



From: Tracy Meharg
Permanent Secretary

Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 823301
E-mail: tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk
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Mr William Humphrey
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee

Dear William

FURTHER COMMITTEE QUERY – SPORTS SUSTAINABILITY FUND

I refer to your correspondence dated 5 January 2022 which seeks further information regarding the Sports Sustainability Fund following the clarification provided in my letter of 10 December 2021.

The Committee has asked why the Sport NI Board has authority to award funding of £500,000 or more but must also seek approval from the Department for these awards?

The authority for the Board to approve the award of funding of £500,000 or more is an internal delegation within Sport NI and is set out in the organisation's Scheme of Delegation.

However, in accordance with the delegated limits set out and agreed with the Department in the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum, Sport NI is required to seek the approval of the Department for awards where central government expenditure is above £500,000. I can confirm that the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum is in place in accordance with Managing Public Money NI and is required to include the delegated expenditure limits for the Arms-Length Body in question.

I hope that this gives the Committee sufficient clarity.

Yours sincerely,

TRACY MEHARG
PERMANENT SECRETARY