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An Oifig Buiséid Pharlaiminteach
Parliamentary Budget Office
Community Sport Facilities Fund

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Séanadh

Is í an Oifig Buiséid Pharlaiminteach (OBP) a d'ullmhaigh an doiciméad seo mar áis do Chomhaltaí Thithe an Oireachtais ina gcuid dualgas parlaiminteach. Ní bheartaítear é a bheith uileghabhálach ná críochnúil. Féadfaidh an OBP aon fhaisnéis atá ann a bhaint as nó a leasú aon tráth gan fógra roimh ré. Níl an OBP freagrach as aon tagairtí d'aon fhaisnéis atá á cothabháil ag tríú páirtithe nó naisc chuig aon fhaisnéis den sórt sin ná as ábhar aon fhaisnéise den sórt sin. Tá baill foirne an OBP ar fáil chun ábhar na bpáipéar seo a phlé le Comhaltaí agus lena gcuid foirne ach ní féidir leo dul i mbun plé leis an mórfhobal nó le heagraíochtaí seachtracha.

Is de chineál ginearálta í an Fhaisnéis. Baineann éiginnteacht le ráitis réamhbhreathnaitheacha agus d'fhéadfadh go dtiocfaidh nithe suntasacha chun cinn mar thoradh ar an bhFaisnéis. Ní sholáthraítear ráiteas cinntitheach leis an bhFaisnéis i ndáil le haon saincheist ar leith nó i ndáil le himthoisc phearsanta. Ní comhairle atá san Fhaisnéis. Ní mór a dheimhniú duit féin go bhfuil an Fhaisnéis a sholáthraimidne, an Oifig Buiséid Pharlaiminteach agus Coimisiún an Oireachtais (lena n-áirítear seirbhísigh, gníomhairí agus conraitheoirí na hOifige agus an Choimisiúin) oiriúnach agus iontaofa. Ní ghlacaimid aon fhreagracht as cruinneas ná oiriúnacht, ná eile, na Faisnéise agus ní thugaimid aon ráthaíocht ná aon ghealltanas ná aon bharánta i leith an chéanna; ná go mbeidh ár leathanaigh ghréasáin nó an Fhaisnéis nó ábhar eile saor ó earráidí, saor ó víris nó saor ó shárú. Ní ghlacaimid aon dliteanas (lena n-áirítear i leith éilimh maoine intleachtúla) a eascróidh as aon ábhar tríú páirtí nó aon suíomh gréasáin tríú páirtí a gcuirfimid nasc ar fáil chuige nó dá ndéanfaimid tagairt. Ní ghlactar le haon dliteanas ar bith, a mhéid is mó a cheadaítear faoin dlí is infheidhme nó (i) as aon iontaoibh a chuirfear san Fhaisnéis nó san ábhar ar ár leathanaigh ghréasáin nó (ii) as aon chaillteanas nó damáiste a eascróidh as an úsáid a bhainfidh tú as na leathanaigh ghréasáin sin nó i dtaca leis an úsáid sin. Féach ár [bhFógra Séanta cuimsitheach anseo](#). I gcás aon easaontacht a bheith idir an Séanadh seo agus ár bhFógra Séanta cuimsitheach, is ag an gceann deireanach a bheidh an forlámhas.

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Contents

1. KEY MESSAGES.....	1
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	2
3. INTRODUCTION	2
3.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	3
3.2. CATEGORISATIONS OF THE PROJECTS	4
3.3. TARGETS SET OUT BY THE PROGRAMME	6
3.4. GRANTS ALLOCATED 2017 – 2023	7
3.5. GRANTS ALLOCATED BY COUNTY 2018 – 2023	10
3.6. GRANTS ALLOCATED BY SPORT 2018 – 2023	13
3.7. REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME.....	15
3.8. CONCLUSION	17
3.9. DASHBOARD	17
4. APPENDICES.....	19

1. Key Messages

- The Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF), formerly the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, has allocated over €1.4 billion to almost 19,000 projects since 1998.
- The programme is managed by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, with partial funding from the National Lottery.
- In 2023, over €277 million was allocated to 3,048 sporting projects under CSFF.
- All applications were assessed through the OSCAR system with grants being made available to voluntary sports clubs, community groups, NGBs, and local authorities.
- In 2023 projects were categorised into equipment, local, and regional grants, with funding caps of €70,000, €200,000, and €500,000 respectively. Equipment grants of over €70,000 were awarded in exceptional circumstances (such as to National Governing Bodies).
- The programme prioritises participation, accessibility, and sustainability, with targets including 60% national participation in sport by 2027.
- Gaelic Games received the highest funding, accounting for €107 million in 2023, reflecting its widespread community presence.
- The 2023 local applications were assessed using the Pobal Deprivation Index as the primary calculation factor, thus ensuring disadvantaged areas were prioritised.
- This paper has an associated dashboard which includes interactive maps for the 2018, 2020 and 2023 rounds of funding.

