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Our ref: AQW 21825/22-27

Date: 27 February 2025

Joanne Bunting MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stomont
Belfast
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Dear Joanne

AQW 21825/22-27 – FUNDING PROVIDED TO THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION IN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS AND ITS PURPOSE

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 21825/22-27, asking that I detail the amount of funding provided to the Irish Football Association by my Department in each of the last five years and its purpose.

I have arranged for this information to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

Annex A

Funding provided by the Department for Communities to the Irish Football Association and its purposes as per AQW 21825/22-27

Funding provided by DfC

Regional Stadia Programme

Funding Year	Funding Awarded
2020 – 2021	£131,937
2021 – 2022	£0
2022 – 2023	£500,000
2023 – 2024	£120,000
2024 – 2025	£0
Total	£751,937.00

Fresh Start Through Sport

Funding Year	Funding Awarded
2020 – 2021	£65,731.26
2021 – 2022	£140,965.50
2022 – 2023	£184,418.36
2023 – 2024	£209,985.49
2024 – 2025	£194,000.00
Total	£795,100.61

A Home for Lifelong Volunteering

Funding Year	Funding Awarded
2020 – 2021	£63,000
2021 – 2022	£63,000
2022 – 2023	£60,500
2023 – 2024	£61,500
2024 – 2025	£64,000
Total	£312,000.00

Funding provided by Sport NI

I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me of the following information:

“Sport NI has awarded £6,586,095 of Exchequer funding and £1,119,300 of Lottery funding to IFA over the last five years. (1 April 2020 – 5th February 2025). An annual breakdown of the amount of funding per year and programme is available in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Table 1: Total Lottery Funding Awarded to IFA

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>
<i>2021/22</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Governing Body Support Programme</i>	<i>£30,000</i>
<i>2022/23</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Club Environment Transition Programme</i>	<i>£34,800</i>
<i>2023/24</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Sports Systems Investment – Governing Bodies</i>	<i>£500,000</i>
<i>2024/25</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Sports Systems Investment – Governing Bodies</i>	<i>£13,168</i>
<i>2024/25</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Sports Systems Investment – Governing Bodies</i>	<i>£541,332</i>
<i>Grand Total</i>			<i>£1,119,300</i>

Please note that no Lottery funding was awarded to IFA in 2020/21.

Table 2: Total Exchequer Funding Awarded to IFA

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>
<i>2020/21</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Sports Sustainability Fund*</i>	<i>£6,555,593</i>
<i>2021/22</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Safety at Sports Grounds</i>	<i>£19,014</i>
<i>2023/24</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Safety at Sports Grounds</i>	<i>£11,488</i>
<i>Grand Total</i>			<i>£6,586,095</i>

** £1,715,431 awarded directly to the IFA under Sports Sustainability Fund. £4,840,162 awarded to IFA for distribution to affiliated clubs.”*

For any future queries relating to operational matters, you may wish to contact Sport NI directly. Making direct contact with Sport NI will ensure that you receive the information in the shortest possible timeframe and make best use of public resources.