Service:

The lifeskills team delivered athlete support across three pillars – performance, education and career. The Athlete Friendly Employers Network goes from strength to strength with 40 organisations now members of the network, 27 athletes engaged in the process with 7 successfully placed with organisations.

Performance Analysis:

The Performance Analysis Team have implemented the visual analytics tool provided by partners SAS Analytics to great effect with the sports of boxing and swimming.

Strength & Conditioning:

The S&C department continued to increase its quantity of S&C support to elite Irish athletes and increased footfall/usage at the Sport Ireland Institute S&C facility throughout 2019. The S&C team delivers regular, structured support to 13 sports covering approximately 115 athletes at the Sport Ireland Institute and selected remote locations.

Rehabilitation:

The rehab team have been at the centre of our support to HP sports in 2019 and at major events and multisport Games. The Head of Rehab led the physio team at the European Games in Minsk and has been appointed by the OFI to lead the physio/rehab team for Tokyo 2020.

Physiology:

Preparations for Tokyo were a priority focus for physiology in 2019. The team researched, developed and delivered travel strategies to multiple sports across the year, identified eastward long haul trips provided opportunities to collect data, trial strategies and monitor athlete and staff responses. Strategies tested included support with flights, travel recovery, heat acclimatization and cooling

Performance Nutrition:

The number of athletes and sports serviced by the nutrition team grew again in 2019. This service provision was delivered away at camps and within Ireland, which is crucial to developing relationships with athletes but also by adapting personalised nutrition plans to suit training camp and competition environments.

Medicine:

The performance medical service at the Sport Ireland Institute was greatly enhanced in 2019 with the appointment of Dr. James O'Donovan as Head of Medicine. The Sport Ireland Institute now operates a medical clinic for athletes across four days per week.

Psychology:

Following her trainee period with us, Olympian Jessie Barr was promoted to contracted service provider, having had her application for PQAP membership approved. She is now providing support to a range of sports in preparation for the Tokyo Games.

The clinical psychology service continued to expand, with demand expected to further increase in 2020. The service capacity was doubled in 2019.

Capability & Expertise:

The Sparking Performance Programme continued to provide bespoke self-directed peer learning network for 16 Performance Directors under the programme leadership of Patricia Heberle.

The HPX2019 Conference provided a significant HP community learning event in November 2019.

Sport Ireland Anti-Doping

Testing

Testing Highlights for 2019

- In competition samples accounted for 21% and out of competition samples for 79% in the national testing programme
- Samples collected increased by 17%
- Whereabouts Failures decreased from 17 in 2018 to 4 in 2019
- Unsuccessful attempts on the Registered Testing Pool increased by 20%

Sample Collection Personnel Training Days

The annual sample collection personnel training days took place on Saturday, October 12th 2019 and Wednesday, November 27th 2019. 42 Sample Collection Personnel have been re-accredited for 2020.

Sample Collection Personnel Audits

In 2019 members from the Anti-Doping Unit completed in-the-field audits at testing missions on Doping Control Officers and Chaperones. In total 8 audits on Sample Collection Personnel were carried out in 2019 with no major findings reported.

Education

Sport Ireland recognises that education is key to support athletes in relation to anti-doping. Sport Ireland provides education to a number of athletes and athlete support personnel annually through face to face education, online learning and a number of other resources such as printed resources and website content.

- 160 education seminars conducted by NGB'S in 2019
- Over 4,195 athletes educated through face to face education seminars.
- 2,250 athletes completed the eLearning in 2019

Sport Ireland currently have 98 trained anti-doping tutors, Sport Ireland trained 12 from Cycling, Hockey, GAA, Camogie and LGFA in 2019.

Athletes educated by Sport Ireland attended European Olympic Games, European Youth Olympics, and European Youth Olympic Winter Festival.

Athlete Voice

Sport Ireland are committed to ensuring that athletes are represented and heard in all aspects of anti-doping. Understanding and highlighting athletes' opinions and insights is critical to the future of the anti-doping movement in Ireland and globally. Sport Ireland engaged in a number of initiatives to promote and elevate the athlete voice in 2019.

13 athletes took place in a focus group for the RESPECT project in February. The sports represented were Triathlon, Athletics, Para-athletics, Swimming, Rugby, Hockey, Hurling, Gaelic Football, and Canoe Slalom.

Becky Scott Olympic Gold medallist for cross country skiing at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City and former chair of the WADA athlete committee spoke at Sport Ireland's Annual Review Launch.

At the Sport Ireland 2018 annual review launch. An Athlete Panel including Jenny Egan, Arthur Lanigan O'Keefe, Becky Scott, David Gillick and Shane O'Connor discussed pressing issues in anti-doping in sport and the athlete's voice in anti-doping.

Clean Sport Insight Forum took place in September 2019 in London to showcase the results of the athlete focus groups in each country involved in the Erasmus Plus project.

Patrick O'Leary and Jenny Egan represented Sport Ireland on the athlete panels.

Anti-Doping Operations

Internal & External Audits

The annual surveillance audit for the Anti-Doping Unit's ISO 9001:2015 certification took place on the 9th of October 2019. This audit was conducted by EQA Ltd, the Anti-Doping Unit's External Auditors. The Anti-Doping Unit's Internal Audit was conducted by Deloitte on the 22nd of October 2019. No findings or recommendations were raised in either of these audits.

Paperless Sample Collection System: In 2019 Sport Ireland, along with four other National Anti-Doping Agencies (Canada, Switzerland, Sweden and New Zealand) trialled a paperless sample collection system with software company Visionbox. Each version of the paperless app was reviewed and tested by Sport Ireland along with the four other National Anti-Doping Agencies with feedback given to Visionbox upon completion of each review. Sport Ireland will amend the app to its specific requirement during 2020 and is due to go live with the paperless sample collection initially with individual out of competition missions in 2020. A paperless approach will reduce the possibility of human error and increase efficiencies, in particular with regard to creating an immediate link with Sport Ireland's Anti-Doping Management System SIMON.

International

Feedback on World Anti-Doping Code 2021 and various other Technical Documents

During 2019, Sport Ireland provided feedback to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code 2021 review process and the International Standards review process. The final drafts of approved Code and International Standards were approved by WADA's Executive Committee and Foundation Board in November 2019. Sport Ireland will begin to review the Irish Anti-Doping Rules to ensure compliance with the revised Code and International Standards during 2020. Sport Ireland also provided feedback to WADA on a number of technical documents including the Technical Document for Sports Specific Analysis and the 2020 Prohibited List.

Council of Europe, EU and UNESCO

Sport Ireland attended and contributed to the Council of Europe's Anti-Doping Convention Advisory Groups on Education and Science. The Anti-Doping Unit also attended a number of Council of Europe CAHAMA meetings throughout the year. These meetings formulate the mandate for the European Public Authorities members of the WADA Foundation Board and Executive Committee meetings.

Stance on Russian Compliance

Sport Ireland made a number of statements throughout 2019 regarding the situation on Russian Compliance and conditions set out in RUSADA (Russian Anti-Doping Agency) the Road Map to Compliance by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) Executive Committee (ExCo) unanimously endorsed the recommendation made by the independent Compliance Review Committee (CRC) that the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) be declared non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (Code) for a period of four years in December 2019.

Sport Ireland Campus

The Sport Ireland, Campus Development Unit is responsible for the implementation of the campus masterplan; overseeing the development of individual facilities on the campus; the development of strategies and proposals for future facility development and use; and promoting the use of the campus at all levels from high performance to participation and by members of the public generally. Responsibility for the day-to-day operation of campus facilities rests with a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sport Ireland.

Programme Highlights

- **Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena (NIA)** – as one of the flagship developments on the campus, the completion of Phase 2 of the NIA took precedence throughout 2019. This second phase includes indoor rugby and soccer pitches in what is a landmark development for Ireland. The facility was officially opened in June 2019 by an Taoiseach and is now in full operation.
- **Campus Masterplan** – in late 2019 an architect and design team were appointed to commence work on a new masterplan for the Sport Ireland Campus. This will set out Sport Ireland’s vision for the campus over the next 15 years including an array of new facilities that will include a sports hotel, athlete accommodation, velodrome, offices and athlete facilities.
- **New International Hockey Pitch** – in autumn 2019 construction work was completed on a new international water-based hockey pitch suitable for our international teams to prepare for the Tokyo Olympics. The pitch includes a Polytan Polygras Toyko GT surface as will be used at the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games.

This new pitch alleviates the need for players to travel abroad to train, giving them access to the latest in pitch technology, here in Ireland. It will further reduce their reliance on club-based facilities for training, which is not always readily available. Locating the pitch at the Sport Ireland Campus will also allow players to avail of existing science, medicine and lifestyle support services through the Sport Ireland Institute, also located on the campus

Programme Overview

The primary focus for 2020 will include the completion of the new campus masterplan, progression of Ireland’s first velodrome project and the completion of early feasibility work on a sports hotel.

In late 2019, Sport Ireland commenced work on a major review of the masterplan for the campus which has been in operation for 10 years. The updated masterplan will address a number of key issues including car parking, infrastructural upgrades, public access, road and path upgrades, cycle ways etc. The masterplan

will draw inspiration from Sport Ireland's own vision of how the Campus should develop, and what can be achieved. The focus will also shift to the softer or more public orientated elements of the campus including the creation of a sports village with additional offices, athlete accommodation, and café and restaurant facilities.

The delivery of a National Velodrome & Badminton Centre has always been viewed as an important piece of sports infrastructure. Its inclusion on our campus masterplan in 2009 highlights this fact, and its development was always viewed as the next key priority after the completion of the National Indoor Arena. While planning permission was granted for a training velodrome in 2015, the intervening years has brought new knowledge on velodrome construction and operation. In 2019 Sport Ireland assembled a design team to review this important project. The outcome of this review was a revised and updated design that meets the needs of our cycling and badminton community. In 2020 this design will be progressed and will include the preparation and submission of a new planning application. Detailed design and tendering of the project can then follow on in the autumn of 2020.

The delivery of a hotel on the campus is another important deliverable in the next two years. In January 2020 Sport Ireland commenced work on early feasibility work including a demand analysis and business case for a hotel. This work will continue throughout 2020.

The development unit in Sport Ireland continues to engage with relevant stakeholders to examine the potential for the development of further, additional facilities on the campus to benefit sport at all levels from recreation to high performance, and in particular to develop new centers of excellence. The outcome of these discussions will be incorporated into the new masterplan, forming part of the development programme in the years to come.

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC

A subsidiary of Sport Ireland, Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the National Sports Campus facilities including the National Aquatic Centre, the National Indoor Arena, Campus Conference Centre and the National Sports Campus synthetic and turf pitch facilities, as well as dedicated facilities for equestrian, diving, modern pentathlon and cross country running. The company is also responsible for the day-to-day operation of Morton Stadium, Santry and the maintenance of office accommodation for sports bodies provided on Campus.

During 2019, 1.046m visits were made to the National Aquatic Centre, making it the fourth consecutive year to exceed the 1m visitor mark.

The Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena saw the opening of Phase 2 during the year, which includes a full size football pitch, half size rugby pitch and associated dressing rooms and meeting rooms. Footfall increased by 12% to 456,000 visitors for the year.

The new water based hockey pitch was also opened during the year and footfall at the Synthetic Pitches increased, rising by 2% to 106,000.

The Company's academies continued to grow during the year, offering swimming, diving, gymnastics and multi sport lessons to 4,000 participants on a weekly basis. Summer camps and school tours also increased on 2018, growing by 15% year on year.

Sport Ireland Coaching

Sport Ireland Coaching has the lead role for sports coaching in Ireland on an all island basis. Working in partnership with the NGBs and the wider sporting sector we lead the development of sports coaching in Ireland through the implementation of a quality coach and tutor education support programme.

Programme Highlights:

- Developed a new Coaching Plan in line with Action 30 of the National Sports Policy 2018-2027
- Sport Ireland was successful in its application to become a QQI service provider, with confirmation received in November 2019
- Sport Ireland Coaching continued to work with NGB's in the development of their Coach Education Courses for their respective Coaching Pathways
- Sport Ireland Coaching received confirmation of a successful application for Erasmus+ funded "iCoachKids 2" project, which will begin in 2020
- The successful hosting of the final conference of the EU Erasmus+ project "iCoachKids" in Limerick in June with over 320 attendees

Financial & Staffing Resources

Sport Ireland Coaching 2019 Budget was €948,387. 11 staff members are based in the Limerick office while 2 staff members are based in Sport Ireland for the last 18 months. Having staff based in Dublin has improved interaction and dialogue with the other Sport Ireland Departments and with NGBs.

Sport Ireland Coaching Committee

Under the Sport Ireland Act 2015 a Coaching Committee was established in 2016. The Sport Ireland Coaching Committee held three meetings in 2019. John Maughan is the Chair for the Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to advise Sport Ireland Coaching on policy and strategy in relation to the development of Coaching on the island of Ireland using the Coaching Development Programme for Ireland as a reference point.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Application

Following a final QQI application panel meeting on 25th September 2019, Sport Ireland were unofficially informed that we were being recommended for approval as a QQI provider. Formal approval was received on Friday 29th November 2019.

National Governing Bodies

37 National Governing Bodies ran 1,767 approved coach education courses in 2019 and over 15,000 coaches were certified.

EU Projects

Sport Ireland is a member of the European Expert Group on Skills and Human Resources Development in Sport; the group met once in 2019. Work continued on the development of an EU White Paper on minimum standards in Coaching for completion in February 2020.

European Blueprint Project: Sport Ireland was represented at two meetings of the Blueprint project. This project is a three year Erasmus+ project for the active leisure sector (i.e. fitness and outdoor sectors) to establish a long-term Blueprint for Skills Co-operation and Employment in Active Leisure. Among other things, the project will look at the European qualifications of Personal Trainer and Outdoor Animator and the incorporation of these qualifications into National Qualifications Framework. Sport Ireland Coaching will host a meeting of the Blueprint partners meeting in Dublin in February 2020.

The iCoachKids Erasmus+ culminated with the iCoachKids conference which was hosted in University of Limerick on 14th and 15th June 2019. 320 people attended the conference over the two days. Sport Ireland Coaching also hosted a PEAK (Policy, Evidence & Knowledge in Coaching) Erasmus+ project meeting during the conference.

With the Erasmus+ Creating Insight project, which looks at and identifies best practice in International Blind Sports Soccer, five representatives (3 Blind Sports, 1 FAI and 1 Sport Ireland Coaching) travelled to Brazil for ten days to share knowledge in Blind Soccer.

Sport Ireland Participation

On the 25th July 2018 the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport launched the 2018-2027 National Sports Policy. The National Sports Policy aims to increase sports participation in Ireland from 43% to 50% by 2027, the equivalent of 1% per year. To achieve this the policy highlights the need to tackle participation gradients by targeting groups in our society that participate significantly less than the overall average. These include people with disabilities, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, women and girls and ethnic minority groups, such as the Traveller community.

Sport Ireland's Participation Unit supports a national network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) to coordinate and promote the development of sport at local level and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity. The core work of the LSP Network is aligned to the objectives of the Sport Ireland Strategy and National Sports Policy and includes Strategic Community Sports Development, the delivery of National Programmes, Education & Training initiatives, the Sports Inclusion Disability programme, Women in Sport Programmes, Safeguarding and general participation programmes.

The National Sports Policy recognises the key roles played by the Local Sports Partnerships in sports participation and how they can assist in the delivery of the participation actions set out in this Policy.

“The LSP network plays a vital role and has been tasked, in particular, with increasing participation levels in sport and physical activity, especially among those sectors of society that are currently underrepresented in sport. Their capacity to remove barriers and ensure that opportunities for participation in sport are progressive, innovative and fully inclusive at a local level is a unique and valuable strength.” – National Sports Policy 2018-2027

The National Sports Policy has a total of 57 actions, 26 of which relate to Sports Participation. Fundamental to delivering on the Participation Actions of the National Sports Policy is increasing the capacity of the sports sector to deliver, especially the Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) and the National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). Thanks to an increase in government investment in 2019, Sport Ireland was in a position to increase capacity and capability of the national LSP network and provide additional regional supports to the NGB's.

In 2019, for the first time, every LSP will have a minimum of four staff, namely:

- LSP Coordinator,
- LSP Administrator,
- Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO),
- Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO).

Investment in the three major field sports (the GAA, the FAI and the IRFU) is critical for the continued development of participation at grassroots level.