2. Acknowledgement

The PBO would like to thank and acknowledge the proactive engagement of the Sports Capital Programmes Division in the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport in relation to this body of work. Responses to queries were provided promptly and staff of the programme made themselves available for meetings and consultation on the content of the paper and data visualisation. Their support also extended to providing quality assurance on the information used, contributing to the robustness of the analysis.

Therefore, any errors or omissions in the paper are the responsibility of the author.

3. Introduction

This high-level note should be read in conjunction with the data visualisation dashboard prepared by the Parliamentary Budget Office ([available here](#)). The Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF), previously known as the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, was first established in 1998. Since its inception, the programme has provided funding in various years to support the development of sports facilities and the purchase of sports equipment across Ireland. The CSFF is managed by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

Key years associated with the fund:

- 1998: The programme was launched.
- 2000-2008: Annual allocations were made during these years.
- 2012: After a brief hiatus, the programme resumed.
- 2014-2024: Regular funding rounds were held, with significant allocations in 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2023

It provides grants to support the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and the purchase of sports equipment across the country. Since the programme's inception in 1998 to the start of 2024, €1.4 billion had been allocated to almost 19,000 projects. The Programme for Government commits to maintaining sports funding to get more people participating in all levels of sport, particularly targeting

cohorts in society where there are lower than average participation levels including people with disabilities and older people.¹

The programme has evolved over the years, with increasing amounts of funding being made available to support community sports initiatives. The National lottery, as part of the National Lottery Act 2013,² contributes 31.2c for every €1 spent on lottery tickets to Good Causes,³ under which falls funding for sports.⁴ €73.3 million is allocated for the programme for 2025, part of which is drawn from the National Lottery fund. In 2025, estimated total expenditure of €481 million will be part-funded by approximately €235 million from the National Lottery, the remainder will be funded by the Exchequer.⁵ The amount of the National Lottery funding allocated to various good causes varies from year to year (full breakdown of the programmes part-funded by the national lottery for 2025 can be seen in Appendix 1). The percentage of National Lottery funds allocated to sport is at the discretion of the Minister for Finance.⁶

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding under the CSFF, applicants must meet several criteria:

1. Type of Organisation: Eligible applicants include voluntary and community organisations, sports clubs, national governing bodies of sport, and local authorities.
2. Project Type: Projects must involve the development or refurbishment of sports facilities or the purchase of non-personal sports equipment.
3. Ownership and Access: For capital projects applicants must demonstrate ownership or long-term access to the land or facilities they wish to develop.

¹ Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Thomas Byrne TD, [Sports Funding: Dáil Éireann Debate](#) (31 January 2024).

² Regulator of the National Lottery, [Good Causes Funds - Calculation](#) (Accessed 12 December 2024)

³ The Licence requires that the amount allocated to Good Causes is 65% of the difference between sales and prizes and it is calculated as follows: Good Causes = (Sales – Prizes) x 65%

⁴ Regulator of the National Lottery, [Good Causes Funds - Distribution](#) (Accessed 12 December 2024)

⁵ Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, [The Revised Estimates for Public Services 2025](#) (December 2024) p.260.

⁶ Considine, J., Crowley, F., Foley, S., & O'Connor, M. (2008). "[Irish National Lottery Sports Capital Grant Allocations, 1999–2007: Natural Experiments on Political Influence](#)," Journal of Economic Affairs, Institute of Economic Affairs, p. 3.

4. Own Funding: Applicants are typically required to make a minimum contribution of 5% of the total project cost from their own funds. Local Authorities must make a minimum own funding contribution of 30% of the total project cost.

More details on how the application process works, and how applications are scored can be found in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 outlines how invalid applications are assessed and explains the appeals process when an application is deemed invalid.

