



Sent by email: patrick.fannin@oireachtas.ie

Mr Pat Fannin
Committees' Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Houses of the Oireachtas Service
Leinster House
Dublin 2 D02 XR20

Yr Ref: S0517 PAC33

16th September 2021

Dear Mr Fannin

I refer to your letter received yesterday regarding correspondence to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) from the Irish Greyhound Owners & Breeders Federation CLG (IGOBF CLG).

I would respond as follows in relation to the correspondence received by the Committee:

Rásaíocht Con Éireann (RCÉ) has in place a National Greyhound Consultative Forum (NGCF) which, under normal circumstances, meets on a quarterly basis. The Forum comprises all stakeholders involved in the greyhound industry. The IGOBF CLG has been invited to participate in meetings of the Forum but has consistently declined to do so.

I am attaching email dated 30th June 2021 issued to the IGOBF CLG regarding these matters. RCÉ would consider that the NGCF is the appropriate Forum for parties within the industry to discuss issues relevant to the greyhound industry. Many issues that have been raised in the correspondence from the IGOBF CLG have either been the subject of discussions at the Forum or the subject of separate correspondence to the IGOBF CLG.

There would appear at this time to be two organisations claiming to represent greyhound owners and breeders ie the IGOBF and the IGOBF CLG. It should be noted that there is also a range of local Greyhound Owners and Breeders Associations (GOBAs) who RCÉ would also meet from time to time on specific issues. Local GOBAs are affiliated to a national organisation to form an overall representative body.

It is our understanding that the IGOBF is the representative organisation for the vast majority of the greyhound community. IGOBF CLG would appear to represent a small number of individuals within the greyhound community. In correspondence with the IGOBF CLG we have requested that they provide details of the parties they represent within the industry. The response (as set out in their email dated 30th June 2021) indicates that they represent "ALL greyhound owners and breeders whether they are members or non-members".



It is correct to say that the IGOBF (now IGOBF CLG) historically holds nominating rights to Seanad Éireann under the relevant legislation. Any change to nominating rights is a matter for Seanad Éireann. While the matter has been raised by both IGOBF organisations with Seanad Éireann it is unclear how such nominating rights can be amended for any organisation under present legislation where rights of representation are disputed. In any event, it is RCÉ's view that the holding of nominating rights to Seanad Éireann is a separate and distinct matter to the representative body for the majority of the greyhound community.

In summary, RCÉ would suggest that structures are already in place to facilitate consideration and discussion of issues within the greyhound community. The IGOBF CLG has declined to participate in the NGCF which is the appropriate Forum for dealing with matters raised in their correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Dollard
Chief Executive Officer

cc: pac@oireachtas.ie

Enc

Gerard Dollard

Subject: FW: FAO. Mr Dollard and Mr Nyham
Attachments: NGCF - Email Correspondence with Dave Cunningham - IGOBF CLG - re 28.01.20.pdf;
 NGCF - BCC'd Email to all Invitees - Other Invitees Redacted - 09.11.20.pdf; NGCF -
 BCC'd Email to all Invitees - Other Invitees Redacted - 26.03.21.pdf

From: Diana Brannigan
Sent: 30 June 2021 13:19
To: 'igobf01@gmail.com' <igobf01@gmail.com>
Subject: FAO. Mr Dollard and Mr Nyham

Dear Mr Walsh

I note your email to the CEO regarding invitations sent to the IGOBF CLG to attend the National Greyhound Consultative Forum.

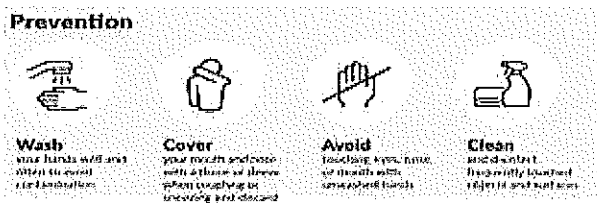
It is untrue to state that your group has not been invited to meetings since February 2020. The schedule of events is set out below together with email attachments:

Meeting Date	Invitation Issued	Response Received from IGOBF CLG	Reply issued to IGOBF CLG	Response Received from IGOBF CLG	Reply issued to IGOBF CLG	
28 th January 2020	9 th January 2020	13 th January 2020	14 th January 2020 requesting names of 2 nominees.	20 th January 2020 requesting more than 2 nominees.	20 th January 2020 advising all groups are limited to 2 nominees.	Copy email attached
9 th December 2020	9 th November 2020	None received				Copy email attached
28 th April 2021	26 th March 2021	None Received				Copy email attached

For GDPR purposes, the names/details of other guests have been redacted where necessary on the enclosed email.)

