

6 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 refer to the letter from the Committee Secretary dated 28 February 2020 regarding the proof Hansard transcript of Sport Australia's appearance at the Committee hearing on 27 February 2020.

I wish to update the information I provided at the hearing and set out in the transcript.

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

From page 6 of the transcript:

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Could you inform the committee of what time you received that.

**Mr McCann:** I'll have to take that on notice.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Could you check today please—

**Mr McCann:** Yes.

From page 13 of the transcript

**Senator GALLAGHER:** Mr McCann, have you heard back about—

**Mr McCann:** Yes, I have. In relation to when we received the advice for round 3, it was 8.46 am on 11 April via email.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** From?

**Mr McCann:** From the minister's office. That was when we received the advice.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** From an adviser in—

**Mr McCann:** I would assume that.

**Senator GALLAGHER:** So 8.46 am?

**Mr McCann:** On 11 April.

My response as to the timing of the advice received was, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete based on the information sent to me by Sport Australia staff during the hearing. I was not aware at the time of any later email received on 11 April 2019 from the Minister's office.

However, in light of additional information subsequently located and provided to me by the relevant team in Sport Australia, I would like to provide further information as follows: *"Sport Australia received another email from the Minister's office at 12.43pm on 11 April 2019 indicating that the original project list attached at 8.46am included errors and including an updated list"*.

2. With respect to the following in Hansard, Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants 27 February 2020, Proof Copy page 13:

**Senator CANAVAN:** Alright. All the details are in the Audit Office report. Was that streaming in the guidelines themselves?

**Mr McCann:** No, not specifically.



**Mr Wylie:** That was called out by the Audit Office, and we accepted that recommendation. We could have been clearer on that.

At the time I was considering the question in the context of assessing applications in funding streams. I wish to advise that *“Streaming of applications into funding sizes was referred to on page three of the CSI program guidelines.”*

3. 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.

My response at the time was, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete based on the information I had at the time.

I would like to inform the Committee that the first occasion was in the context of the Round 1 decisions. An email was sent to the Minister's office on 5 December 2018 regarding final decisions differing from recommendations. This was followed up with an email on 9 December 2018. Both emails will be tabled with Questions on Notice responses.

The second occasion was in March 2019 in relation to Round 3. An email was sent to the Minister's office on 5 March 2019 detailing issues with the providing the application form to the Minister's office after applications had closed. This was reinforced via email to the Minister's office on 22 March 2019. Both emails will be tabled with Questions on Notice responses.

4. During the hearing I informed the Committee that Mr Robin O'Neill resigned from the organisation in late 2019. I wish to inform the Committee that Mr O'Neill resigned from the organisation in September 2019.
5. In the following instances in Hansard, Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants 27 February 2020, Proof Copy Page 12, it refers to Mr Dalton giving testimony as follows:

**Mr Dalton:** I can read it

...

**Mr Dalton:** It is in appendix A of our grant guidelines.

...

**Mr Dalton:** Under the guidelines, how you characterise it would be considered, in our view, commencement of physical works irrespective of who did it.

On all three occasions, this testimony was provided by myself, and should be referenced as (Mr McCann).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update.

Yours sincerely

  
 Chief Operating Officer  
 Sport Australia