3.2. Categorisations of the Projects

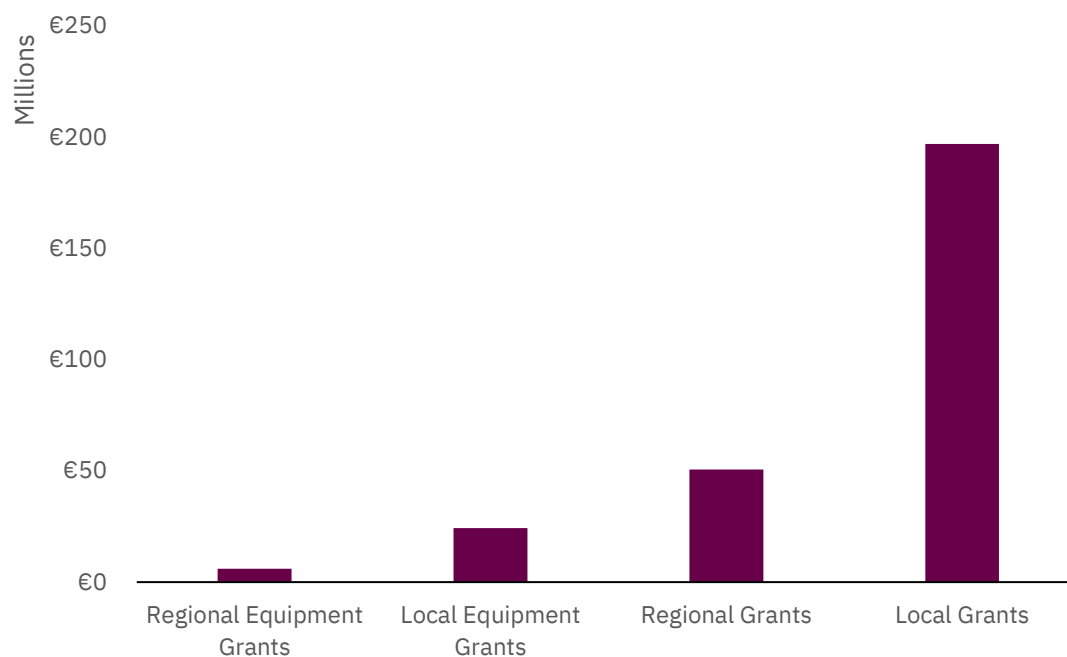
Projects funded under the CSFF are categorised based on their scope and scale:

- Equipment Applications: These involve the purchase of non-personalised sports equipment and are typically funded at 100%. Maintenance equipment grants are capped at €40,000 and equipment grants of over €70,000 are only awarded in exceptional circumstances, generally to National Governing Bodies (NGBs).⁷
- Local Projects: These are smaller-scale projects, usually involving sports clubs or community groups seeking up to €200,000.
- Regional Projects: These are larger-scale projects, such as centres' of excellence or synthetic running tracks, with funding requests up to €500,000.

Figure 1 provides a breakdown of CSFF by grant type for the latest round of allocations, with local grants receiving approximately 71% of the total allocations.

⁷ Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Sports Capital & Equipment Programme - Frequently Asked Questions](#) (2023) p.1.

Figure 1: 2023 allocations by grant type.



Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023); and Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).

3.3. Targets Set Out by the Programme

The Programme for Government commits to maintaining sports funding to get more people participating in all levels of sport, particularly targeting cohorts in society where there are lower than average participation levels including people with disabilities and older people. In line with this commitment the CSFF aims to increase participation in sports and physical activity across Ireland. Specific targets include:

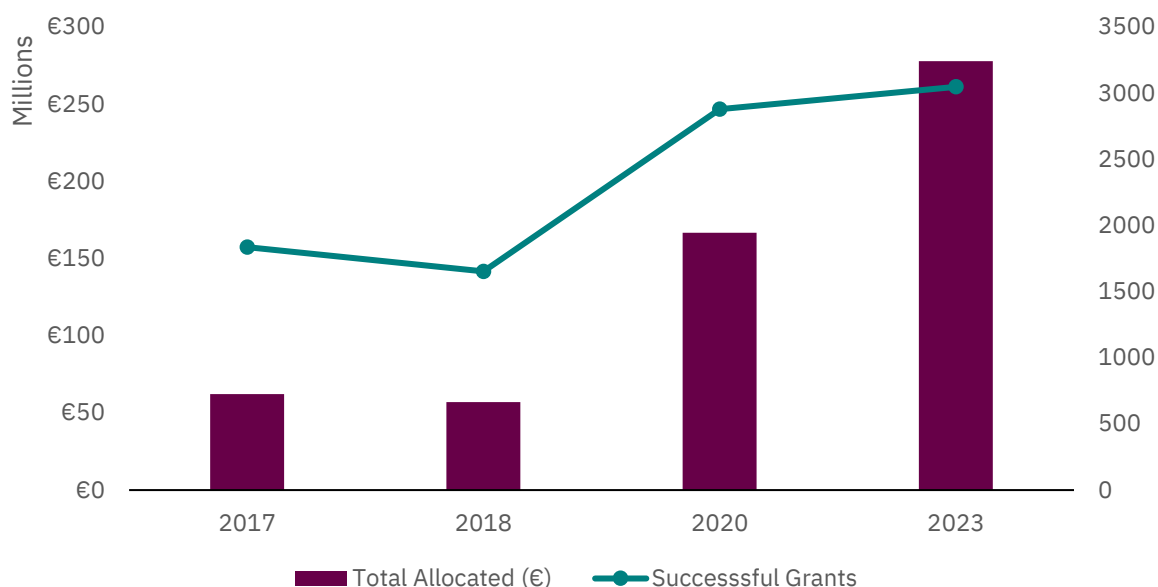
- Increased female participation in sport is a key priority under the National Sports Policy and its associated Action Plan. The policy documents set out an ambitious goal to eliminate the gender participation gap entirely by 2027. The 2024 Irish Sports Monitor (ISM) review reported a continued rise in sports participation among women and participation rates among this population cohort are now at their highest level to date. The ISM recorded that 47% of women regularly participate in sport and that the participation gap between men and women is currently 3%.
- The National Sports Policy also aims to reach 60% overall participation in sport by 2027.
- Enhancing accessibility: Prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas and groups (such as people with disabilities) in the provision of sports facilities. Priority is also given to organisations that increase female participation and encourage the sharing of sports facilities.
- Sustainability: The programme currently supports various sustainability initiatives, including upgrades to sports facilities aimed at reducing energy consumption. These include projects such as installing solar panels and LED floodlights. In the 2020 round, €15.4 million was distributed across 166 applications that included sustainability measures like LED floodlighting, solar panels, and PV panels.⁸

⁸ Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023, p.26).

3.4. Grants allocated 2017 – 2023

Since 2017, €563.6 million has been allocated across the 9,415 successful applications. The total allocated in 2017 was €62.2 million, this has now increased to almost €278 million in the latest round of allocations for 2023 applications. Grant allocations along with successful grants can be seen in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Grants Allocated 2017 - 2023



Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023); and Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).

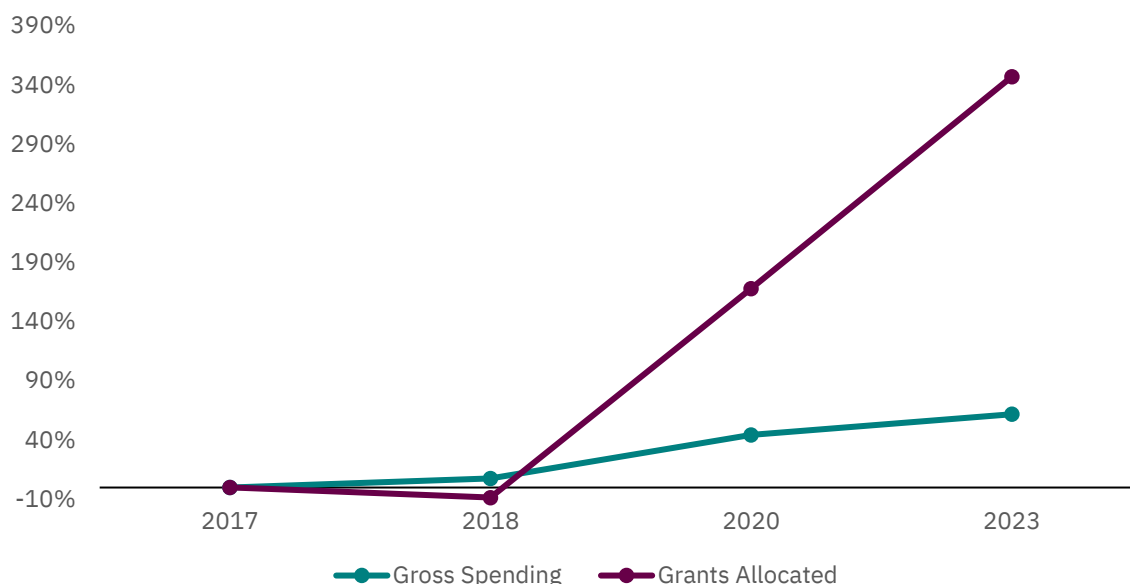
When comparing the grants allocated against gross Government spending during the period 2017 – 2023 during the years in which grants were allocated, funding under the CSFF has increased exponentially as is evident in Figure 3. Gross Government spending has steadily increased, an increase of 61.94% from 2017 (used as a base figure) to 2023. Over the same period grant allocations initially decreased in 2018 to ultimately having an increase of 347.16% by 2023.⁹

Looking at the funding for grants over a longer period, IGEES found that funding has experienced a slight decline due partly to a pause in grants in 2008 due to the

⁹ 2017 was used as a baseline figure so that analysis for years 2018, 2020, and 2023 could be completed. These are the only years for which complete data sets were available.

economic recession.¹⁰ Further, inflation has reduced the potential impact of funding, and Ireland's demographic needs have increased over the period.