It is each group's responsibility to advise any change to contact details. I have not received any such notification regarding same for IGOBF CLG. All future invitations will continue to be issued as previously unless advised otherwise by a representative of the IGOBF CLG.

Diana Brannigan | Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer
Rásaíocht Con Éireann / Greyhound Racing Ireland
Green Park | Dock Road,
Limerick
V94 Y17X
Phone: 061 448000 Ext 2081
Email: diana.brannigan@grireland.ie | www.grireland.ie



THIS RUNS DEEP



From: igobf igobf <igobf01@gmail.com>
Sent: 30 June 2021 10:24
To: Gerard Dollard <Gerard.Dollard@grireland.ie>
Subject: Re: FAO. Mr Dollard and Mr Nyham

Dear Mr Dollard,

Thank you for your reply on the 14th June '21. First of all I would like to apologize to Mr Nyham for not using his full title, no offense was intended.

Regarding your response, we wish to correct you with regards to the Consultative forum. We the federation of the IGOBF were not invited to this forum held on 28th April 2021, the last time we were invited to the Consultative Forum was in February 2020, When you personally met our delegation at the front door of the forum and refused entry to us. You must be confusing us with the 'Sham' group that was set up in 2018.

As you already know or should know our federation represents ALL greyhound owners and breeders whether they are members or non members.

In reply to your email on 1st March 2021, you mentioned that racing was stopped on a tuesday night at shelbourne Park but in fact it was a Thursday night it had been stopped, we are surprised at this error by yourself.

The other item from that email we would like to bring to your attention is SIS prize money, which has remained the same for 4 and a half years and our members need a substantial increase in the prize money if it is to continue and be sustainable. We would like this issue address and an answer for same.

Thank you in advance

Tony Walsh
 Chairperson on behalf of IGOBF

On Mon, 14 Jun 2021 at 09:37, Gerard Dollard <Gerard.Dollard@grireland.ie> wrote:

Dear Mr Walsh

I acknowledge receipt of your email of 9th June last. As previously pointed to you, the Chairman of Rásaíocht Con Éireann is Mr Frank Nyhan. I note that you again use the incorrect name of the Chairman in your correspondence.

Issues associated with the greyhound industry were discussed at the meeting of the National Greyhound Consultative Forum held on 28th April 2021. Your organisation was invited to attend this meeting. It is noted that no response was received nor was any attendance evident. The National Greyhound Consultative Forum is the appropriate forum for discussing issues within the industry.

In relation to your request for a meeting, you might indicate who your organisation represents, the number of members that it has and the geographic location of those members.

Please note that Rásaíocht Con Éireann continues to operate in a very restricted environment in compliance with all Covid-19 protocols.

Gerard Dollard | Chief Executive Officer

Rásaíocht Con Éireann / Greyhound Racing Ireland

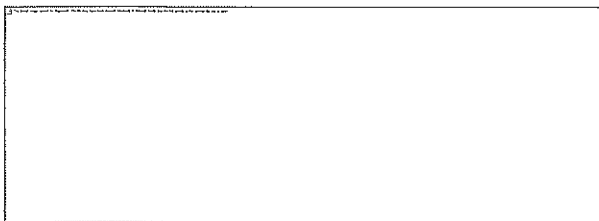
Green Park | Dock Road,

Limerick

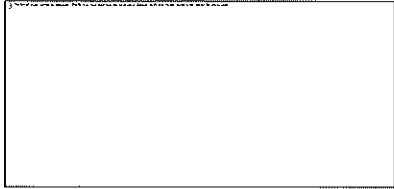
V94 Y17X

Phone: 061 448000

www.grireland.ie



THIS RUNS DEEP



From: igobf igobf [<mailto:igobf01@gmail.com>]

Sent: 09 June 2021 11:18

To: PR <PR@grireland.ie>

Subject: FAO. Mr Dollard and Mr Nyham

Dear Mr Dollars and Mr Nyham,

We, the IGOBF request a meeting with yourselves as soon as possible to discuss the various problems within the industry.

Please advise date, time and venue for the meeting.

Kind regards

Tony walsh

Chairperson IGOBF

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