2019 Sport Ireland Participation - Highlights

- 465,128 people participated in 1,426 locally delivered participation initiatives from the LSPs.
- An additional 94,270 people took part in local initiatives supported by LSPs such as Parkrun, Playground Markings and Daily Mile.
- 52% of LSP programme participants in 2019 were women. 166,029 girls and 75,629 women took part in LSP programmes. 37,711 women and girls took part in 205 local Women in Sport Programmes.
- 110,196 people took part in 808 local events registered across the country for the European Week of Sport through the Sport Ireland website. Over 47,000 people took part in the flagship events during European Week of Sport, which included the Great Dublin Bike Ride, European School Sports Day and National Fitness Day.
- 24,488 people took part in the Sport Ireland/Operation Transformation '5k Fun Run' in the Phoenix Park and across Ireland through the 'Nationwide Walks'.
- 14,929 participants took part in LSP initiatives targeting Older Adults. A further 34,265 older adults around Ireland participated in Go For Life Programmes, events and workshops.
- 2,649 people were trained across Cara's Disability Awareness, Autism in Sport & Disability Inclusion Training and Education programmes
- 29 Sport Inclusion Disability Officer positions were supported to encourage participation for people with disabilities in 29 LSPs.
- 29 Community Sports Development Officers were supported to activate local communities through targeted programmes, education and training for clubs and communities in 29 LSPs.
- 6 new Community Sport and Physical Activity hubs were established while providing continued support to 30 existing Community Sport and Physical Activity hubs across the country through Dormant Accounts Funding.
- 11 Urban Adventure projects were initiated across the country to create new opportunities for people living in disadvantaged communities to participate in outdoor adventure sports in urban settings.

- 19 LSPs were supported through Dormant Account Funding to deliver specialised Volunteer training to help empowered volunteers to deliver more physical activity/sport opportunities at community level and to targeted groups.
- 80 Youth Leadership courses were supported across 20 LSPs to enable young people to deliver physical activity sessions to their peers, under the National Sports Education and Training hub through Dormant Accounts funding.

Programme Overview:

In 2019, €7.3m was allocated to the Local Sports Partnerships. €1,015,000 was invested in the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme to roll out a network of 29 Sports Inclusion Disability Officers to facilitate participation for people with a disability. The Sports Inclusion Disability Programme encourages and facilitates people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity and develop sustainable clubs and programmes under the National Physical Activity Plan Action 49. This investment is aligned to the [Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities](#).

€1,015,000 was invested in the Community Sports Development Programme which supports 29 Community Sports Development Officers to develop locally led plans and sustainable physical activity programmes under the National Physical Activity Plan Actions 44 & 46. The Community Sports Development Programme also focus on broader inclusion initiatives delivering on the objectives of the [Department of Justice and Equality Migrant Integration Strategy](#).

€265,000 was invested in the LSPs under the Women in Sport (WIS) Programme, which aims to increase women's participation in sport by providing and promoting participation opportunities for women, including women with a disability, women in disadvantaged communities, migrant women, older women and teenage girls. This WIS investment is aligned to the [Sport Ireland Policy On Women In Sport](#). In addition, Sport Ireland contributed a further €607,605 to support programmes for Older People (Go for Life).

Sport Ireland was the designated National Coordinating Body by the European Commission for the European Week of Sport in Ireland which took place between 23rd -30th September 2019. Sport Ireland supported 9 flagship events and 5 #BeActive Nights in Cork, Galway, Laois, Leitrim and Wicklow. Over 47,000 people took part in the flagship events during European Week of Sport which included the Great Dublin Bike Ride, European School Sports Day and National Fitness Day. In addition, there was an impressive national engagement with a total of 808 local events registered across the country through the Sport Ireland website with an estimated 110,196 people taking part. The European Week of Sport flagship events reflected the National Sports Policy by supporting and promoting flagship events, which target specific population groups including; women, people with a disability, migrants, older adults, young people

and families as well as events which support the Get Ireland Walking, Get Ireland Running and Get Ireland Cycling themes.

In Field Sports, our work has seen the GAA connect with young people in every community in Ireland through the Go Games programmes at club and school level. The FAI provides opportunities in sport for young people particularly those with low participation rates such as young people experiencing social exclusion, young people from migrant communities, those with a disability and women and girls. Meanwhile the IRFU continues its efforts to increase under age participation within schools and community rugby along with specific programmes for girls.

As well as delivering Sport Ireland initiatives the core funding of the Local Sports Partnerships underpins the nationwide rollout of Dormant Accounts Funding and many Healthy Ireland funded initiatives. For 2019, Sport Ireland successfully secured €5m in Dormant Accounts Funding, with over €2.3m directly benefiting Local Sports Partnerships across Ireland. Sport Ireland also secured €615,000 of Healthy Ireland funding for LSP and NGB initiatives.

Six new Community Sport and Physical Activity hubs were established while providing continued support to 30 existing Community Sport and Physical Activity hubs across the country. Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs increase the number of people of all ages participating in sport and physical activity in their communities as identified under National Physical Activity Plan Action 41. The objective of the Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs in disadvantaged areas is to bring local people together and provide a home for local clubs and sports organisations.

Eleven Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiatives were rolled out nationally for a third consecutive year in 2019. Such initiatives ensure that there are opportunities for people living in disadvantaged communities to participate in outdoor adventure sports in urban settings supporting Action 37 within the National Physical Activity Plan. Opportunities for young people living in disadvantaged communities to experience outdoor adventure sports is limited due to natural environments, distance from traditional outdoor settings (forests, mountains etc.) where activities are usually offered, and need for equipment, supervision, training and support to engage in these sports.

Youth Leadership, which aligns with the National Physical Activity Plan Action Number 48 'Develop programmes to address transitions and drop out from physical activity and sport', focuses on fundamental leadership qualities and includes, amongst other things, inclusive sport adaptations and culminates in a module on pathways in sport and recreation. This programme develops generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner. The programme also has the potential to impact on both early school dropout in disadvantaged areas and dropout rates from sport within the targeted age group, with many LSPs linking the programme closely to local School Completion Programmes in their areas. In 2019, 80 Youth

Leadership courses were supported across 20 LSPs to enable young people to deliver physical activity sessions to their peers, under the National Sports Education and Training hub through Dormant Accounts funding.

The volunteer supports initiative aims to successfully identify and assist targeted individuals who are volunteering in disadvantaged communities or with people with disabilities to gain community sport and physical activity leadership skills e.g. as coaches, leaders, referees, committee members etc. The intended outcomes of the initiative are to; increase the number of volunteer leaders in sport, produce a higher quality of volunteer in sport leading to higher levels of participant engagement & empower volunteers delivering more physical activity/sport opportunities at community level and to targeted groups. 19 LSPs were supported through Dormant Account Funding to deliver specialised Volunteer training to help empowered volunteers to deliver more physical activity/sport opportunities at community level and to targeted groups.

2019 Sport Ireland Participation - Evaluation

Sport Ireland, using the support of Dormant Account Funding, have established an evaluation team to oversee the evaluation of national projects and the work of local sports partnerships. The team has developed a systemic evaluation framework using national level monitoring and a single item measure. The evaluation team has also developed needs analysis resources and delivered training to the local sports partnerships in 2019 to ensure that Sport Ireland investments are going to the communities and individuals that need it most and will benefit most. In 2019, this team undertook an evaluation of the 18 2016 and 2017 Community Sports Hubs, the Community Coaching Initiative and the Get Ireland Running, Cycling and Swimming projects.

The 2016 & 2017 Community Coaching programmes were evaluated in 2019. The evaluation found that 51% of the participants who completed the 3 month post course completion survey achieved one or more of the four outcomes (gain employment, become a coach, become a volunteer, or go on to higher education in the sports sector). The findings also showed that a significant amount of participants indicated improved confidence levels, which was considered to be of value and relevance. Whilst some minor modifications and adjustments were suggested, the different stakeholders involved (participants, LSPs, NGBs, partner organisations, and hosts) revealed encouraging experiences and noted their willingness to engage and/or promote the programme into the future.

An evaluation of the 2017 and 2018 Get Ireland Running, Get Ireland Swimming, and Get Ireland Cycling programmes was also completed in 2019. The evaluation highlighted that the use of Dormant Accounts funding has helped over 50,000 people across Ireland to try these sports.

The eighteen Phase 2 & 3 Community Sports Hubs were also evaluated in 2019. This evaluation concluded that Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs are positive investments in local communities. Key success factors were evident across hubs, including aligning hub activity to local need, having a clearly

identifiable hub location/facility, creating community ownership and involvement, and having a strong focus on training and capacity building. Key to the success of hubs is also the role of the coordinator, and the evaluation highlighted the wide range of roles that hub coordinators play. The evaluation also highlighted key areas where hubs should focus on when planning for sustainability.

Sport Ireland Participation unit continues to represent the organisation as a key partner in the Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration (I-PARC). The project is progressing well and Sport Ireland will continue to work closely with I-PARC to move the project forward and deliver on required actions.

Women in Sport

Following an extensive project throughout 2018, Sport Ireland published its new Woman in Sport (WIS) Policy in March 2019. The policy outlines Sport Ireland's vision for women in sport as one where women have an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential, while enjoying a lifelong involvement in sport. Sport Ireland is committed to increasing women's sustained involvement in sport as coaches, volunteers, club members, athletes, advocates, leaders, and participants from grassroots to the podium. Through the WIS Policy, Sport Ireland identifies four key areas, which have emerged as current gaps and future opportunities for women in sport.

- Coaching and Officiating
- Active Participation
- Leadership and Governance
- Visibility

To address each of these target areas, Sport Ireland is focused on achieving objectives assigned to each. These objectives are reflective of the National Sports Policy 2018- 2027 and National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020.

To support the implementation of the policy, Nora Stapleton was employed in April 2019 as Sport Ireland's Women in Sport Lead. Her role is to ensure the successful implementation of the objectives and actions as outlined in the WIS Policy.

The Women in Sport Steering Committee was set up in March 2019 with the purpose of supporting the implementation of the WIS Policy and to support and guide the work of the Women in Sport Lead. It met six times in 2019.

Women in Sport Investment

Recognising that effective and sustainable programmes require a long-term approach, Sport Ireland invested over €3million in the governing body sector to support the programme. That investment will cover a period of two years (2019 & 2020). The two year award will enable NGBs to make significant progress in their strategic objectives for women in sport. It is expected that where a gap remains, NGBs will continue these programmes in 2021 and beyond. Forty-one NGBs received Women in Sport (WIS) investment in 2019. This includes the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland, which linked up with CARA for their application. The Federation of Irish Sport received funding under the Special Projects budget for a Women in Sport programme that will benefit selected NGBs. As well as developing Women in Sport programmes, many NGBs use their investment to support the employment of a dedicated Women in Sport development officer for their sport to roll out these programmes.

Women in Sport in Local Sports Partnerships

Of the 465,128 people who participated in LSP programmes across the country in 2019, 52% of these participants were female. 166,029 girls and 75,629 women took part in 1,426 locally delivered participation initiatives from the LSPs. In addition to this, €265,000 was invested in the LSPs under the Women in Sport (WIS) Programme, which aims to increase women's participation in sport by providing and promoting participation opportunities for women, including women with a disability, women in disadvantaged communities, migrant women, older women and teenage girls. 37,711 women and girls took part in 205 local Women in Sport Programmes because of this funding.

Sport Ireland Maternity Guidelines

During the development of Sport Ireland's High Performance Strategy, athlete support was highlighted as a key area to advance within the high performance system. The strategy identifies the need to provide supports throughout key points of an athlete's career. Sport Ireland recognises that this includes female athletes who wish to have children and continue to compete in their sport following the birth of their child. Together with the National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport Ireland is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all athletes. In order to provide the support mentioned above, Sport Ireland's Maternity Guidelines as part of the 2020 International Carding Scheme were developed. In 2020, the International Carding Scheme will see the introduction of a 12-month guarantee of funding to an athlete who becomes pregnant. Sport Ireland has developed guidelines in relation to the management of maternity leave within performance sport ("Maternity Guidelines"). The principles and commitments outlined by Sport Ireland in the Maternity Guidelines are expected to be adopted by all sports that are part of the International Carding Scheme. To support the Maternity Guidelines, a policy template is provided to NGBs. It is expected that NGBs will develop their own sport specific policy, which is informed by elements of this template.

The guidelines and accompanying Maternity Policy Template for NGB's were launched in December 2019. Work will continue on this project through 2020 as Sport Ireland develops guidelines for service providers who may work with pregnant athletes in the future.

Coaching Girls Module Development

Sport Ireland has commenced work on developing a multi-sport coaching module for coaches of adolescent girls. This project aims to upskill and educate coaches to have a direct impact on female players and keep them in sport. The overarching goal of this project is to create a coaching module that is multi-sport and targeted at coaches of teenage girls teams/athletes in order to address the dropout of teenage girls from sport/physical activity. The project is being led by Sport Ireland Coaching, Sheelagh Quinn, and Women in Sport Lead, Nora Stapleton, as well as support from The Federation of Irish Sport and philanthropic funding.

Sport Ireland held a workshop in December with select NGBs and LSPs to consult on the topic of coaching adolescent girls and to get NGB and LSP buy-in to the project. It is expected to pilot this module in August 2020.

This project supports the NSP Action 6, 'Sport Ireland will develop initiatives with the NGBs, LSPs, schools...to address participation in sport among adolescents and young adults, particularly females...', and the WIS Policy objective, 'Reduce the drop-out from physical activity and sport in young girls'.

Women in Sport Communications Plan

A Women in Sport Communications Plan was developed in 2019 and implementation of its eighteen recommendations has commenced. The Communications Plan supports the entire WIS Policy with a focus on the actions set out therein. The development of this plan supports the WIS Policy Action, 'Develop and implement a Women in Sport Communications Plan'.

Women in Coaching Working Group

A Women in Coaching Working Group was established in late 2019 as a sub-group of the Women in Sport Steering Committee. The purpose of the working group is to make recommendations to the Sport Ireland WIS Steering Committee in order to achieve the objectives and actions relating to coaching in the WIS Policy.

Sport Ireland Ethics

Programme Highlights

Sport Ireland is fully committed to ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded in their participation in sport on the island of Ireland. In 2019, the Sport Ireland Ethics unit launched and undertook a number of initiatives/projects in the area of Safeguarding. These are:

Initiatives

- Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit Framework.
- Safeguarding Guidance for Children and Young People in Sport (Formerly Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport)
- Staying Safe on-line Web App

Projects

- Roll out of the Young Voices in Sport Toolkit
- Updating the Sport Ireland Safeguarding workshops
- Club Safeguarding Audit Framework

Initiatives Launched

Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit Framework;

- The main purpose of the Sport Ireland Safeguarding Audit framework is to support NGBs to allow them to strengthen their adherence to safeguarding policies and procedures thereby ensuring that children and young people are protected in sport.
- Each NGB was required to complete the Safeguarding Audit process, which reviews compliance with relevant legislation and guidance, including the Children First Act 2015.
- Each NGB was asked to complete six sections under the following themes: :
 - Leadership & Key Roles
 - Induction & Training
 - Policy – Safeguarding Policy
 - Safe Recruitment & Staff Support
 - Ethics, Behaviour & Equality
 - Communication

- The Safeguarding Audit Framework was issued to all National Governing Bodies of Sport on 29th March 2019. All National Governing Bodies were asked to complete their audit process by 7th June 2019.
- The Sport Ireland Ethics Unit began the process of reviewing all NGB safeguarding audit submissions in June 2019.
- Feedback and corrective actions issued to all NGBs in December 2019 for reply in the first quarter of 2020.
- Throughout the review process the Sport Ireland Ethics units has provided support and guidance to all National Governing Bodies of Sport.

Sport Irelands Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport

- Sport Ireland's Safeguarding Guidance for Children & Young People in Sport has been developed to specifically support National Governing Bodies of Sport and their clubs to ensure they can meet their child safeguarding and child protection responsibilities.
- This guidance document has been prepared in the context of the challenges that National Governing Bodies and their clubs face on a day to day basis, ensuring that current best practice is followed while also complying with today's relevant legislation.
- It is underpinned by the Children First Act & Guidance and NGB's are encouraged to adopt the best practice elements contained within the guidance.

Staying Safe Online Web App

- The Sport Ireland Staying Safe Online resource went live in March 2019. This web based information and guidance tool on internet safety is predominately aimed at parents/guardians/coaches/young people involved in Sport.
- The resource contains a brief test, which allows users to test their knowledge on what they have learned. Upon successful completion of the test users will be awarded a digital certificate.