Figure 3: Percentage Change in Grant Allocations vs Gross Government Spending 2017 – 2023

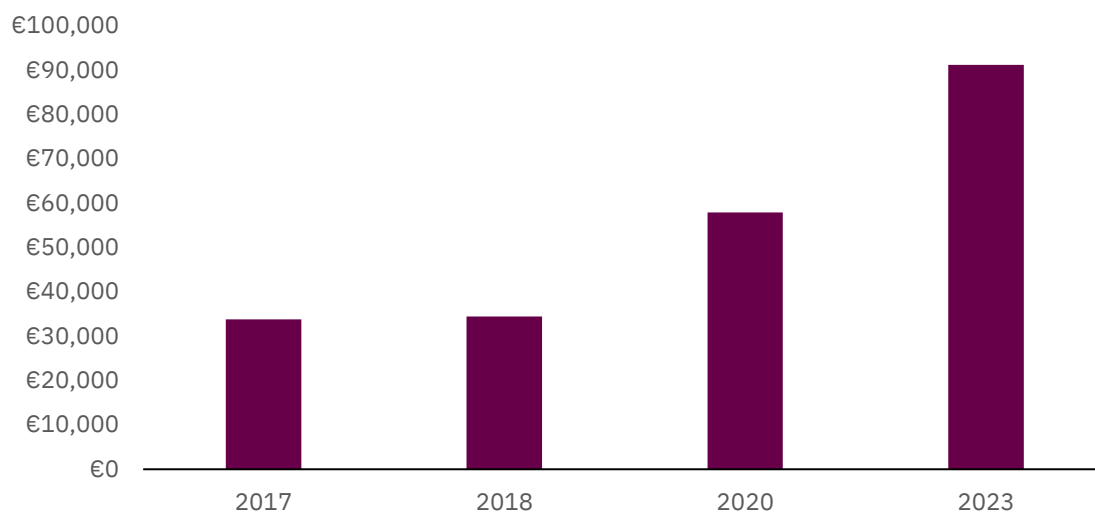


Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023), Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025); and [Revised Estimates for Public Services](#) (Various).

Figure 4 shows that average grant amounts have increased year-on-year, in 2017 the average grant amount was €33,842 whereas in 2023 this figure has increased to €91,204 on average per grant. There are a number of reasons to explain why grant totals on average have continuously increased; as most funding is directed towards capital projects, the cost of materials and construction costs of such projects has increased. One of the aims of the programme is to increase participation levels in sport, as participation levels grow the requirement for clubs to have facilities to meet these demands is also necessary.

¹⁰ Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, [IGEES Spending Review 2022, Tranche 1](#) (August 2022, p.3).

Figure 4: Average Grant Amounts 2017 – 2023.



Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023); and Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).

3.5. Grants allocated by County 2018 – 2023

Grant allocated during this period saw an increase in funding in each of the subsequent years. Funding allocated as follows:

In 2018:

- Total Allocation: €56.9 million allocated across the 26 counties
- Dublin: €11 million (19.3%)
- Cork: €6.4 million (11.2%)
- Longford: €476,565 (0.8%)

In 2020:

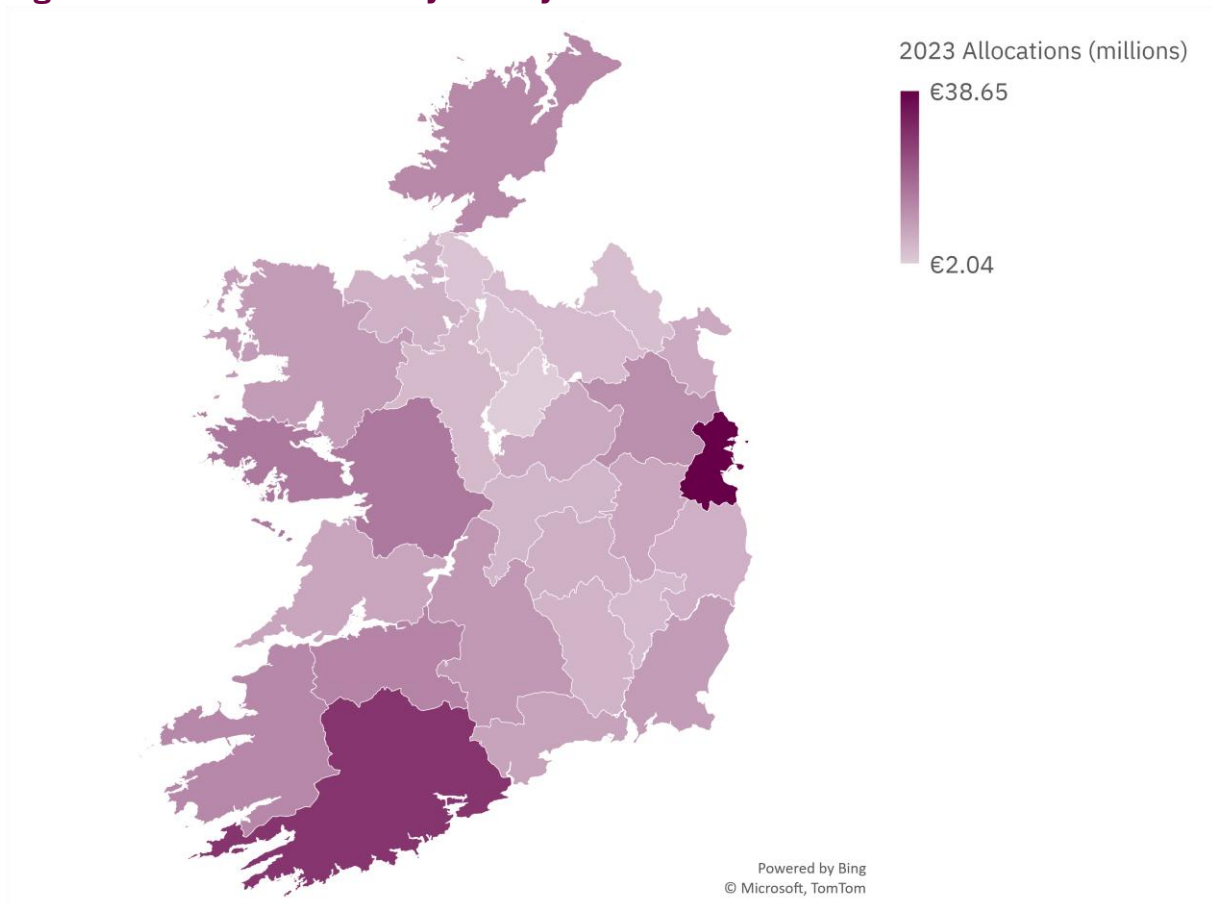
- Total Allocation: €166.6 million allocated across the 26 counties
- Dublin: €25.2 million (15.2%)
- Cork: €18.4 million (11.1%)
- Longford: €1.7 million (1%)

In 2023:

- Total Allocation: €277.9 million allocated across the 26 counties
- Dublin: €38.6 million (13.3%)
- Cork: €29.1 million (10.5%)
- Longford: €2 million (0.7%)

Figure 5 shows allocations received by each of the 26 counties for the latest round of funding. A detailed breakdown of the allocations for each county for 2018, 2020 and 2023 can be found in the table in Appendix 4 and in the [dashboard](#).

Figure 5: 2023 Allocations by County



Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).

