

13 March 2020

Chair
Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants
Department of the Senate
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Dear Chair

UPDATES TO HANSARD RECORD: SELECT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF SPORTS GRANTS

I wanted to write to the Senate Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants today to provide a further update to information I provided at Sport Australia's appearance at the Committee hearing on 27 February 2020.

As Sport Australia has been analysing systems in order to prepare answers to Questions on Notice, further records have been discovered and I wish to update the information I provided at the hearing as set out in the transcript, and in my previous letter dated 6 March 2020. The information I provided at the hearing was based on records that had been discovered and advised to me at the time.

1. With respect to the following in Hansard, Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants 27 February 2020, Proof Copy Page 4:

CHAIR: How many times did you communicate with the minister's office a concern or a risk about the way the program was being implemented?

Mr McCann: That would have been formally on two occasions via email.

CHAIR: So we're aware of the one by Mr O'Neill, from—

Mr McCann: From 5 March.

CHAIR: Yes.

Mr McCann: And on 5 December 2018, another email was sent, again by the head of our infrastructure branch, outlining some of the risks associated with the methodology or the process that was being employed in terms of the approval process.

CHAIR: So that's not Mr O'Neill?

Mr McCann: Yes.

CHAIR: So Mr O'Neill sent two emails?

Mr McCann: Yes.

I would like to inform the Committee that with respect to occasion one there were five relevant emails. With respect to occasion two there were nine relevant emails.

2. With respect to the following in Hansard, Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants 27 February 2020, Proof Copy Page 27:

Senator GALLAGHER: ... How many versions of the spreadsheets did Sport Australia see?

Mr McCann: Three.

Senator GALLAGHER: Does that include the one that you created and sent?

Mr McCann: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: So you saw three additional spreadsheets. Did you see them with the new columns in place—the columns of 'targeted' and 'marginal' that were added in?

Mr McCann: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: So, when they were sent back from the minister's office, those columns had been removed?



Mr McCann: I don't know. They weren't in existence when we were received them. Whether they were removed or added after they were seen, I couldn't say.

Senator GALLAGHER: When did you receive the other spreadsheets?

Mr McCann: They were in relation to the approvals of each of the rounds.

Senator GALLAGHER: You sent one at the beginning of round 1. Did you send one at round 2?

Mr McCann: Yes.

Senator GALLAGHER: So you sent three spreadsheets and you got three back?

Mr McCann: That's my understanding.

Senator GALLAGHER: But they were different, based on the decisions that the minister had taken?

Mr McCann: That's correct.

Senator GALLAGHER: But they didn't have those columns in—the columns that the audit office had access to?

Mr McCann: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: Have you ever seen those ones?

Mr McCann: No.

Senator GALLAGHER: Did anyone in Sport Australia ever see those?

Mr McCann: Not to my understanding, no.

I would like to inform the Committee that the three spreadsheets I was referring to were in relation to the final approval of each round. In addition to those three, Sport Australia has found another five versions of the colour-coded spreadsheet related to the rounds, within our records. The details of those versions will be provided in an answer to Questions on Notice.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update.

Yours sincerely


Luke McCann
Chief Operating Officer
Sport Australia