Projects

Roll out of the Young Voices in Sport Toolkit

This Project is underpinned by the National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making (Department of Children and Youth Affairs, June 2015) and has been developed in conjunction with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Hub na nÓg, and the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

To date there have been four tutor training workshops delivered by the Sport Ireland Ethics Unit (June 2019 – December 2019) with 24 sporting organisations represented (LSPs & NGBs). The organisations trained have been requested to deliver a minimum of two workshops (one to staff & one to young people) within a six month period. These organisations will gather feedback from participants & tutors on how the toolkit has worked and submit this feedback to Sport Ireland for review.

Tutor Training Overview

- Tutor Workshops delivered - 4
- Number of Tutors trained - 48
- Number of Organisations trained - 24

*Further tutor training dates will be scheduled for 2020.

Further development of the toolkit will include the following:

- Branded tutor packs (to include additional training materials)
- Certification for attendees
- NGB/Club mark for display
- Additional tutor training aids e.g. short video guides on how to run the activities
- CPD workshops

Updating of Sport Ireland Safeguarding 1, 2 & 3 Workshops

- In accordance with the Sport Ireland Act 2015 it is the remit of Sport Ireland to develop and disseminate guidelines and codes of practice promoting best practice for the protection of children in sport consistent with child protection guidance and legislation. With this in mind in September

2019 the Sport Ireland Ethics unit undertook a complete review and update of the existing Sport Ireland Safeguarding workshops.

- This review process will ensure that all Sport Ireland Safeguarding workshops continue to be in line with current legislation and best practice in the area of Safeguarding.
- To advance this process Sport Ireland's Ethics unit established a working group which consisted National Children Offices, Safeguarding Tutors and Tusla's Child and Family Agency's Information and advice officers.
- The updated workshops, once completed, will be rolled out to the sector in 2020.

Club Safeguarding Audit Framework

- The Sport Ireland Ethics Unit is currently in the process of designing and implementing a Safeguarding audit framework at club level. This is to ensure that all best practice & legal requirements are being implemented at grassroots level.
- The Sport Ireland Ethics unit has formed a working group of National Children Officers from a number of National Governing Bodies to assist in the design phase of the club audit process.
- This approach will ensure that the needs of the sector are met in the area of Safeguarding at grassroots level.

Programme Highlights:

Safeguarding 1, 2 & 3 Workshops;

All Sport Ireland Safeguarding 1, 2 & 3 workshops are rolled out by the Local Sports Partnership Network (LSP). These workshops are readily available to all the National Governing Bodies of Sport and the various clubs around the country.

In 2019 Sport Ireland educated over 11,000 participants in the area of Safeguarding over its 3 workshops.

Safeguarding 1, 2 & 3 Tutor Training;

The Sport Ireland Ethics unit facilitates Safeguarding tutor training workshops which are offered to Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies of Sport. On completion of Safeguarding tutor training/sign off process the participants are then in position to deliver Sport Ireland's Safeguarding workshops.

In 2019 the Sport Ireland Ethics unit trained 14 Safeguarding 1 and 15 Safeguarding 2 & 3 tutors.

Sport Ireland Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher

Sport Ireland's Safeguarding 1 Online Refresher is a dormant accounts project that was launched in 2017. The online resource is available to all those who wish to refresh their Basic Awareness knowledge (Safeguarding 1). This project was developed in conjunction with the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

To date this resource has been accessed by more than 3,500 participants with the numbers continuing to increase on a daily basis.

Parents in Sport Week 2019

Over 100 sporting organisations in Ireland and the UK engaged in promoting Parents in Sport Week 2019. The Sport Ireland Ethics unit asked NGBs and sports clubs across the country to rally behind the positive, supporting role that parents play.

Designated Child Safeguarding Meetings (DSCO)

In 2019 Sport Ireland in conjunction with the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit hosted a number of cross border information sessions in the area of Safeguarding. These meetings provided training opportunities for safeguarding professionals in the north and south of the country. These meetings also allowed them to raise any concern or issues they may have in the area of Safeguarding.

Sport Ireland Outdoors

Sport Ireland Outdoors is focused on supporting and promoting participation in all forms of outdoor sport in Ireland. This involves working with a wide range of national and local partners to develop outdoor recreation infrastructure and create opportunities for people to participate in outdoor sports in Ireland.

Outdoor sports includes all sport and physical activity that can be undertaken in natural outdoor settings and includes recreational walking, cycling, water sports and land based adventure sports.

Programme Highlights

- Listing of 800+ trails on the National Trails Register
- 354,621 users and 1.2million page views on www.irishtrails.ie
- 194 Technical Trail assessments undertaken on walking and cycling infrastructure in Ireland
- Continued management of National Trails Insurance Policy
- Continued growth of Get Ireland Walking initiative with over 1,900 walking groups now registered
- 13 Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiatives delivered through the Local Sport Partnership Network
- Feasibility Study on developing a National Digital Database for Sport and Recreation Amenities completed.
- All -Island Blueway Partnership and Accreditation System for Blueways established

Programme Overview:

Infrastructure Development and Support

Sport Ireland Outdoors continued to support the sustainable development of Irelands recreational trails network in 2019, which includes walking, cycling and water trails (Blueways). The programme promotes standards and good practice for trails and maintains a National Trails Register.

Sport Ireland Outdoors carried out 194 technical assignments on walking and cycling infrastructure throughout Ireland. The unit also completed a review of the publication and commenced a project to introduce a digital ArcGIS platform to undertake and manage trail audits from 2020.

Sport Ireland Outdoors continued to build capacity and support agencies and communities through its education and training programme in 2019 through the delivery of a range of short courses.

Participation Programmes & Initiatives

Sport Ireland Outdoors continued to lead the Get Ireland Walking initiative in 2019 which aims to promote and encourage recreational walking for health, fitness and leisure in Ireland. There are now over 1,900 walking groups affiliated to Get Ireland Walking including community groups, schools, GAA clubs and other organisations. The number of affiliated walking groups has now exceeded the original target set in the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland. The programme has also supported the introduction of the Woodlands for Health initiative in 5 counties in 2019 in partnership with Coillte, HSE and Mental Health Ireland.

Good progress was also made in progressing a Get Ireland Cycling Initiative in 2019 in partnership with Cycling Ireland, Department of TTAS and other cycling stakeholders, and supported by Healthy Ireland. This initiative aims to support and develop the culture of cycling in Ireland.

Sport Ireland Outdoors supported thirteen Local Sport Partnerships to deliver Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative in 2019. This Dormant Account Funded programme aims to create new opportunities for people to participate in outdoor sports in urban settings.

Other Programme Achievements

Sport Ireland Outdoors developed a new partnership with CARA in 2019 to increase awareness and promote the Accessibility in the Outdoors Guidelines, which were published in 2018. This programme delivered a series of training workshops on accessibility in outdoor settings.

The unit also developed a new Blueway Partnership with Sport NI, Tourism NI, Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland. This partnership will coordinate and support Blueway development on the island of Ireland. Blueways are approved and branded multi-activity trails aiming to encourage and support recreation on or near water. A new development and accreditation system was developed and launched by the partnership in 2019.

Sport Ireland continued to support the Leave No Trace Ireland programme in 2019. This programme seeks to promote responsible outdoor recreation in Ireland through education, training and advocacy work.

Sport Ireland Outdoors also completed a feasibility study on Developing a National Database of Sports & Recreation Amenities in Ireland. The study, which was funded by Healthy Ireland is now progressing to an initial implementation phase in 2020.

A new Sport Ireland Policy for Sport and Physical Activity in the Outdoors was also developed in 2019 and will be launched in 2020. This policy sets a new vision and direction for Sport Ireland in its work in this area over the coming years.

Organisational Development & Change

Sport Ireland's Organisational Development and Change (ODC) Unit is primarily focused on providing support to the sports organisations which receive funding from Sport Ireland including National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships. There are several aspects to the unit's work, which include Capability Building, Organisational Development & Change Interventions/Programmes and Working Groups / Networks.

Linkage to National Sports Policy 2018-2027

The ODC Unit's activity is focused on developing the overall effectiveness of the sports sector organisations, and specifically the board members and employees who work within them. As many of the strategic objectives throughout the National Sports Policy will ultimately be driven and achieved in part through these individuals, the Units activity has the potential to make a contributing impact throughout many of those strategic objectives within the document and in related strategies such as the Sport Ireland Strategy 2018 – 2022.

Linkage to Sport Ireland Strategy

"Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy Action Item 5:

Build the performance pillar of Irish sport which is vital to active and competitive sportspeople

Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy Action Item 13:

Support Sport Ireland funded bodies in achieving uniformly high standards in the area of Corporate Governance

Programme Highlights

- The ASPIRE Graduate Employment programme ran with graduates placed in ten Sport Ireland funded organisations.
- The ARENA Leadership Development programme ran with senior leaders from 18 different organisations.
- The first round of the ACCELERATE Management Development programme commenced with two streams of 20 participants from 28 different organisations.
- The Find Your Fit Health and Wellbeing programme commenced with a series of events in Q3 and Q4 focusing on Nutrition, Financial Wellness, Physical Health and Mental Health.
- The first cycle of the M-Power Mentoring programme commenced with 14 mentors and 14 mentees.
- Organisational Development and Change Interventions were commenced or completed in seven organisations on a tailored and specific basis.

- 84 hours of executive coaching were carried out with 21 sectoral employees from a range of organisations.
- 132 psychometric reports were completed and feedback sessions were undertaken with sectoral employees from a range of organisations.
- 726 sector-based employees/board members were trained in an array of business skill areas.

Programme Overview:

Organisational Capability Building

This refers to the strategic management of Organisational Capability Building (OCB) in client sports organisations across eight capability areas:

- Organisational Leadership
- Change Management
- Risk Management
- Strategic Planning
- Employee Performance Management
- Project Management
- Corporate Governance
- Stakeholder Engagement

Organisational Capability was built through a range of Learning, Advisory & Systems support services which included:

- Training Courses, Workshops and Seminars
- E-Learning
- Executive Coaching
- Psychometric & Behavioural Assessments
- Workplace Mediation
- Expert Advice – HR & Employment Law
- Expert Advice - Capability Building

- Senior Level Recruitment Support

Organisational Development and Change Interventions/Programmes

Sport Ireland managed several interventions which were delivered on a specific & tailored basis with client sports organisations. The underlying purpose of the activity was the continual improvement of Organisational effectiveness within the client sports Organisations. Such interventions focused on areas including Organisational Assessment, Team Building, Intergroup Relations, Organisational Design and Cultural Change.

Working Groups and Networks

Sport Ireland facilitated a range of sectoral working groups and networks which comprised of professionals operating in a variety of different career/role types. The purpose of each group is to support peer learning, idea sharing and networking between participants. There are currently three such groups in operation:

- **Leadership, Managing Change, Performance & Projects** (for NGB Chief Executives, LSP Co-ordinators and other sector-based Senior Managers)
- **Human Resources** (for sector-based Human Resource Management professionals)
- **Stakeholder Engagement** (for sector-based Marketing, Communications & PR professionals)

Research

The Irish Sports Monitor (ISM)

Sport Ireland has been conducting the Irish Sport Monitor (ISM) since 2007. The research survey gives insight into participation in sport and physical activity among adults aged 16+. It helps monitor progress towards meeting policy targets around active and social participation in sport including in relation to the gender, age and socio-economic gradients in that participation. The 2019 ISM survey was completed with the core survey administered to almost 8,500 respondents. In 2019, ISM flexible modules also allowed insights into topical issues such as mental health and wellbeing and sport, the habitual nature of participation in sport and physical activity, volunteering in sport, women in sport, disability in sport, and behaviour change around sport. In keeping with the commitments in the National Sports Policy (NSP) Action 6, additional questions on gender identity and ethnicity were added to the survey in 2019 to seek to understand sports participation among the LGBTI+ community and ethnic minorities. Initial results from the ISM suggest there was some progress in meeting key NSP objectives around participation in sport, gender gradients and sedentarism during 2019.

Children Sport Participation and Physical Activity study (CSPPA)

The most recent CSPPA research report was published in September 2019. This was the first all-island study looking at participation in sport, physical education and physical activity among 6,651 children and young people aged 10 – 19. High-level findings for the Republic of Ireland showed that 17% of primary and 10% of post primary children meet the physical activity guidelines. Levels of active and social participation in sport in the school and in the community are high although there are notable differences for particular groups based on age, gender, disability, and social class. The findings will provide baseline indicators for the NSP on children who regularly play sport.

Behavioural Science Research

Using Dormant Accounts funding, Sport Ireland initiated a research project to review the use of behavioural science insights in interventions aimed at increasing participation in physical activity among individuals in disadvantaged communities. The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) undertook a literature review to provide an evidence base to establish two programme interventions for pre-commitment to exercise for young adults in conjunction with local LSPs and engagement with pre-school parents to a physical activity programme. Both programmes are now complete and provided insight on ways to address behaviour change in disadvantaged communities. The project links to Actions 6, 9, 10 and 11 of the NSP.

Other projects

To support the Women in Sport (WIS) policy initiative, research into gender equity in print media was undertaken during the year. This is a repeat of a study completed by the Sport Ireland's Research Unit in 2015. The main finding is that only 4% of articles on sport in the print media are dedicated exclusively to women's sport, a very small increase on the 2015 figure (3%). In addition to this project, additional briefing material (based on ISM data) was prepared for Sport Ireland's WIS Steering Committee.

In conjunction with Volunteer Ireland, Sport Ireland Research Unit developed a report on "Migrant Participation in Sports Volunteering in Ireland" with findings presented at the annual conference in April 2019.

Sport Ireland is a key partner in the Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration (IPARC) which is seeking to develop a stronger collaboration between policy makers, researchers and practitioners in sport and physical activity. Among the key outputs to be developed from this project is a standardised evaluation framework which will come on stream in 2020.

Research support is provided for programmes funded under Dormant Accounts including reviewing data collection methods and reports on the community coaching programme. Monitoring data collection for the Active Communities Walking Programme was also supported along with a research project commissioned by Student Sport Ireland into the sporting behaviours of 3rd level students.

Research support was also provided for a project aiming to develop a consensus statement on physical literacy for the island of Ireland. This action is in line with NSP Actions 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Apart from the IPARC project already referenced, Research Unit contributed to a number of inter-Departmental / agency research projects during 2019 including Healthy Ageing Positive Ageing Initiative (HAPAI), Move for Life and the National Physical Activity Plan Research Committee.

Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disability

Headline Policy Actions

- Development of a Sport Ireland annual report for 2019, which fed into the overall Sport Ireland annual reporting process.
- Sport Ireland Board: The appointment by the Minister a ‘Disability Advocate Position’ to the board of Sport Ireland reflecting the importance of inclusion and promoting equality in sport.
- National Sports Policy 2018-2027: Sport Ireland has been assigned direct responsibility for the delivery of Action 9, which addresses inequalities in sports participation, focusing on those groups with lower levels of participation, particularly those in “lower socio-economic groups, persons with a **disability** and older people”.
- On-going support of and investment via Sport Ireland grants (Core, Dormant Accounts and Women in Sport) to LSPs, NGBs, Paralympics, athletes, Cara and other agencies (Total = €5,720,000).
- Support of staff in Disability NGBs and Cara.
- The support of actions related to sport for disabilities in the National Sports Policy 2018-2027.
- The support and success of para-athletes across a number of sports.
- The development of new coach education awards by IWA-Sport and rollout of awards by Special Olympics.
- Representation on the DTTAS Accessibility Consultative Committee.
- The co-hosting of the National Inclusion Seminar with Cara. The theme for this year’s seminar was ‘Children and Young People with Disabilities’. Over 200 delegates representing 113 different national and international organisations attended.
- The sign-up of agencies to the Disability Sport Inclusion Charter – 247 (managed by Cara). This includes NGBs, LSPs, clubs and other agencies.
- The development of capacity in the sector through the rollout by Cara of the Sport Disability Education Framework as reported by the LSP Network.

Participation Unit

- **Local Sport Partnership Network:** As part of the National Sports Policy 2018-2027, there was an investment by Government to allocate funding to employ a SIDO in each LSP. The Core Grant total funding to LSPs was €1,015,000. The Participation Unit gained a further understanding into local programmes, obstacles and opportunities through developmental review site visits in each county, as well as through operational planning with Co-ordinators. The overall reach of the LSP Network was - 465,128; and people with disabilities - 24,387.
- **Sport Inclusion Disability Officers:** The Participation Unit was part of the recruitment process for new SIDOs in the network by sitting on interview panels. Working on National Objectives and Actions

for the SIDO network, derived from the Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities.