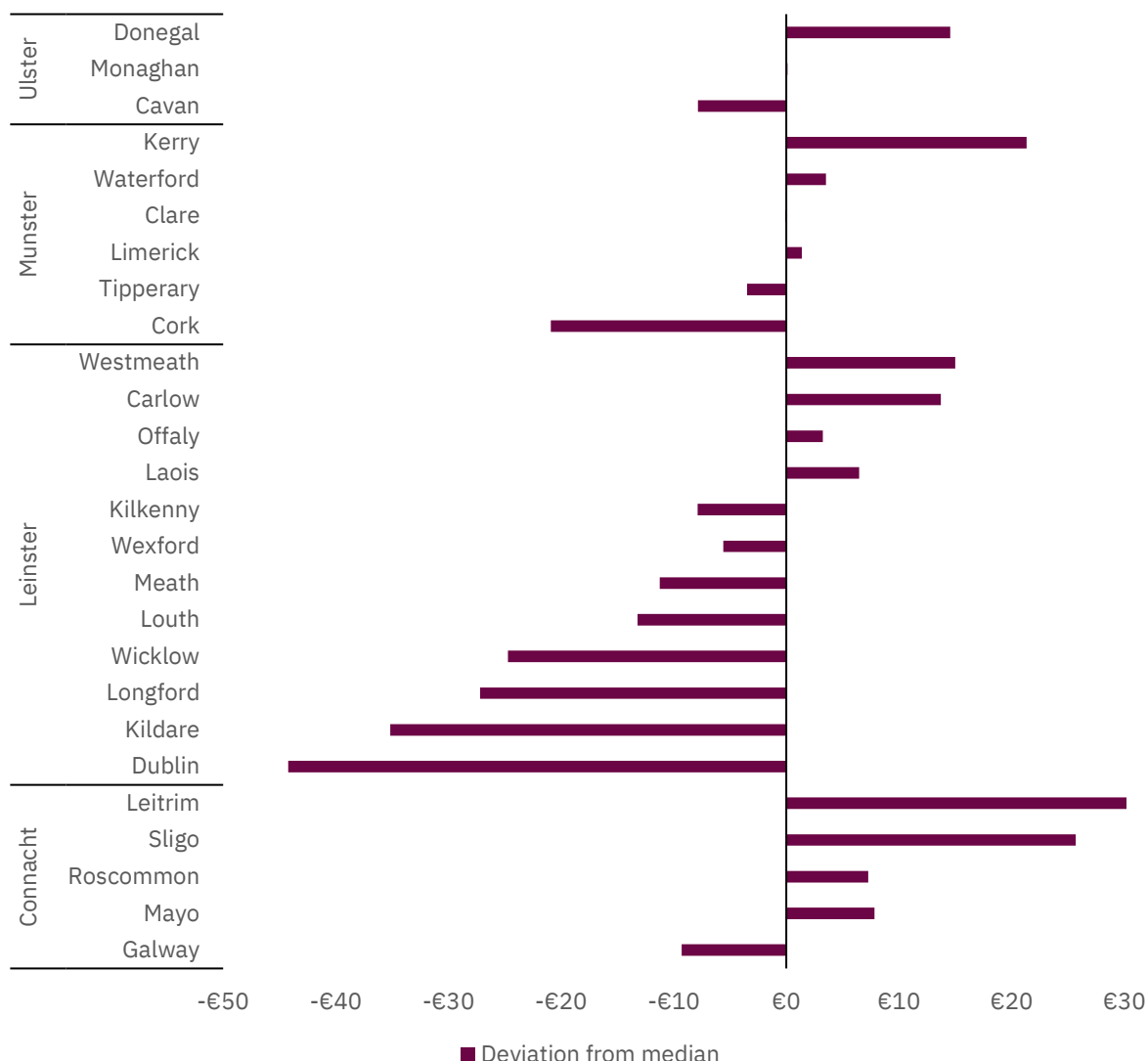
In 2023 a total of ~€278 million in grants were allocated under the CSFF. In 2022, the Census recorded a total population of over 5.14 million in the State. This means that the average grant in 2023, per person, was ~€54.

Using county level population data, we can see how counties performed in terms of funding relative to their population size. Under this approach we can see that Leitrim fared best, securing €102.92 per person, with Dublin at the other end of the spectrum, with just €26.50 per person. The median value nationally was €70.73, with Clare and Monaghan receiving closest to this amount (€70.64 and €70.83 respectively). Figure 6 shows how individual counties performed compared to the median value of €70.73.

Using the median value for grants (per person) across all counties better reflects the experience at county level. The median being the midpoint in the set of values,

means that 13 counties received more than the median, and 13 received less. The national average can be heavily 'distorted' by counties with large populations.¹¹

Figure 6: Deviation from median per capita grant allocation (2023)



Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025); and The Central Statistics Office, [Profile 1 - Population Distribution and Movement](#), Census 2022.

¹¹ Excluding Dublin grant allocations and populations gives a per capita grant allocation of €64.85 in 2023. This is considerably closer to the median. The median value is used as it is more reflective of the experience at county level.