- **European Week of Sport:** Supported Kildare Sports Partnership Inaugural Sports Ability Day. The EU have requested Sport Ireland to demonstrate, through a case study, the work done with multiple different partners. The video captured on the day demonstrates our commitment to disability & inclusion.
- **Dormant Accounts Funding:** 20 LSPs were allocated €10,000 each in capital support to enhance sporting opportunities within their county. A total of €200,000.
- **Cara:** The Participation Unit continued to work alongside and support the work that Cara offers to the sector. Cara was allocated €100,000 in Core Grant funding for 2019. Through Dormant Accounts, Cara was allocated €170,000 for the Sports Disability Training Framework.

Outdoors

- In January 2019 *Great Outdoors, A Guide for Accessibility* was published by the Irish Wheelchair Association with support from Sport Ireland Outdoors.
- Later in 2019, with the support of Sport Ireland Outdoors through dormant account funding, a project called [Accessibility and the Great Outdoors \(AGO\)](#) was commenced by Cara Sport Inclusion Ireland to build awareness and training around the document with a view to impacting outdoor inclusion policy and best practice implementation nationwide. Development and delivery of four Accessibility and the Great Outdoors Regional Workshops.
- Attendance at a [conference run by the European Institute for Outdoor Adventure Education and Experiential Learning](#) in Tralee in September, with the purpose of networking, promoting the guidelines and presenting at the conference.

Ethics

- Circulated a copy of the Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities to each of the National Children Officers (NCOs), ensuring they were aware of the policy document and its objectives. Following this any queries that were submitted from the NCOs were signposted to the relevant unit/organisation.
- Continued to raise awareness of the Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities at various Safeguarding meetings/CPD workshops. This includes Safeguarding information days for National Children's Officers and Safeguarding tutors and North/South DSCO (Designated Safeguarding Childrens Officers) meetings/workshops.

- Consulting with Young People Project “Young Voices in Sport” toolkit – the Ethics unit engaged with Cara on the design phase of the “Young Voices in Sport” toolkit. Cara played a valuable role helping to shape the toolkit so that it can be easily adapted by the disability sports sector.
- Ethics will continue to engage with all Local Sports Partnerships, National Governing Bodies of Sport and various other sporting organisations to further roll out the “Young Voices in Sport” toolkit to the disability sports sector.

Women in Sport (WIS)

- The following NGBs and organisations that engage in Disability Sport were supported with WIS funding in 2019: IWA-Sport, Deaf Sports, Paralympics Ireland and Cara. The total investment was €60,000.

National Governing Body (NGB)

- The following is NGB Investment in relation to disability for 2019. Dormant Accounts Funding investment was in November/December 2018 and rolled out in 2019.
 - Funding to Disability NGBs - €1,585,000
 - Dormant Accounts Funding: Disability Sports Projects - €328,000
- Continued to support disability focused bodies under the Sport Ireland core grant scheme
- Continued to support disability focused bodies/events under special projects scheme
- Continued to support disability focused projects under Healthy Ireland and Dormant Accounts funding scheme
- Ongoing NGB sector / Cara liaison

Coaching

- Provided overall support across Sport Ireland units on the Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities.
- Irish Wheelchair Association – Sport developed and piloted an Introduction to Wheelchair Basketball Coaching Course (1). There were 13 attendees.
- Special Olympic Ireland ran four introductory courses (4). The attendees were 50 in total.
- Sport Ireland Coaching, Cara, Disability NGBs, and other agencies started a review of the Coaching People with Disabilities: Coach Education Framework; and the development of an e-learning resource. This is part of the Coaching Development Programme for Ireland (CDPI).

High Performance:

- Supported the launch of Paralympics Ireland's new Strategic Plan 2019-2025.
- Provided High Performance Funding to Paralympics Ireland. This funding supports the delivery of its swimming, athletics, and cycling programmes, as well as other smaller sports such as badminton and table tennis.
- Provided Operations and Administration Funding to Paralympics Ireland. This funding supports the operations of the organisation and is targeted towards the delivery of its strategic plan.
- Supported preparations for Tokyo 2020. This support is underpinned by the work of the Paralympic Performance Committee in which Sport Ireland and Paralympics Ireland are members.
- Supported para athletes through the provision of funding under the International Carding Scheme. In 2019, Sport Ireland supported 23 para athletes from 6 sports, totalling €548,000
- The total investment to Paralympics Ireland for 2019 was €1,714,000.

Institute

- Provision of performance support services to Para athletes and their performance support personnel.
- MOU between the Sport Ireland Institute and Paralympics Ireland signed in August 2019 designating Sport Ireland Institute as *the Official Performance Support Partner for Paralympics Ireland*.
- Five Institute service providers appointed to the 2020 Irish Paralympic Team in: Nutrition, Strength & Conditioning, Physiology, Performance Analysis, Performance Life Skills.
- A large number of Paralympic delegates and speakers participated at the HPX 2019 Conference

Anti-Doping

- Para athletes are subject to anti-doping testing. There were 29 para athletes included on Sport Ireland's Registered Testing Pool (RTP). The RTP is a list of elite athletes, agreed between the NGB and Sport Ireland, who meet certain criteria. In 2019 over 130 anti-doping tests comprising of both urine and blood tests were completed on para athletes.

Organisation Development and Change Unit

- Support has been provided in the organisational development of a range of disability focused organisations such as Cara, Paralympics Ireland and Special Olympics. This has included a range of capability building support for staff such as leadership development, executive coaching, soft and technical skills training.

- In addition we have also supported the professional development of a range of employees across the sector whose work is focused on disability activity such as Sports inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) and other relevant professionals.
- We have also invested in the development of governance standards and capability within these organisations in line with the objectives of the disability policy.

Research

- Material prepared for Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Accessibility Consultative Committee on participation in sport and physical activity by disability across various international countries.
- Detailed presentation given to LSP / SIDO Network meeting in May 2019 on participation in sport and physical activity among adults and children people with disabilities using Irish Sports Monitor (ISM), Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) and Central Statistics Office (CSO) data.
- The 2019 CSPPA study highlighted primary and post primary students' involvement in school and community sport, physical education, physical activity, active travel and sedentary behaviours. Materials produced from the study included disability specific figures.
- The 2019 Irish Sport Monitor mid-year report highlighted a closure in the gap of those with a disability participating in sport and physical activity (16%) in comparison to 2017 (18%).
- In conjunction with Cara a flexi-module on disability was conducted as part of the 2019 ISM. Findings will be included in the forthcoming 2019 ISM final report to be launched in 2020.

Sport Ireland Campus

The following is a summary of activities:

- **Inclusive Camps:** 3 Inclusive Camps (2 pan-disability – 20 participants and 1 for sight impaired – Camp Abilities – 12 participants).
- **Sports-specific:** Inclusive camps/academies in Badminton and Swimming. Also Parafit and Kids Parafit classes.
- **Gym:** Re-vamped to make it more accessible; and provision of 1-2-1 support
- **School Tours:** 3 special needs schools took part in the NSC Experience Tours (life of an elite athlete)
- **Staff Training:** Camp Abilities, Para-Badminton, Swimming, NCBI, Cara
- **Events:** Para-Badminton, Wheelchair Hurling, a number from Special Olympics, Glasgow Celtic FC Ability Counts Initiative
- **Promotion:** All the above was promoted via flyers and social media

- **Branding:** New branding was adopted indicating venues that are accessible

Communications Unit

- Launch of 'The Great Outdoors - A Guide for Accessibility' in conjunction with The Irish Wheelchair Association – Sport and the Sport Ireland Outdoors Unit
- Athletes from disability sport National Governing Bodies featured prominently in Sport Ireland publications, photo calls and events
- Inclusive iconography and imagery used in Sport Ireland publications and social media graphics
- National Inclusion Seminar: Promoted and reported on the National Inclusion Seminar in conjunction with Cara and Sport Ireland
- Supported Cara on the roll-out of the Sport Inclusion Disability Charter
- Communications support to Paralympics Ireland in build-up to Paralympic Games

Strategy & Annual Planning

Sport Ireland's Statement of Strategy was approved by the Minister and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on the 24th June 2019. Sport Ireland's Statement of Strategy closely aligns with the relevant policies of Government namely the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan. The National Sports Policy, in particular, will provide the policy context in which Sport Ireland and the wider sports sector operates over the next number of years. The Board of Sport Ireland reviewed and approved a Strategic Implementation Plan for our Statement of Strategy in October 2019.

Our key Strategic Achievements for 2019 across the four pillars of our Strategy are documented below along with other items that arose in 2019 in relation to our Strategy.

As part of our Annual Planning process in 2019 Sport Ireland defined 75 high level objectives across 14 departments. These were monitored regularly by the Sport Ireland Executive and bi-annual updates were provided to the Board. At year end over 85% of these objectives were either Complete or On Track.

Strategic Pillar	Key Achievements 2019
High Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Development of High Performance Strategy •Opening of National Indoor Arena Phase 2 and Olympic standard Hockey Pitch •2 year funding model for International Carding Scheme was introduced •80 medals won by Irish athletes and teams throughout 2019. Currently 230 medals have been won in the Tokyo Cycle. Target =265 • Significantly addressed financial liabilities relating to Team Ireland’s participation in the Tokyo 2020 Games. Through the provision of additional funding, enabled a number of NGBs, the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland to execute plans relating to Tokyo 2020 including transport and logistics. •HPX Conference hosted by Sport Ireland Institute in November 2019 with over 200 attendees.
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sport Ireland Coaching approved as a Higher Education Provider by QQI •The National Governing Bodies of Sport associated with the priority sports received €2.21m in core funding in 2019 versus €2.01m in 2018. Along with availing of additional funding of €595,000 through Healthy Ireland and Dormant Accounts. •The priority sports are delivering opportunities to an additional 50,000 non-member participants per annum under dormant accounts. These participants come from areas of social, economic and educational disadvantage along with people with a disability. •Internal Criteria developed for ‘high functioning NGBs’ •Enhanced Terms and Conditions of Grant funding.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduction in active participation gradient between men and women from 4.5% to 3.9% as per ISM Interim report •Launch of Women in Sport Policy and increased investment in the area •Publication of Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study •Publication of ISM Interim Report •Core Funding investment in 2019 allowed for a CSDO and SIDO in each LSP in 2019
Sport Ireland Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sport Ireland received sanction for 10 permanent positions in 2019. Recruited for roles across the organisation including Women in Sport, Corporate Services, HR •Maintenance of ISO certification by Sport Ireland Anti-Doping following surveillance audit •Sport Ireland continued to play an influential leadership role at NADO and WADA meetings •Evaluation of Community Sports Hubs, Community Coaching, Get Ireland Running, Cycling and Swimming projects in 2019. This will enable Sport Ireland to support the delivery of more targeted programmes which will ultimately benefit the general public. •New Sport Ireland website launched in Q4 2019
Strategic Pillar	Items arising in 2019
High Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Campus Masterplanning process was commenced with the appointment of AFL. The revised completion date for the Masterplan is early Q2 2020 •Legacy design inherited from NSCDA for the Velodrome indicated redesign needed. A redesign will have planning and budget implications.
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •NGB Financial Stability & Governance Challenges in 2019 •Static membership rates (105k) in priority sports for 2019. However these sports have grown considerably in last ten years. 49k -2010 & 87k in 2015 •Coaching Plan will be finalised in Q2 2020.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Communications Campaign will now be delivered in 2020. It was necessary to retender for this work as the initial tender process did not identify a suitable partner
Sport Ireland Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Research Strategy will now be delivered in 2020. This was initially deferred as it was not identified as a priority by the Sports Leadership Group.

2020 Outlook

Sport Ireland has again in 2020 developed annual plans for our various business functions. 73 high level objectives have been defined across 13 business departments. These high level objectives will link and align with our Statement of Strategy. These plans will be monitored by and inform the work of Sport Ireland throughout 2020. Regular updates will be provided to the Board on our Annual Plans and the implementation of our Strategy. The postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games due to COVID-19 will mean that some of our goals and high level objectives for 2020 as they relate to High Performance sport will continue into 2021. The publication of the Irish Sports Monitor in 2020 will allow us to reflect on and assess our progress on reducing the gradients that exist in sports participation. The completion of the Campus Masterplan will ensure that the Sport Ireland Campus continues to meet the demands of the sporting sector.

Protected Disclosures

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of a report each year relating to the number of protected disclosures made in the preceding year and any actions taken in response to such disclosures.

No protected disclosures were received by Sport Ireland in the reporting period up to 31 December 2019.

Sport Ireland Compliance

Sport Ireland has agreed to ensure that all necessary corporate governance obligations (including obligations under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies), including those for risk management, internal audit and the Public Spending Code are fully complied with.

Statement on How the Board of Sport Ireland Operates

- The Board is collectively responsible for leading and directing Sport Ireland's activities. While the Board may delegate particular functions to management the exercise of the power of delegation does not absolve the Board from the duty to supervise the discharge of the delegated functions.
- The Board fulfils key functions, including: reviewing and guiding strategic direction and major plans of action, risk management policies and procedures, annual budgets and business plans, setting performance objectives, monitoring implementation and Sport Ireland's performance, and overseeing major capital expenditure and investment decisions.
- The Board conducts its business in accordance with Sport Ireland's 'Code of Governance and Business Conduct' and any procedures referenced therein. The primary role of the Board in plenary session shall be to decide matters of policy, finance and procedure, to analyse and review the various activities of Sport Ireland and its Staff, to consider recommendations from Committees or other delegated authorities concerning the criteria for awarding financial assistance and to consider applications for financial assistance.
- The Board will at all times comply with the principle of the collective responsibility and authority of Sport Ireland as a body corporate.

- The Board ensures that decisions on major items of expenditure, are aligned with medium and long-term strategies so as to ensure that such expenditure is focused on clearly defined objectives and outcomes.
- The Board shall adopt a statement of strategy for a period of five years ahead. Implementation of the strategy by Sport Ireland shall be supported through an annual planning and budgeting cycle.
- The Board, through the Chairperson, annually consults with the Minister to:
 - define the expectations that the Minister has of Sport Ireland (and Sport Ireland’s own expectations);
 - clarify Sport Ireland’s role in relation to policy development in the area of sport; and
 - define the parameters surrounding Sport Ireland’s resources/income.
- Consistent with governance best practice and the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) the Board undertakes an annual evaluation of its performance.

Board Decision Making & Functions

The Board of Sport Ireland determines from time to time a formal schedule of matters specifically reserved to it for decision to ensure that the direction and control of the organisation is firmly in hands of the Board. The functions reserved to the Board shall include (save to the extent otherwise determined by the Board) the following matters:

- establishing the processes whereby it recruits a Chief Executive.
- delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to perform the functions and assessment of his/her performance
- receiving and considering regular reports from the Chief Executive on all major elements of Sport Ireland’s activities
- approval of expenditure where such expenditure in any one year is expected to be more than:
 - (a) €10,000 in the case of an individual grantee, or
 - (b) €100,000 in the case of an NGB or other organisation in receipt of a grant, or
 - (c) €25,000 on the purchase of goods or equipment from, or in respect of the provision of professional services by, any single supplier
- approval of all capital expenditures above a threshold of €25,000
- approval of strategic priorities and the terms of the strategy, business and implementation plans prepared by Staff
- adoption of an annual budget and corporate plan

- adoption of audit and risk management policies and monitoring and reporting
- approval of annual reports and financial statements
- approval of all major contracts, leases and arrangements in excess of the limits set out in Sport Ireland’s financial procedures
- approval of significant amendments to the pension benefits of the CEO and staff;
- establishing a policy on senior management remuneration in line with Government guidelines
- determining the procedures to be followed at the Board’s meetings
- approval of significant acquisitions, disposals and retirement of assets of Sport Ireland and its subsidiaries above a threshold of €25,000

Board & Committee Evaluation

The annual Board Effectiveness and Evaluation Review process commenced in October 2019 and was completed in December 2019. In 2019, the review was conducted by an external body (Institute of Public Administration), in line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). The Board also formally reviews written reports from each Committee at least annually.

Gender Balance in the Board membership

As at 31 December, the Board had 7 (64)% male and 4 (36)% female members, with 2 positions vacant. The board therefore does not meet the Government target of a minimum of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards.

The following measures are planned to introduce better gender balance on this board:

- The appointment process to the Board of Sport Ireland is a matter for the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the Sport Ireland Act.
- Sport Ireland advises the Minister when vacancies arise as to the need to promote better gender balance in Board membership.
- The most recent advertisement for Board vacancies specifies “The Minister shall have regard to the desirability for gender balance on the Board as the Minister considers appropriate and determines from time to time when making appointments.”

Risk Assessment

The Board has identified and carried out a robust assessment of the principal risks facing Sport Ireland. These include those that may cause Sport Ireland to suffer loss, damage or disadvantage, or not benefit from opportunities available or not achieve its objectives due to unwanted or uncertain internal or external events or actions. Key risks are categorized into one of the following four categories:

- *Strategic Risks*: the inability to achieve Sport Ireland’s strategic objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan and also, not availing of opportunities when they arise
- *Operational Risks*: the inability to achieve Sport Ireland’s operational objectives including the inability to prevent a loss resulting from inadequate internal processes and systems
- *Financial Risks*: exposure to financial losses arising as a result of inadequate controls or the need to improve the management of Sport Ireland’s financial assets
- *Reputational and Compliance Risks*: exposure to losses arising as a result of adverse publicity, negative public image and the need to improve stakeholder relationship management. Compliance risk is the threat posed to Sport Ireland’s organisational, or reputational standing resulting from violations of laws, regulations, codes of conduct, or organisational standards of practice.

Sport Ireland’s Risk Appetite Statement specifies the amount of risk the organisation is willing to seek or accept in the pursuit of its long term objectives.

It depicts the areas where the organisation has a low tolerance for risk (Anti-Doping, Safeguarding, Health & Safety) and the areas where the Board of Sport Ireland recognise the need to be innovative and accept a degree of risk (High Performance, Women in Sport, Organisational Development & Change. Business Units within Sport Ireland maintain Risk Registers that capture the risks relevant to their operations and associated mitigation measures.

Risks are measured using two dimensions i.e. the probability of the event occurring (likelihood) and the effect on Sport Ireland should the risk materialise (impact), using the process outlined in Sport Ireland’s Risk Management Policy. Risk Management is a Standing Item at each Board and Audit & Risk Committee meeting. In 2019 the principal risks and uncertainties affecting Sport Ireland were:

- The risk of negative impact of legacy legal and financial issues on Sport Ireland’s ability to achieve its core objectives. (*Strategic Risk*)
- The risk that the financial and staff resources required to deliver on, oversee and control Sport Ireland's broad functions are not provided. (*Strategic Risk*)
- Governance challenges within the NGB sector. (*Reputational and Compliance Risk*)
- The risk of fraud or misuse of financial resources including cyber threats. (*Financial Risk*)
- The risk of inconsistent engagement with NGBs on Sport Ireland Campus matters. (*Strategic/Operational Risk*)
- The over-reliance on external funding (Dormant Accounts) to implement the Participation strategy. (*Financial Risk*)

The risk trend of our corporate risks was positive with the net risk score of four corporate risk items reduced during the course of 2019, one risk item increased, while the remaining six risks were stable throughout the year.

Some of the key actions taken in 2019 which underpin Sport Ireland's Risk Management approach are included below

- Risks and opportunities specific to Sport Ireland's Statement of Strategy were identified and assessed. These were included as part of the implementation plan of the strategy.
- Sport Ireland's Risk Management framework defines a risk event as an incident or a near miss that would result in Sport Ireland suffering loss, damage or disadvantage. Risk events and near incidents are recorded in a log along with mitigating and follow up actions and these were presented to the Audit & Risk Committee periodically throughout 2019. The risk incident log was also reported to the Board.
- Risk Management training was delivered to risk owners within Sport Ireland in 2019 with a focus on practical ways to further embed a culture of risk management throughout the organisation.
- The Risk Management Policy was reviewed and updated during 2019 with enhancements to our risk identification and risk assessment approaches to encourage a more collaborative process.
- The Corporate Risk Register was formally reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee on three occasions and by the Board on two occasions.
- Unit level risk registers were presented at Audit & Risk Committee meetings throughout 2019.
- The management team regularly considered and reviewed Corporate and Unit Level Risk Registers throughout the year
- The appointment of a Head of Risk & Compliance in July 2019.
- The risks and opportunities associated with the delivery of the High Performance strategy were considered and documented as part of the business planning process.

Public Sector Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 places a statutory obligation on public bodies to have regard to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and protecting the human rights of persons to whom they provide services and staff when carrying out their daily work. This Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty has the potential to embed equality and

human rights in the centre of policy making, service provision and employment within the public sector in Ireland.

The State has already committed to progressing human rights and equality through a number of national plans and strategies. Sport Ireland has a complimentary suite of policy documents that align and support some of the national plans and strategies including Sport Ireland's Policy on Women In Sport, Sport Ireland's Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities, and Sport Ireland's Customer Service Charter. There are other areas and national policies and strategies where Sport Ireland has a key role to play including the Migrant Integration Strategy and the LGBTI Strategy. The associated activity in 2019 within these areas are detailed within the relevant section of this report.

Furthermore, Sport Ireland notes the three step approach to implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty recommended by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to assess, address and report. Sport Ireland adopts a similar approach in identifying gradients that exist in sports participation, designing and supporting programmes that address those gradients and reporting on our progress through our annual report. Action 6 of the National Sports Policy tasks Sport Ireland with addressing the participation gradients that exist in sport.

The Duty is a permanent and ongoing obligation, and Sport Ireland will continue to monitor and report on its activities in this regard.

Sport Ireland

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

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Sport Ireland

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Governance

The Board of Sport Ireland was established on a statutory basis on the 1st October 2015 pursuant to the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The functions of the Board are set out in section 8 of this Act. The Board is accountable to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets, and by taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of Sport Ireland are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team.

The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board, and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and the management of Sport Ireland.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Sport Ireland Code of Governance and Business Conduct, which also contains details of the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- disclosure of interests,
- reports from committees,
- financial reports/ management accounts,
- performance reports, and
- reserved functions.

Section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 requires the Board of Sport Ireland to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of Sport Ireland is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on Sport Ireland's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of Sport Ireland by reference to the annual plan and budget is carried out by the Board on an ongoing basis with a formal budgetary review being completed at the September 2019 Board meeting.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of Sport Ireland give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of Sport Ireland at 31 December 2019.

Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson and twelve ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport for terms of between three to five years.

Board Member	Role	Date Appointed
Kieran Mulvey	Chairperson	1 October 2015
John Maughan	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015
Liam Sheedy	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015
Roy Dooney	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015-30 September 2019
Mary Dorgan	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015
Caroline Murphy	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015
Patrick O'Connor	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015
Bernard Allen	Ordinary Member	1 October 2015-30 September 2019
Lynne Cantwell	Ordinary Member	19 October 2018
Gary Ryan	Ordinary Member	19 October 2018
Olive Loughnane	Ordinary Member	10 August 2018
Roger O'Connor	Ordinary Member	10 August 2018
Padraic Moran	Ordinary Member	10 August 2018

The Board has established 11 Committees which are as follows:

1. **Audit and Risk Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of three Board members and three external members. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Board periodically as required and formally in writing annually.

The Audit & Risk Committee consists of Mary Dorgan (Chairperson), Roger O'Connor, Padraic Moran, Frances Kavanagh, Bernard Allen and Walter Johnston. There were seven meetings of the ARC in 2019.

2. **Anti-Doping Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of three Board members and seven independent members. The role of this Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to the performance of its functions under section 8 (1)(d) to (g) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015, including:

- to provide assistance and advice to Sport Ireland on policy formulation relating to the three strands of testing, education and research as required under the terms of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, 1989 and UNESCO's International Convention against Doping in Sport and the World Anti-Doping Code.

- to provide assistance and advice to Sport Ireland’s staff on policy execution.

The members of this Committee are Caroline Murphy (Chairperson), Pat O’Connor, Roger O’Connor, Brendan Buckley, Bill Cuddihy, Pat Guiry, Elaine Breslin, David Gillick, Wendy Henderson, Ruth Wood Martin. There were three meetings of this Committee in 2019.

3. **High Performance Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of four Board members and six independent members. The role of the High Performance Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to the performance of its functions under Section 8(1) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015, relevant to the achievement of excellence in competitive sport.

The members of this Committee are Liam Sheedy (Chairperson), Olive Loughnane, Lynne Cantwell, Gary Ryan, Peter Sherrard, Miriam Malone, Peter McCabe, Roy Dooney, Mike Heskin, Joy Neville. There were four meetings of this Committee in 2019.

4. **Coaching Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises three Board members and four independent members. The purpose of the Coaching Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to its functions under Section 8(1) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015, relating to the development of coaching and coaches. The members of this Committee are John Maughan (Chairperson), Padraic Moran, Pat O’Connor, Mary O’Connor, Matthew Wilkie, Ruud Dokter, Alan Curran. There were three meetings of this Committee in 2019.

5. **Sport Ireland Campus Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of two Board members and three independent members. The purpose of the Sport Ireland Campus Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to its functions relating to the development of a Sport Ireland Campus on the site, in accordance with paragraph 6(4)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The members of this Committee are Pat O’Connor (Chairperson), John Maughan, Ciaran McGivern, Roy Dooney and Sean Benton. There were six meetings of this Committee in 2019.

6. **Grants Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of three Board members and one independent member. The role of the Grants Committee is to consider and recommend National Governing Body and Local Sports Partnership grants (including Women in Sport grants) on an annual basis. The members of this Committee are John Maughan (Chairperson), Mary Dorgan Caroline Murphy and Bernard Allen. There were two meetings of this Committee in 2019.

7. **Eligibility Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of two Board members and two independent members. The role of this Committee is to make recommendations to the Board as to whether organisations applying for grants satisfy eligibility criteria. The members of this Committee are Kieran Mulvey (Chairperson), Mary Dorgan, Frances Kavanagh and Jerry O’Dwyer. There was one meeting of this Committee in 2019.

8. **Research & Participation Committee:** As of year-end, this Committee comprises of two Board members and three independent members. The role of the Research Committee is to oversee Sport Ireland’s research programme and to report to the Board on matters relating to the programme. The participation function of the Committee is to provide advice and guidance to the Sport Ireland Board and Executive regarding the development and monitoring of a Participation Plan for sport and physical activity, under the Sport Ireland Strategy.

The members of this Committee are Olive Loughnane (Chairperson), Gary Ryan, Sheila O’Flanagan, Frances Kavanagh and Caolan Ward. There were five meetings of this Committee in 2019.

9. **Steering Group to Oversee Government Support for Ladies Football & Camogie:** As of year- end, this Steering Group comprises of one Board member and four independent members. The purpose of this Group is to agree the details of the ‘Government Support for Ladies Football and Camogie’, to support the programmes included in the joint proposal from the Camogie Association, the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA), and the Women’s Gaelic Players Association (WGPA). The members of this Group are John Maughan (Chairperson), James Lavelle, Lyn Savage, Sinead McNulty, Marie Kinsella. There was one meeting of this Group in 2019.

10. **Women in Sport Committee:** As of year- end, this Committee comprises of two Board members and nine independent members. The role of this Group is to support the implementation of the Women in Sport Policy, and to support and guide the work of the newly appointed Women in Sport Lead. The members of this Group are Lynne Cantwell (Chairperson), Mary Dorgan, Mary O’Connor, Sarah Keane, Kelli O’Keefe, Joanne Cantwell, John Fulham, John Sweeney, Heather Coyle, Frances Kavanagh, Jenny Egan. There were 6 meetings of this Committee in 2019.

11. **Education & Training Council:** The Education & Training Council was established in September 2019 as part of Sport Ireland’s application to Quality & Qualifications Ireland as a Higher Education Provider. The Committee will oversee the implementation of quality assurance in the education & training programmes offered by Sport Ireland. Membership of the Committee is to be approved by the Board.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

There were nine Board meetings during 2019. A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2019 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member:

Board Member	Board Meetings Attended	Audit & Risk Committee	Anti- Doping Committee	High Performance Committee	Coaching Committee	National Sports Campus Committee	NGB Grants Committee	Eligibility Committee	Research Committee	Steering Group to Oversee Government Support for Ladies Football & Camogie	Women in Sport Advisory Group	Board Members Emoluments Year ended 31 December 2019	Vouched Expenses 31 December 2019
												€	€
Kieran Mulvey	9							1				11,970	3,650
John Maughan	9				3	6	2			1		-	5,955
Liam Sheedy	6			3								7,695	2,150
Roy Dooney	5			1		4						-	557
Mary Dorgan	8	7					2	1			4	7,695	4,294
Caroline Murphy	8		3				2					-	-
Patrick O'Connor	8		2		3	6						7,695	5,018
Bernard Allen	6	5										5,771	6,292
Lynne Cantwell	9			3							6	7,695	3,147
Gary Ryan	8			4					5			-	3,736
Olive Loughnane	9			3					5			-	-
Roger O'Connor	9	7	3									7,695	995
Padraic Moran	8	2										7,695	-
Total												63,911	35,794

Under the One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle John Maughan, Roy Dooney, Caroline Murphy, Gary Ryan and Olive Loughnane did not receive a Board fee in 2019

Key Personnel Changes

Bernard Allen and Roy Dooney's terms expired on 30th September 2019. Pat O'Connor and Padraic Moran were both re-appointed to the Board with effect from 1st October 2019.

Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that Sport Ireland has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Annual Salary Bands at the end of the year

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
60,000-69,999	2	3
70,000-79,999	3	1
80,000-89,999	2	4
90,000-99,999	4	2
100,000-109,999	-	-
110,000-119,999	-	-
120,000-129,999	-	-
130,000-139,999	-	1
140,000-149,999	1	-

Note: For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the year include salary, overtime allowances and other payments made on behalf of the employee, but exclude employer's PRSI.

Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Legal Advice	341,763	339,133
Technical advice	442,641	462,784
Financial/Actuarial advice	472,871	3,014
Human Resources	11,510	9,041
Business improvement	73,240	5,515
Other	109,318	20,384
Total Consultancy Cost	1,451,343	839,871
Consultancy Costs Capitalised	439,822	493,610
Consultancy Costs charged to the Income & Expenditure	1,011,521	346,261
Total Consultancy Cost	1,451,343	839,871

Legal Costs and Settlements

The table below provides a breakdown of amounts recognised as expenditure in the year in relation to legal costs, settlements, conciliation and arbitration proceedings relating to contracts with third parties. This does not include expenditure incurred in relation to general legal advice received by Sport Ireland which is disclosed in Consultancy costs above.

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Legal Fees – Legal Proceedings	312,748	84,279
Conciliation and Arbitration Payments	-	-
Settlements	-	-
Total Legal Cost	312,748	84,279

Legal fees specifically relate to costs incurred in relation to the legacy legal case taken against the National Sports Campus

Development Authority (NSCDA now dissolved) by Dublin Waterworld Limited.

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019 €	Year ended 31 December 2018 €
Domestic		
- Board	31,679	40,082
- Employees	155,993	132,864
International		
- Board	9,277	897
- Employees **	110,150	50,966
Total Travel Cost	307,099	224,810

Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	Year ended 31 December 2019 €	Year ended 31 December 2018 €
Staff hospitality	252	591
Client hospitality	6	-
Total Hospitality	258	591

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. Sport Ireland was in full compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for year ended 2019.



Kieran Mulvey,
Chairman

Date: 17th December 2020



John Treacy,
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 17th December 2020

Sport Ireland

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of Sport Ireland I acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in Sport Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

Sport Ireland has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising of three Board members (as of year-end) and three external members, with financial and audit expertise, one of whom is the Chair. The ARC met seven times in 2019.

Sport Ireland has also established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC.

The ARC has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within Sport Ireland's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

Sport Ireland has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing Sport Ireland and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The Unit and Corporate Risk Registers are reviewed by the ARC on an ongoing basis.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks in Sport Ireland. The risk register also assigns responsibility to specific staff for the operation of controls. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented,

- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual approved budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems,
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets, and
- control procedures over grant funding to outside agencies ensure adequate control over approval of grants and monitoring and review of grantees provides assurance that grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC Oversight function

As part of the ongoing oversight of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC, which is the subsidiary company to Sport Ireland, the Chief Operations Officer reports to the Board of Sport Ireland at every Board meeting with regard to the performance of the campus facilities and any other material issues. Campus facilities activity reports are also examined at every Sport Ireland Facilities DAC Committee meeting. Sport Ireland also agreed inter-company charges through a service level agreement with Sport Ireland Facilities DAC in 2019.

The draft annual financial statements of the subsidiary are also reviewed by the Sport Ireland Audit & Risk Committee prior to submission to the Sport Ireland Board for approval each year.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes. Control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board in a timely manner. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place.

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/ forecasts.

Procurement

I confirm that Sport Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2019 Sport Ireland complied with those procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that Sport Ireland has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. Sport Ireland's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within Sport Ireland responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2019.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2019 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



Kieran Mulvey,

Chairman

Date: 17th December 2020



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas Sport Ireland

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Sport Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019 as required under the provisions of section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of Sport Ireland at 31 December 2019 and of its income and expenditure for 2019 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of Sport Ireland and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on certain other matters

Sport Ireland has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report including the governance statement and **Board members' report** and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

22 December 2020

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 to audit the financial statements of Sport Ireland and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Sport Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause Sport Ireland to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2019 €	Year ended 31 December 2018 €
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	63,529,577	77,531,491
Dormant Account Grants	2	5,000,000	5,000,000
Own Resources	3	958,672	741,917
Net Deferred Pension Funding	10c	740,628	683,291
Other Income	4	362,387	266,392
Transfer from/(to) the Capital Reserve	9	489,367	(16,214,564)
Total Income		71,080,631	68,008,527
Expenditure			
Current Grants Payable	5a	48,280,650	46,741,700
Dormant Account Grants	5b	4,740,773	4,510,936
Healthy Ireland Grants	5c	628,225	699,246
Other Programmes	6	6,982,450	5,606,966
Administration	7	613,733	605,258
Staff Costs	8	4,265,866	3,761,581
Retirement benefit costs	10a	742,000	694,000
Depreciation	11	4,695,523	4,377,496
Total Expenditure		70,949,220	66,997,183
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		131,411	1,011,344
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		2,546,333	1,534,989
Balance Carried Forward at 31 December		2,677,744	2,546,333

All income and expenditure for the year relates to continuing activities at the Statement of Financial Position date.

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



Kieran Mulvey,
Chairman

Date: 17th December 2020



John Treacy,
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 17th December 2020

Sport Ireland
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the year ended 31 December 2019

		Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	Notes	€	€
(Deficit)/Surplus before appropriations		131,411	1,011,344
Experience (loss)/gains on retirement benefit	10b	107,000	(769,000)
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations	10b	(849,000)	356,000
Total actuarial (loss)/gain in the year		(742,000)	(413,000)
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		742,000	413,000
Other Comprehensive Income for the year		131,411	1,011,344

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



 Kieran Mulvey,
 Chairman

Date: 17th December 2020



 John Treacy,
 Chief Executive Officer

Date: 17th December 2020

Sport Ireland
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
For the year ended 31 December 2019

		Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	Notes	€	€
Fixed Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	12	151,143,576	151,632,943
Financial Assets	13	1	1
Total Fixed Assets		151,143,577	151,632,944
Current Assets			
Receivables	14	956,587	693,659
Cash and cash equivalents		4,230,844	3,777,508
		5,187,431	4,471,167
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	15	(2,509,688)	(1,924,835)
Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets		2,677,743	2,546,332
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement benefit obligations	10d	(15,968,000)	(14,485,000)
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset	10b	15,968,000	14,485,000
Total Net Assets		153,821,320	154,179,276
Representing			
Capital Account	9	151,143,576	151,632,943
Retained revenue reserves		2,677,744	2,546,333
Equity		153,821,320	154,179,276

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



 Kieran Mulvey,
 Chairman

Date: 17th December 2020



 John Treacy,
 Chief Executive Officer

Date: 17th December 2020

Sport Ireland
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2019 €	Year ended 31 December 2018 €
Reconciliation of Net Operating Surplus			
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus		131,411	1,011,344
Loss/(Gain) on Disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets		-	242
Depreciation	11	4,695,523	4,377,496
Bank Interest Received	4	-	-
Taxation Paid		-	-
Transfer (from) Capital Reserve	9	(4,695,523)	(4,377,496)
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	14	(262,928)	(145,540)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	15	584,853	(1,833,683)
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		453,336	(967,637)
Cash Flow Statement			
Net Cash Inflows from Operating Activities		453,336	(967,637)
Returns on Investments and servicing of finance			
Bank Interest	4	-	-
Capital Expenditure			
Payments to acquire Fixed assets		(4,206,156)	(20,592,302)
Receipts from disposal of Fixed Assets		-	(242)
Net Cash Flows from Capital Expenditure		(4,206,156)	(20,592,544)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Capital Grants		4,206,156	20,592,302
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		4,206,156	20,592,302
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash		453,336	(967,879)
Movement in net funds for the year		453,336	(967,879)
Cash at Bank 1 January		3,777,508	4,745,387
Cash at Bank 31 December		4,230,844	3,777,508

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by Sport Ireland are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year.

a) General Information

Sport Ireland's primary objectives as set out in Part II of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 are as follows:

- To encourage the promotion, development and co-ordination of competitive sport and the achievement of excellence in competitive sport;
- To develop strategies for increasing participation in recreational sport and to co-ordinate their implementation by all bodies (including public authorities and publicly funded bodies) involved in promoting recreational sport and providing recreational facilities;
- To take such action as is considered appropriate, including testing, to combat doping in sport;
- Where the Board considered it appropriate to do so, to initiate and encourage research concerning either or both competitive sport and recreational sport;
- Where the Board considered it appropriate to do so, to facilitate research and disseminate information concerning either or both competitive sport and recreational sport;
- To develop, promote, operate and maintain Sport Ireland Campus;

Sport Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of Sport Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019 have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice including FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under the Sport Ireland Act 2015.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to Sport Ireland's financial statements.

d) Consolidated Financial Statements

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is wholly owned by Sport Ireland and operates and maintains the facilities on the Sport Ireland Campus.

Sport Ireland is exempt from the requirement to present the annual financial statements as consolidated with the subsidiary. Under Section 9 (g) of FRS102 this is not required under the statutory framework or as part of the format agreed with the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

The financial statements of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC are presented separately. Further information in respect of the subsidiary is given in Note 13 to the financial statements.

e) Revenue

Oireachtas Grants

Oireachtas grants are generally recognised on a cash basis with the exception of unspent capital grants provided for specific purposes which are deferred and recognised in the year the expenditure is incurred.

Refunds of grants paid

Grants paid become refundable in certain circumstances, such as liquidation/dissolution of the recipient company, or if the conditions of the grant are not met. Grant refunds are recognised when it is probable that the money will be received by Sport Ireland and the amount can be estimated reliably; therefore they are accounted for on an accruals basis. There were no Grant refunds in 2019.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

f) Grants Paid

Grants are paid to grantee organisations based on the Sport Ireland funding application process which commences in Quarter 3 each year. Grantee organisations have been made aware of the reporting requirements under circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds and Sport Ireland reviews all grantee bodies financial statements to ensure compliance in this regard.

g) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

NAC & Campus Facilities	2%	per annum
Campus Facilities (30 Years lifecycle)	3.33%	per annum
Campus Facilities (10 Years lifecycle)	10%	per annum
Campus Facilities (5 Years lifecycle)	20%	per annum
Infrastructure, Master Planning & Design	15%	per annum
Campus Capital Projects Strategy	100%	per annum
Land & Buildings (50 Years lifecycle)	2%	per annum
Buildings (30 Years lifecycle)	3.33%	per annum
Office Fit out /Fixtures & Fittings	20%	per annum
Computers & IT Equipment	33.33%	per annum
Motor Vehicles	20%	per annum

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Land on the Sport Ireland Campus, Abbotstown House and any assets that are under construction are not depreciated. Once projects under construction are completed relevant depreciation rates are applied.

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year.

h) Financial assets

Other Financial Assets

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is wholly owned by Sport Ireland and its share capital represents one ordinary share of one Euro par value. Sport Ireland Facilities DAC operates and maintains the facilities on the Sport Ireland Campus.

i) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value, less a provision for doubtful debts. The provision for doubtful debts is a specific provision, and is established when there is objective evidence that Sport Ireland will not be able to collect all amounts owed to it. All movements in the provision for doubtful debts are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

j) Payables

Payables are initially recognised at fair value. Payables are classified as current if payable within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

k) Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Retirement Benefits

Sport Ireland operates a defined benefit pension scheme, funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and from contributions deducted from staff and members' salaries. Sport Ireland also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single scheme employee contributions are transferred to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. All other employee pension contributions are transferred to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from Sport Ireland's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognises the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

1) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Provisions

Sport Ireland makes provisions for legal and constructive obligations, which it knows to be outstanding at the year end date. These provisions are generally made based on historical or other pertinent information, adjusted for recent trends where relevant. However, they are estimates of the financial costs of events that may not occur for some years. As a result of this and the level of uncertainty attaching to the final outcomes, the actual out-turn may differ significantly from that estimated.

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Board have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels and mortality rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds.
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

2. Oireachtas Grants

As outlined in Accounting Policy Note 1(e) Oireachtas grants are recognised as income on the basis of the amount of cash received. The Oireachtas Grants received by Sport Ireland from Vote 31 – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport as shown in the financial statements consist of:

	Sub-head 31	Year ended 31 December 2019 €	Year ended 31 December 2018 €
Recurrent Grant	D.5	57,811,000	55,008,000
Less Refundable Employee Pension Deductions		(122,000)	(109,000)
Total Recurrent Grant		57,689,000	54,899,000
Health Service Executive		-	-
Department of Health		-	-
Department of Health - Healthy Ireland Fund		615,000	778,133
Capital Funding	B.2	5,225,577	20,945,789
(Deferred)/Reversed Capital Funding	D.5	-	908,569
Total Oireachtas Grants		63,529,577	77,531,491
Dormant Account Grants: Current	D.6	4,220,010	4,260,090
Dormant Account Grants: Capital	D.6	779,990	739,910
Total Dormant Account Grants		5,000,000	5,000,000

Oireachtas grants comprise of amounts provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of the year concerned and represents the grant paid to Sport Ireland. This grant is used for pay, general administration, programme costs and grants to National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships. The amount of recurrent grant received in 2019 was €57,811,000. The Board have adhered to the terms of the Service Level Agreement with the Department. The Board have adequate financial control systems in place to manage grants received from the Department.

Capital grants were received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the final phase of the construction of the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena which was completed in June 2019 and for ongoing Sport Ireland Campus development. Sport Ireland received €5,225,577 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2019.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Dormant Account Grant received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport was €5,000,000 for projects including Community Sports Hub, Community Coaching, Jobseekers Courses, Sports Disability Training and Youth Leadership Training.

Healthy Ireland Grant received from the Department of Health was €615,000 for projects including Get Ireland Swimming, Walking and Cycling, the Great Dublin Bike Ride and Cycle Right.

3. Own Resources

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Rental Income	362,154	265,000
Rent from Sports HQ*	114,753	113,268
Anti-Doping Testing Income	97,673	111,306
Player Athlete Services	255,452	136,020
Sport Ireland Institute	51,339	63,274
Sport Ireland Outdoors	35,201	15,049
Sport Ireland Coaching	42,100	38,000
Total Own Resources	958,672	741,917

* This represents contributions to running costs which are shown under “Sports HQ” see Note 6.

4. Other Income

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Income from EU	56,748	22,408
Great Dublin Bike Ride	65,000	65,000
European Week of Sport	161,982	177,651
Other Income	78,657	1,333
Total Other Income	362,387	266,392

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

5. Grants Payable

a) Current Grants

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
National Governing Bodies of Sport *	12,817,000	11,098,065
International Carding Scheme *	1,931,000	1,920,000
Local Sports Partnerships *	7,026,508	5,824,138
Youth Field Sports *	5,898,200	8,077,406
High Performance Grants *	9,357,500	8,935,000
Womens Participation in Sport *	1,786,213	971,500
Cycling Series Grant	-	4,000
Team Ireland Golf Trust	440,000	200,000
Irish Open	-	1,250,000
Student Sport Ireland	60,000	50,000
Morton Stadium Grant	150,000	150,000
Olympic Federation of Ireland	420,000	475,000
Paralympic Council	400,000	397,500
Irish Special Schools Sport	25,000	25,000
Federation of Irish Sport	100,000	100,000
Recreational Sport Grant Scheme	40,000	-
Great Dublin Bike Ride Grant	115,000	115,000
Sport Ireland Facilities Capital Grant **	931,624	871,486
Sports Partnership Capital Grant - IRFU	-	475,000
Sport Ireland Facilities Operational Grant **	2,175,000	2,095,000
Older People and Sport	607,605	607,605
University of Limerick - 50 Metre Pool	300,000	300,000
GAA - Inter County Players Support Scheme	3,000,000	2,300,000
Inter County Ladies Football & Camogie Scheme	700,000	500,000
Total Grants Payable	48,280,650	46,741,700

*Analysis of Grants figures are set out in the Appendices to Annual Report.

** Transactions with Sport Ireland Facilities DAC.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

b) Dormant Account Grants

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Community Sport Hub *	1,289,623	1,074,263
Youth Leadership *	200,000	253,480
Community Coaching *	1,333	14,663
Sports Disability Training	370,787	371,000
Volunteer Support	275,000	300,000
Evaluation	220,863	67,654
Administration	450,000	400,000
Disadvantaged Communities	6,500	83,000
Ypath	5,000	-
Outdoor Recreation	-	25,000
Get Ireland Cycling	100,000	100,000
Get Ireland Walking	99,000	93,500
Get Ireland Swimming	100,000	100,750
Get Ireland Running	100,000	100,750
NGB Participation Funding	808,800	659,600
Various Programmes	713,867	867,276
Total Dormant Account Grants	4,740,773	4,510,936

*Analysis of Grants figures are set out in the Appendices to Annual Report.

c) Healthy Ireland Grants

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Special Olympics	25,000	68,422
Great Dublin Bike Ride	6,000	64,591
Operation Transformation	18,300	33,044
National Fitness Day	22,000	22,000
Get Ireland Swimming	115,500	123,000
Get Ireland Walking	118,000	81,200
Get Ireland Cycling	103,000	55,531
Get Ireland Running	70,000	63,000
Cycle Right	11,000	114,000
GAA Healthy Clubs	23,000	45,000
Children Sport Participation and Physical Activity	74,307	7,000
Outdoors National Digital Database	22,118	2,458
Administration Fee	20,000	20,000
Total Healthy Ireland Grants	628,225	699,246

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

6. Other Programmes

*These represent running costs. Income which is directly linked to these costs is shown under “Own Resources” see Note 3.

	RESEARCH	ANTIDOPING	NGB	PUBLIC RELATIONS	PARTICIPATION	HIGH PERFORMANCE	SPORT IRELAND INSTITUTE	SPORT IRELAND COACHING	CAMPUS	TOTAL	TOTAL
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	31 Dec 2019	31 Dec 2018
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Anti-Doping Testing	-	1,132,761	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,132,761	1,194,008
Research Projects	203,210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	203,210	128,706
NGB Development	-	-	255,098	-	-	-	-	-	-	255,098	191,431
Programme Development	-	20,254	5,000	-	206,864	59,074	16,000	-	-	307,192	120,612
EU European Week of Sport	-	-	-	-	145,783	-	-	-	-	145,783	135,173
SI Outdoors Inspections	-	-	-	-	103,129	-	-	-	-	103,129	70,345
SI Outdoors Grants	-	-	-	-	55,000	-	-	-	-	55,000	55,000
Institute Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,605,509	-	-	1,605,509	1,399,327
Sports HQ *	-	-	213,743	-	-	-	-	-	-	213,743	189,415
Contractors/Outsourced	-	-	-	-	105,910	-	227,127	-	-	333,037	324,133
Tutor Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,750	-	39,750	21,940
Campus Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	203,405	203,405	218,156
Staff and Training	-	2,202	1,132	2,372	2,472	3,741	7,002	1,060	2,190	22,171	24,005
Office Administration Costs	-	26,134	18,150	7,370	43,828	16,421	212,696	79,258	133,549	537,406	479,314
Travel, Subsistence & Meetings	-	49,787	21,353	5,957	14,585	22,158	24,718	135,074	2,868	276,500	172,943
Professional Fees	-	254,462	438,681	-	-	-	-	-	318,768	1,011,911	391,826
Computer Software & Support	-	43,226	25	48,348	551	28,782	52,032	18,254	480	191,698	225,696
PR, Printing and Stationery	-	24,948	812	247,834	8,228	3,900	24,171	14,389	11,611	335,893	257,934
Postage and Courier	-	4,676	-	594	979	267	428	2,310	-	9,254	7,002
Total Other Programmes	203,210	1,558,450	953,994	312,475	687,329	134,343	2,169,683	290,095	672,871	6,982,450	5,606,966

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

7. Administration

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Staff Expenses and Training	67,745	60,715
Rent and Property	23,126	67,243
Maintenance and Repairs	8,876	12,949
Insurance	4,272	2,320
Telephone	1,183	7,070
Light and Heat	(12,526)	38,876
Board Members, Travel, Subsistence and Meetings	153,687	136,718
Audit Fees	58,196	11,465
OC&AG Audit Fee	26,400	24,000
Professional Fees	24,589	11,877
Computer Software and Support	200,358	174,375
Printing and Stationery	25,404	24,090
Postage and Courier	8,471	11,877
Sundry	23,952	21,441
Loss/(Gain) Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	242
Total Administration	613,733	605,258

8. Remuneration

(a) Aggregate Employee Benefits

The total staff complement approved by the Minister at 31 December 2019 was 64 permanent. The average number of employees excluding agency was 46. The aggregate employee and related costs were as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
Salaries	2,221,777	1,947,255
Employers PRSI contributions	227,120	193,252
Staff Holiday Pay Accrual	16,893	2,108
Seconded Staff Charge	-	69,362
Agency Staff	1,800,076	1,549,604
Total Staff Cost	4,265,866	3,761,581
DAF/Hi Salaries/PRSI Allocation	153,582	152,369
DAF/Hi Operational Support Allocation	224,653	144,900
	4,644,101	4,058,850

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Staff Costs by Unit

	Salaries	ER PRSI Contributions	Staff Holiday Pay Accrual	Agency Staff	31 December 2019	31 December 2018
Administration	495,757	52,224	16,893	229,665	794,539	624,635
Research	78,768	1,457	-	77,028	157,253	118,071
Anti Doping	321,415	33,943	-	143,523	498,881	413,561
NGB	80,963	8,667	-	348,532	438,162	341,308
PR	51,347	5,478	-	78,250	135,075	129,325
Participation	170,953	17,735	-	199,948	388,636	334,195
High Performance	328,482	34,865	-	-	363,347	318,570
SI Institute	-	-	-	458,323	458,323	430,881
SI Coaching	673,124	70,455	-	11,057	754,636	773,092
DAF / HI Projects	139,754	13,828	-	224,653	378,235	297,269
Campus	20,968	2,296	-	253,750	277,014	277,943
TOTAL	2,361,531	240,948	16,893	2,024,729	4,644,101	4,058,850

The Dormant Account and Healthy Ireland salaries and PRSI figure of €153,582 represents staff cost allocated against both grant schemes as approved by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of Health respectively.

(b) Short Term Benefits

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Basic Pay	2,602,479	2,292,876
Overtime	-	-
Allowances	-	-
Total Short Term Benefits	2,602,479	2,292,876

(c) Termination Benefits

There were no termination benefits paid in 2019.

(d) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel in Sport Ireland consists of the of the Chief Executive Officer and Sport Ireland Board members. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below.

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Key Management Personnel	204,922	196,303
Total Key Management Personnel	204,922	196,303

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the year. The CEO is the only member of the Sport Ireland pension scheme included in Key Management and his entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

(e) Chief Executive Officer Salary and Benefits

The CEO remuneration package for the year was as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Basic Pay	141,011	131,747
Total Salary	141,011	131,747

The CEO is a member of the Sport Ireland pension scheme. The value of retirement benefits earned in the year is not included above.

The CEO received a recoupment of travel and subsistence expenses of €7,900 in the 12 months ended 31 December 2019 (€7,875 in the 12 months ended 31 December 2018).

9. Capital Account

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
At 1 January	151,632,943	135,418,379
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account:		
Amortisation in line with fixed asset depreciation	(4,695,523)	(4,377,496)
Funds Allocated to acquire Fixed Assets	4,206,156	20,592,302
Amount Released on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	(242)
Net Amount of Transfer for the year	(489,367)	16,214,564
At 31 December	151,143,576	151,632,943

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

10. Retirement Benefit Costs

(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Current service cost	586,000	539,000
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	278,000	264,000
Employee Contributions	(122,000)	(109,000)
Total Retirement Benefit Cost	742,000	694,000

(b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	14,485,000	13,389,000
Current service cost	586,000	539,000
Interest cost	278,000	264,000
Experience loss/(gain)	(107,000)	769,000
(Gain)/loss arising from change in assumptions	849,000	(356,000)
Pensions paid in the year	(123,000)	(120,000)
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	15,968,000	14,485,000

(c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

The Board recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves was as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	803,000	701,000
Pensions paid in the year	(123,372)	(119,709)
Funding Recoverable	679,628	581,291

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31 December 2019 amounts to €15.968m.

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	2019 €'000	2018 €'000	2017 €'000	2016 €'000
Defined Benefit Obligations	15,968	14,485	13,389	12,148
Experience losses/(gains) on defined benefit scheme liabilities	(107)	769	540	(289)

(e) General description of the scheme

The retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current “model” public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (being 1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (being 3/80 per year of service) and spouses and children’s pensions. Normal retirement age is a member’s 65th birthday, and pre-2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

Sport Ireland also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme (“Single Scheme”), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. All single scheme employee contributions are transferred to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and all current retirement benefit costs are recoverable from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport through the pay allocation grant.

This membership rule prevails regardless of the form of the employment contract. Both full-time and part-time staff and permanent and temporary staff join the Single Scheme if their employment commences from 2013 onwards.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed on 16 January 2020 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2019.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
Rate of increase in salaries	2.65%	2.95%
Rate of increase in retirement benefits in payment	2.15%	2.45%
Discount rate	1.40%	1.93%
Inflation rate	1.50%	1.80%

Mortality

58% of PNML00 for males with improvements (see below).

62% of PNFL00 for females with improvements (see below).

The mortality basis explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2019 and 2039.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Year of attaining age 65	2019	2039
Life expectancy - Male	21.7 years	24.0 years
Life expectancy - Female	24.1 years	26.1 years

11. Depreciation of Fixed Assets

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	4,695,523	4,377,496
Total Depreciation	4,695,523	4,377,496

12 (a). Property, Plant & Equipment 2019

	National Acquatic Centre	Infrastructure & Design	Campus Facilities	Land & Buildings	Office Equip / Computers / F&F Furnitures / Med Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost							
At beginning of the year	74,005,032	9,456,368	79,757,973	26,553,566	1,859,153	22,286	191,654,378
Additions for the year	-	259,942	3,711,413	188,972	45,829	-	4,206,156
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019	74,005,032	9,716,310	83,469,386	26,742,538	1,904,982	22,286	195,860,534
Depreciation							
At beginning of the year	23,609,496	7,365,807	3,495,439	4,079,576	1,448,831	22,286	40,021,435
Charge for the year	1,480,104	744,088	1,663,963	611,024	196,344	-	4,695,523
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2019	25,089,600	8,109,895	5,159,402	4,690,600	1,645,175	22,286	44,716,958
Net Book Value							
At 1 January 2019	50,395,536	2,090,561	76,262,534	22,473,990	410,322	-	151,632,943
Net Movement for the year	(1,480,104)	(484,146)	2,047,450	(422,052)	(150,515)	-	(489,367)
At 31 December 2019	48,915,432	1,606,415	78,309,984	22,051,938	259,807	-	151,143,576

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

12 (b). Property, Plant & Equipment 2018

	National Aquatic Centre	Infrastructure & Design	Campus Facilities	Land & Buildings	Office Equip / Computers / Fixtures & Fittings / Furnitures / Med Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost							
At beginning of the year	74,005,032	9,349,504	60,768,450	25,156,307	1,812,441	22,286	171,114,020
Additions for the year	-	106,864	18,989,523	1,397,259	98,656	-	20,592,302
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	(51,944)	-	(51,944)
At 31 December 2018	74,005,032	9,456,368	79,757,973	26,553,566	1,859,153	22,286	191,654,378
Depreciation							
At beginning of the year	22,129,395	6,581,829	2,116,571	3,536,853	1,308,707	22,286	35,695,641
Charge for the year	1,480,101	783,978	1,378,868	542,723	191,826	-	4,377,496
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	(51,702)	-	(51,702)
At 31 December 2018	23,609,496	7,365,807	3,495,439	4,079,576	1,448,831	22,286	40,021,435
Net Book Value							
At 1 January 2018	51,875,637	2,767,675	58,651,879	21,619,454	503,734	-	135,418,379
Net Movement for the year	(1,480,101)	(677,114)	17,610,655	854,536	(93,412)	-	16,214,564
At 31 December 2018	50,395,536	2,090,561	76,262,534	22,473,990	410,322	-	151,632,943

13. Financial Assets

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Sport Ireland Facilities DAC		
Ordinary Share Value	1	1
Total Financial Assets	1	1

Name	Registered Office	Company	Ownership	Issued Share
Sport Ireland Facilities DAC	IIS Building Sport Ireland Campus Blanchardstown Dublin 15	419329	1	One Ordinary Share of one Euro Par Value

A summary of the subsidiary's results are set out below.

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(25,908)	(87,836)
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,778,105)	(1,752,197)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

14. Receivables

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Debtors	556,680	309,012
Accrued Income	36,000	36,000
OPW Suspense Account	123,308	123,308
Prepayments	240,599	225,339
Total Receivables	956,587	693,659

15. Payables

	Year ended 31 December 2019	Year ended 31 December 2018
	€	€
Creditors	1,654,280	1,061,649
Other Accruals	249,674	262,997
Deferred Income	-	21,000
Due to Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport	123,308	123,308
PAYE/PRSI	107,928	95,737
Value Added Tax	162,516	272,097
Relevant Contract Tax	93,716	1,031
Professional Services Withholding Tax	118,266	87,016
Total Payables	2,509,688	1,924,835

16. Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2019 Sport Ireland had no lease commitments.

Sport Ireland has a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Limerick dated 15 September 2001, this covers accommodation, light & heat and security provided by University of Limerick to Sport Ireland Coaching. The annual amount paid for rent to the University is €38,000.

17. Related Party Disclosures

Please refer to Note 8(e) for a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management personnel.

Sport Ireland adopts procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform covering the personal interests of Board members. In the normal course of business, Sport Ireland may approve grants or enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which Sport Ireland members are employed or are otherwise interested.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members do not receive Board documentation or otherwise participate in or attend discussions regarding these transactions. A register is maintained and available on request of all such instances.

In the normal course of business the Board may approve grant payments to undertakings in which Board members are employed or may otherwise have an interest. The Board adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board members and these procedures have been adhered to during the year.

The following Board members disclosed an interest in organisations to which grants were approved in 2019:

- John Maughan is an employee of Mayo County Council. Mayo Local Sports Partnership is part of Mayo County Council, Mayo Local Sports Partnership received €386,634 under Local Sport Partnership and Dormant Account grants.
- Liam Sheedy is a former member of the Management Committee of the GAA. The GAA received €2,364,653 in Youth Field Sport Grants, €3,000,000 for the GAA Inter County Players Support Scheme and €77,404 under Healthy Ireland and Dormant Account grant schemes.
- Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is wholly owned subsidiary of Sport Ireland and received €931,624 of Capital Grant and €2,175,000 of Operational Grant in 2019.
Sport Ireland has availed of the exemption afforded by paragraph 33.1A from the provisions of FRS 102 'Related Party Transactions' from disclosing transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries.
- Padraic Moran is a member of Paralympics Ireland's Athletes Commission and Boccia Ireland (which is a sub-committee of Paralympics Ireland). Paralympics Ireland received total funding of €1,732,000 in 2019.

18. Contingent Liabilities

Sport Ireland is involved in a small number of legal proceedings as follows:

Section 34(2) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 provided that legal proceedings relating to the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA now dissolved) would be continued, with the substitution in the proceedings of Sport Ireland, in so far as they so relate, for the Authority. Accordingly Sport Ireland has commitments and contingent liabilities in relation to legal costs and potential exposure in relation to claims as follows:

In 2010, in its ruling on the legal proceedings concerning the non-payment of a VAT invoice issued by the former Campus Stadium Ireland Development Company on the creation of the lease on the National Aquatic Centre, the Supreme Court awarded costs in the matter against NSCDA. In June 2013, Dublin Waterworld Limited (DWW) then initiated legal proceedings in the Commercial Court against NSCDA seeking damages pursuant to the VAT proceedings referred to above (i.e. on foot of the actions taken by Campus Stadium Ireland Development/NSCDA to recover VAT on the lease of the NAC).

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

Sport Ireland made a full provision for its expected legal costs in relation to this case but did not provide for the claim for damages as the outcome of the case was uncertain at the time and the costs could not be reliably estimated. In 2017, the High Court ruled in favour of NSCDA (now Sport Ireland) in this case taken by Dublin Waterworld Limited (DWW), in which that company had sought damages pursuant to the VAT proceedings referred to above.

In 2019 the Plaintiff initiated an appeal process disputing the 2017 High Court ruling. Following this in July 2019 Ms Justice Irvine gave judgment on behalf of the three member Court of Appeal upholding the essential part of the 2017 decision of the High Court, in that it found that the Board of CSID was justified in issuing the proceedings it did to seek to recover VAT from DWW. The Court of Appeal subsequently awarded NSCDA/Sport Ireland the costs of the appeal and Sport Ireland continue to consult with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the award of costs issue and the pursuance of same from the plaintiff. On this basis, no provision for any further costs in relation to this matter has been made by Sport Ireland as currently no contingent liability exists.

Note: 'CSID' refers to Campus Stadium Ireland Development Ltd, the legal precursor to the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA).

The Board has been notified of a contractual claim in relation to the The Courtyard Office capital project. The Board disputes the validity of the claim and Sport Ireland continue to negotiate the final account with the contractor under the terms of the contract.

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC, a subsidiary of Sport Ireland is also involved in a number of legal cases taken by customers in relation to incidents which occurred in the facilities as operated by the company. The estimated list of claims outstanding at year end as provided by the insurance providers of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC amounted to €19,000. The financial statements of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC include a provision of €356,500 for the estimated legal costs associated with third party legal cases.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

19. Commitments

Under a Sports Partnership Strategy for the development of the field-sport elements of the Campus Master Plan, Sport Ireland has entered into separate agreements with the GAA, FAI, Hockey Ireland and IRFU whereby Sport Ireland, subject to certain conditions, is committed to granting 99 year leases on certain of its lands (as identified in the Master Plan), at peppercorn rents, to the bodies concerned. The agreements also commits to the provision of matching funding up to €500,000 for the development by each of the bodies of these facilities, totalling €2 million, of which €1,450,000 was paid to the sports bodies up to 31 December 2019.

Capital Commitments:

An amount of €953,000 has arisen as a result of contractual commitments for construction works on the Sport Ireland Campus facilities in 2019.

20. Events After the Reporting Date

Sport Ireland secured additional funding of €88.5m to assist with Covid 19 related losses in the sector during 2020. The Covid 19 pandemic significantly impacted on the sectors ability to generate income as budgeted, during 2020 and on this basis, Sport Ireland engaged with all stakeholders to ensure an equitable distribution of additional Covid 19 funding during 2020.

21. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Sport Ireland on 17th of December 2020.

Appendix A: Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information 2019

Programme Area	<i>Total Number of Requests</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>Part- Grant</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Withdrawn</i>	<i>Handled Outside FOI</i>
National Governing Bodies	34	5	9	8	1	11
Anti-Doping	7	1	3	1	-	2
Corporate Services	13	6	6	1	-	-
High Performance	1	1	-	-	-	-
Participation	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total 2019	56	13	19	10	1	13

There was one request for internal review in 2019 which varied the original decision.

Appendix B: National Governing Body Core Grants

APPENDIX B	NGB Grants 2019
NGB	Amount €
American Football Ireland	30,000
Angling Council of Ireland	15,000
Archery Ireland	15,000
Athletics Ireland	950,000
Badminton Ireland	365,000
Basketball Ireland	715,000
Baton Twirling Sport Association of Ireland	28,000
Bol Chumann na hÉireann	36,000
Bowling League	30,000
Canoeing Ireland	265,000
Confederation of Golf in Ireland	300,000
Cricket Ireland	457,000
Croquet Association of Ireland	10,000
Cycling Ireland	362,000
Deaf Sport Ireland	67,000
Fencing Ireland	55,000
GAA Handball Ireland	103,000
Gymnastics Ireland	350,000
Hockey Ireland	325,000
Horse Sport Ireland	855,000
Horseshoe Pitchers Association of Ireland	10,000
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	20,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	483,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	45,000
Irish Ice Hockey Association	10,000
Irish Judo Association	100,000
Irish Martial Arts Commission	73,000
Irish Olympic Handball Association	50,000
Irish Orienteering Association	65,000
Irish Sailing Association	400,000
Irish Squash	180,000
Irish Surfing Association	75,000
Irish Taekwondo Union	45,000
Irish Tenpin Bowling Association	35,000
Irish Tug of War Association	40,000
Irish Underwater Council	70,000
Irish Waterski & Wakeboard Federation	30,000

Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	283,000
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	450,000
Motor Cycling Ireland	48,000
Motor Sport Ireland	160,000
Mountaineering Ireland	225,000
National Community Games	315,000
ONAKAI	10,000
Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland	75,000
Racquetball Association of Ireland	20,000
ROI Billiards & Snooker Association	70,000
Rowing Ireland	300,000
Rugby League Ireland	25,000
Special Olympics Ireland	1,200,000
Special Olympics World Games	180,000
Speleological Union of Ireland	15,000
Swim Ireland	938,500
Table Tennis Ireland	107,000
Tennis Ireland	432,000
The Camogie Association	405,000
Triathlon Ireland	180,000
Vision Sports Ireland	52,000
Volleyball Association of Ireland	210,000
Pentathlon Ireland	22,500
Weightlifting Ireland	30,000
TOTAL 2019	12,817,000

Appendix C: High Performance Programme Funding

APPENDIX C	High Performance Grants 2019
NGB	Amount €
Athletics Ireland	970,000
Badminton Union	160,000
Canoeing Ireland	70,000
Confederation of Golf in Ireland	450,000
Cricket Ireland	200,000
Cycling Ireland	480,000
Gymnastics Ireland	200,000
Hockey Ireland	730,000
Horse Sport Ireland	760,000
IRFU	300,000
Irish Taekwondo Union	50,000
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	15,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	770,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	22,500
Irish Judo Association	80,000
Irish Sailing Association	800,000
Olympic Federation of Ireland	250,000
Paralympics Ireland	950,000
Pentathlon Ireland	290,000
Rowing Ireland	690,000
Swim Ireland	670,000
Tennis Ireland	200,000
Triathlon Ireland	250,000
Total	9,357,500

Appendix D: International Carding Scheme

APPENDIX D	International Carding Scheme Grants 2019		
NGB	Athlete	Category	Amount €
Athletics Ireland	Thomas Barr	Podium	40,000
Athletics Ireland	Ciara Mageean	World Class	20,000
Athletics Ireland	Fionnula McCormack	World Class	20,000
Athletics Ireland	Leon Reid	World Class	20,000
Athletics Ireland	Brian Gregan	World Class	16,000
Athletics Ireland	Mark English	World Class	16,000
Athletics Ireland	Alex Wright	International	12,000
Athletics Ireland	Brendan Boyce	International	12,000
Athletics Ireland	Phil Healy	International	12,000
Athletics Ireland	Marcus Lawlor	International	12,000
Athletics Ireland	Women's 4 x 100m Relay	International	12,000
Athletics Ireland			192,000
Badminton Ireland (Para)	Niall McVeigh	World Class	20,000
Badminton Ireland	Chloe Magee	International	12,000
Badminton Ireland	Sam Magee	International	12,000
Badminton Ireland	Nhat Nguyen	International	12,000
Badminton Ireland			56,000
Canoeing Ireland (Para)	Patrick O'Leary	World Class	20,000
Canoeing Ireland	Jennifer Egan	World Class	20,000
Canoeing Ireland	Liam Jegou	International	12,000
Canoeing Ireland			52,000
Cycling Ireland	Felix English	World Class	20,000
Cycling Ireland	Lydia Boylan	World Class	20,000
Cycling Ireland	Lydia Gurley	World Class	25,000
Cycling Ireland	Robyn Stewart	World Class	20,000
Cycling Ireland	Mark Downey	World Class	25,000
Cycling Ireland	Marc Potts	International	12,000
Cycling Ireland	Shannon McCurley	International	12,000
Cycling Ireland	Kelly Murphy	International	12,000
Cycling Ireland (Para)	Katie George Dunlevy & Eve McCrystal	Podium	60,000
Cycling Ireland (Para)	Martin Gordon & Pilot	World Class	30,000
Cycling Ireland (Para)	Peter Ryan & Pilot	International	18,000
Cycling Ireland (Para)	Ronan Grimes	International	12,000
Cycling Ireland (Para)	Damien Vereker	International	12,000
Cycling Ireland			278,000
Gymnastics Ireland	Rhys McClenaghan	Podium	40,000
Gymnastics Ireland	Adam Steele	International	12,000
Gymnastics Ireland			52,000

Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Joe Ward	Podium	15,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Kellie Harrington	Podium	40,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Brendan Irvine	World Class	20,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Kurt Walker	World Class	20,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Michaela Walsh	World Class	20,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Michael Nevin	International	9,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Grainne Walsh	International	12,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Kieran Molloy	International	12,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Kiril Afansev	International	12,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association			160,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	Aoife Gormally	World Class	20,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association			20,000
Irish Judo Association	Benjamin Fletcher	World Class	20,000
Irish Judo Association	Megan Fletcher	International	12,000
Irish Judo Association	Nathon Burns	International	12,000
Irish Judo Association	Eoin Fleming	International	12,000
Irish Judo Association			56,000
Irish Sailing Association	Ryan Seaton	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association	Finn Lynch	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association	Aoife Hopkins	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association	Seafra Guilfoyle	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association	Liam Glynn	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association	Sean Waldilove	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association	Robert Dickson	International	12,000
Irish Sailing Association			84,000
Irish Taekwondo Union	Jack Woolley	World Class	20,000
Irish Taekwondo Union			20,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Jason Smyth	Podium	40,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Michael McKillop	Podium	40,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Niamh McCarthy	Podium	40,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Noelle Lenihan	Podium	40,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Orla Barry	Podium	40,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Greta Streimikyte	World Class	20,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Patrick Monahan	International	12,000

Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Orla Comerford	International	12,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	Jordan Lee	International	12,000
Paralympics Ireland (Athletics)	David Leavy	International	12,000
Paralympics Ireland (Swimming)	Ellen Keane	Podium	40,000
Paralympics Ireland (Swimming)	Nicole Turner	World Class	20,000
Paralympics Ireland (Swimming)	Barry McClements	International	12,000
Paralympics Ireland (Swimming)	Patrick Flanagan	International	12,000
Paralympics Ireland (Swimming)	Jonathon McGrath	International	12,000
CEO paper No 3 Dec 2019			15,000
Paralympics Ireland			379,000
Pentathlon Ireland	Arthur Lanigan O'Keeffe	Podium	40,000
Pentathlon Ireland	Natalya Coyle	Podium	40,000
Pentathlon Ireland	Eilidh Prise	International	12,000
Pentathlon Ireland	Sive Brassil	International	12,000
Pentathlon Ireland			104,000
Rowing Ireland	Paul O'Donovan	Podium	40,000
Rowing Ireland	Gary O'Donovan	Podium	40,000
Rowing Ireland	Sanita Puspure	Podium	40,000
Rowing Ireland	Aifric Keogh	World Class	20,000
Rowing Ireland	Emily Hegarty	World Class	20,000
Rowing Ireland	Ronan Byrne	World Class	20,000
Rowing Ireland	Philip Doyle	World Class	20,000
Rowing Ireland	Monika Dukarska	World Class	20,000
Rowing Ireland	Aileen Crowley	World Class	20,000
Rowing Ireland	Targeted Athletes	Pool Funding	50,000
Rowing Ireland			290,000
Swim Ireland (Diving)	Oliver Dingley	World Class	20,000
Swim Ireland	Shane Ryan	World Class	20,000
Swim Ireland (Diving)	Clare Cryan	World Class	20,000
Swim Ireland (Diving)	Tanya Watson	International	12,000
Swim Ireland	Brendan Hyland	International	12,000
Swim Ireland	Jordan Sloan	International	12,000
Swim Ireland	Darragh Greene	International	12,000
Swim Ireland	Mona McSharry	International	12,000
Swim Ireland	Niamh Coyne	International	12,000
Swim Ireland	Conor Ferguson	International	12,000
Swim Ireland			144,000
Table Tennis (Para)	Colin Judge	International	12,000
Table Tennis (Para)			12,000

Triathlon Ireland	Russell White	World Class	20,000
Triathlon Ireland	Con Doherty	International	12,000
Triathlon Ireland			32,000
TOTAL CARDING			1,931,000

Appendix E: Local Sports Partnership Funding

APPENDIX E	Local Sports Partnership Grants 2019
Local Sports Partnership	Amount €
Carlow	194,672
Cavan	206,093
Clare	239,582
Cork	353,379
Donegal	263,425
Dublin City	306,312
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	207,563
Fingal	228,393
Galway County	234,946
Kerry	225,400
Kildare	207,065
Kilkenny	238,310
Laois	241,410
Leitrim LSP	225,544
Limerick City & County	369,710
Longford	221,458
Louth	201,082
Mayo	258,560
Meath	232,092
Monaghan	204,709
Offaly	208,855
Roscommon	203,070
Sligo	271,728
South Dublin County Council	230,770
Tipperary	314,583
Waterford	304,675
Westmeath	231,334
Wexford LSP	202,553
Wicklow LSP	199,235
Total	7,026,508

Appendix F: Women in Sport Funding

APPENDIX F	Women in Sport Grant 2019
Funded Body	Amount €
Athletics Ireland	75,000
Badminton Ireland	40,000
Basketball Ireland	50,000
Bol chumann na hEireann	5,000
Bowling League of Ireland	5,000
Canoeing Ireland	40,000
Confederation of Golf	100,000
Cricket Ireland	35,000
Croquet Association of Ireland	5,000
Cycling Ireland	50,000
Deaf Sports Ireland	5,000
Fencing Ireland	10,000
GAA Handball	10,000
Gymnastics Ireland	75,000
Hockey Ireland	75,000
IRFU	120,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	35,000
Irish Ice Hockey Association	5,000
Irish Judo Association	20,000
Irish Olympic Handball Association	10,000
Irish Orienteering Association	10,000
Irish Sailing	40,000
Irish Squash	10,000
Irish Surfing	10,000
Irish Tug of War	10,000
Irish Waterski & Wakeboard Federation	5,000
Irish Wheelchair Association - Sport	40,000
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	40,000
Motorsport Ireland	35,000
Mountaineering Ireland	25,000

National Community Games	25,000
Olympic Federation of Ireland	20,000
Paralympics Ireland & CARA	15,000
Rowing Ireland	50,000
Special Projects	20,000
Swim Ireland	75,000
Tennis Ireland	75,000
The Camogie Association	20,000
Triathlon Ireland	50,000
Volleyball Association of Ireland	25,000
Weightlifting Ireland	3,000
Carlow Sports Partnership	8,400
Cavan Sports Partnership	8,400
Clare Sports Partnership	8,400
Cork	8,400
Donegal Sports Partnership	8,400
Dublin City	14,500
DunLaoghaire Rathdown	8,400
Fingal Sports Partnership	8,400
Galway LSP	8,400
Kerry LSP	8,400
Kildare Sports Partnership	8,400
Kilkenny Sports Partnership	8,400
Laois	8,400
Leitrim Sports Partnership	8,400
Limerick City	8,400
Longford	8,400
Louth	8,400
Mayo	8,400
Meath Sports Partnership	8,400
Monaghan	8,400
Offaly Sports Partnership	8,400
Roscommon	8,400
Sligo Sports Partnership	20,350
South Dublin County Council	8,400
Tipperary Sports Partnership	11,750
Waterford Sports Partnership	8,400

Westmeath Sports Partnership	8,400
Wexford	8,400
Wicklow	8,400
TOTAL	1,638,000

Appendix G: Youth Field Sports

APPENDIX G	Youth Field Sport Grant 2019
National Governing Body	Amount €
Irish Rugby Football Union	2,250,843
Football Association of Ireland	1,282,704
Gaelic Athletic Association	2,364,653
TOTAL	5,898,200

Appendix H: Growth in Grant Expenditure / Analysis of Grants 2015-2019

Appendix H Grants	Growth in Grant Expenditure / Analysis of Grants 2015-2019					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
International Carding Scheme	1,548	1,788	1,767	1,920	1,931	8,954
National Governing Bodies of Sport	10,859	10,813	11,236	11,098	12,817	56,823
Federation of Irish Sport	100	100	100	100	100	500
Local Sports Partnerships	4,993	5,431	5,757	5,824	7,027	29,032
Youth Field Sports	7,225	7,226	7,226	8,077	5,898	35,652
GAA Inter-County Player Support Scheme	900	900	1,600	2,300	3,000	8,700
Inter-County Ladies Gaelic Football and Camogie Scheme	-	-	500	500	700	1,700
Older People and Sport	608	608	608	608	608	3,038
Irish Special Schools Sport	25	25	25	25	25	125
Student Sport Ireland	50	50	50	50	60	260
Recreational Sports	40	-	-	-	40	80
Paralympics Ireland	325	615	375	398	400	2,113
Olympic Federation of Ireland	354	520	277	475	420	2,046
Team Ireland Golf Trust	200	200	200	200	440	1,240
Morton Stadium Grant	150	150	150	150	150	750
High Performance Programmes	6,556	7,301	7,306	8,935	9,358	39,456
Performance Review	-	103	-	-	-	103
University of Limerick- 50 Metre Pool	300	300	300	300	300	1,500
Women's Participation in Sport	971	971	972	972	1,638	5,523
Women's National Football Team	-	-	-	-	148	148
Sport Ireland Insitute PEP	8	-	-	-	-	8

Cycling Series Grant	115	115	-	4	-	234
Get Ireland Active	80	-	-	-	-	80
Bike4Life	-	15	-	-	-	15
Operation Transformation	32	-	17	-	-	49
Great Dublin Bike Ride	247	218	117	115	115	812
Campus Capital Grants	650	676	650	871	932	3,779
Campus Capital Grants	517	25	-	475	-	1,017
Sport Ireland Facilities Operational Grant	1,200	1,320	2,095	2,095	2,175	8,885
Irish Open	-	250	-	1,250	-	1,500
Total:	38,053	39,719	41,327	46,742	48,281	214,121

Appendix I: National Anti-Doping Testing Programme

National Governing Body	Comp	OOB	Blood	Total
American Football Ireland	4	0	0	4
Athletics Ireland	20	70	64	154
Badminton Ireland	4	0	0	4
Basketball Ireland	4	0	0	4
Camogie Association	4	0	0	4
Canoeing Ireland	0	10	5	15
Cricket Ireland	4	0	0	4
Cycling Ireland	36	91	91	218
Football Association of Ireland	28	27	0	55
Gaelic Athletic Association	40	72	23	135
Golfing Union Of Ireland	3	0	0	3
Gymnastics Ireland	4	6	1	11
Hockey Ireland	0	8	0	8
Horse Sport Ireland	12	0	0	12
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	4	0	0	4
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	8	32	10	50
Irish Judo Association	0	12	1	13
Irish Ladies Golf Union	3	0	0	3
Irish Martial Arts Commission	6	0	0	6
Irish Rugby Football Union	4	121	71	196
Irish Sailing Association	0	17	3	20
Irish Squash	2	0	0	2
Irish Surfing Association	4	0	0	4
Irish Taekwondo Union	0	3	1	4
Irish Tug Of War Association	4	0	0	4
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	0	6	2	8
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	4	0	0	4
Motor Cycling Ireland	15	0	0	15
Motorsport Ireland	24	0	0	24
Paralympics Ireland	0	48	15	63
Pentathlon Ireland	0	15	9	24
Rowing Ireland	6	42	42	90
Rugby League Ireland	4	0	0	4
Swim Ireland	12	46	30	88
Triathlon Ireland	9	11	11	31
Weightlifting Ireland	8	5	2	15
Total	280	642	381	1303

Appendix J: User Pays Anti-Doping Programme

National Governing Body	Comp	OOC	Blood	Total
Athletics Ireland	9	0	0	9
European Professional Club Rugby	24	0	0	24
Federation Internationale de la Peche Sportive en Eau Douce	0	2	0	2
Federation Internationale d'Escrime	1	0	0	1
Federation Internationale de Hockey	14	0	3	17
Irish Rugby Football Union	32	0	0	32
Tug of War International Federation	7	0	0	7
Six Nations	16	0	0	16
Ironman (World Triathlon Corporation)	6	0	0	6
United States Anti-Doping Agency	0	3	0	3
World Rugby	0	63	15	78
Total	109	68	18	195

Appendix K: Anti-Doping Rule Violations

Sport	In/OOCT	Rule violated	Substance	Substance category	Sanctions
Motorsport	In Competition	IADR 2.1	Carboxy-THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)	S8. Cannabinoids	4 months
Soccer	In Competition	IADR 2.3	N/A	N/A	2 years
Wrestling	In Competition	IADR 2.1	Carboxy-THC (tetrahydrocannabinol)	S8. Cannabinoids	3 months

LADR 2.1 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in an Athlete's sample

LADR 2.3 Evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection



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