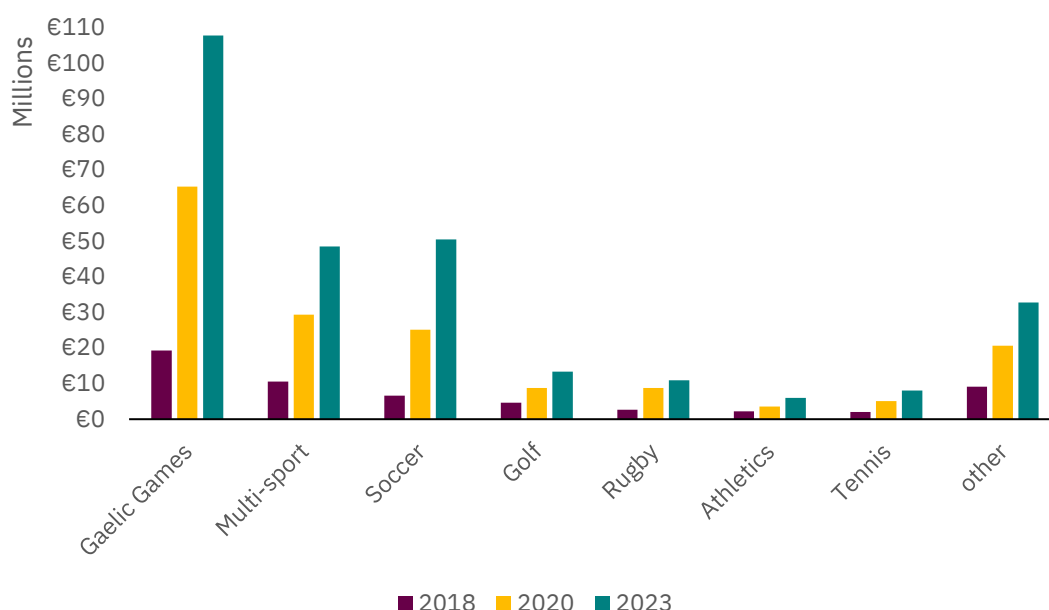
3.6. Grants allocated by Sport 2018 – 2023

Sports capital allocations can be broken down into sixty-seven sport types.¹²

Funding in 2018, 2020, and 2023 for the top seven sport recipients (Gaelic Games, Multi-Sport, Soccer, Golf, Rugby, Athletics, and Tennis) and an 'Other' category for the other fifty-seven sports as shown in Figure 7 (below).

- In 2018, 84% (€47.8 million) of the funding went directly to the 'top' seven sports (including multi sports). The remaining fifty-nine sports received €9.1 million between them.
- Gaelic games (not including Camogie or Ladies Gaelic Football) on its own received just under €19.3 million (33.8%) of the total funding available.
- In 2020, the seven sports combined received 87.6% of the total funding available, this amounted to €146.03 million. This was an increase of 305% for the seven sports based on the previous year's allocation of €47.7 million.
- Gaelic games again were the highest beneficiary €65.4 million (39.2% of the total allocation) with fifty-three other sports having to share €20.6 million between them.
- This trend continued in the latest round of funding allocated, Gaelic Games getting a substantial 38.8% or €107.78 million of the total funding. The top seven sports between them shared 88.2% (€245.2 million), leaving only €32.8 million (11.8%) shared between fifty-one sports.

¹² In total 67 sports were allocated funding across the three rounds. In 2018 - 66 sport types, in 2020 the total was 60 sports and for 2023 58 sports that benefitted from the programme.

Figure 7: Allocations by Sport

Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023); and Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).
 Note: All sports that received funding in excess of €5 million in any of the three funding years were included in the graph above, the remaining 59 sports were categorised as ‘Other’ in the graph.
 Note: Multi-sport projects tend to be for facilities that can benefit many sports e.g. multi-use all weather pitch used by Soccer, Athletics, Rugby, GAA etc.

A detailed breakdown of the funding allocated to each of the sixty-seven sports for 2018, 2020 and 2023 can be found in the table in Appendix 5 and on the [dashboard](#).¹³

¹³ The years 2018, 2020, and 2023 were selected for analysis as they are the only years for which complete data sets were available.

3.7. Review of the programme

Previous research and media commentary have highlighted political bias in the allocation of sports capital grants.¹⁴ The geographical distribution of grants was often linked to the Minister for Sport's constituent county receiving significantly higher per capita allocations.¹⁵ This led to a review and a document '2012 Sports Capital Programme – Assessment and Allocation Process' being published which presented two alternatives for the distributions of the grant. First method was to allocate funding to each county on a pro-rata basis. The second method called the 'Considine rule'¹⁶ was the preferred method by Minister Ring, the Minister for the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport at the time. This informal rule would be applied so that no county would receive more than 150%, or less than 75%, of the per capita national average. Considine and Doran (2016) examined whether the introduction of an informal rule helped to reduce political bias in how sports capital grants were allocated. They found no meaningful change in the pattern of allocations, suggesting that the rule did not succeed in reducing political influence.

Analysing the latest grant allocations, it is evident that the rule was not followed. Based on CSO population figures by county from the 2022 census it was calculated that the per capita allocation for the 26 counties was €53.99. Based on the range set by the rule, 18 of the counties fell between the allowable percentage range. Leitrim being the county receiving the highest per capita grant allocation of €102.92 (191%) and Dublin being the lowest receiving €26.50 (49%) as displayed in Figure 8. A detailed breakdown can be found in Appendix 6.

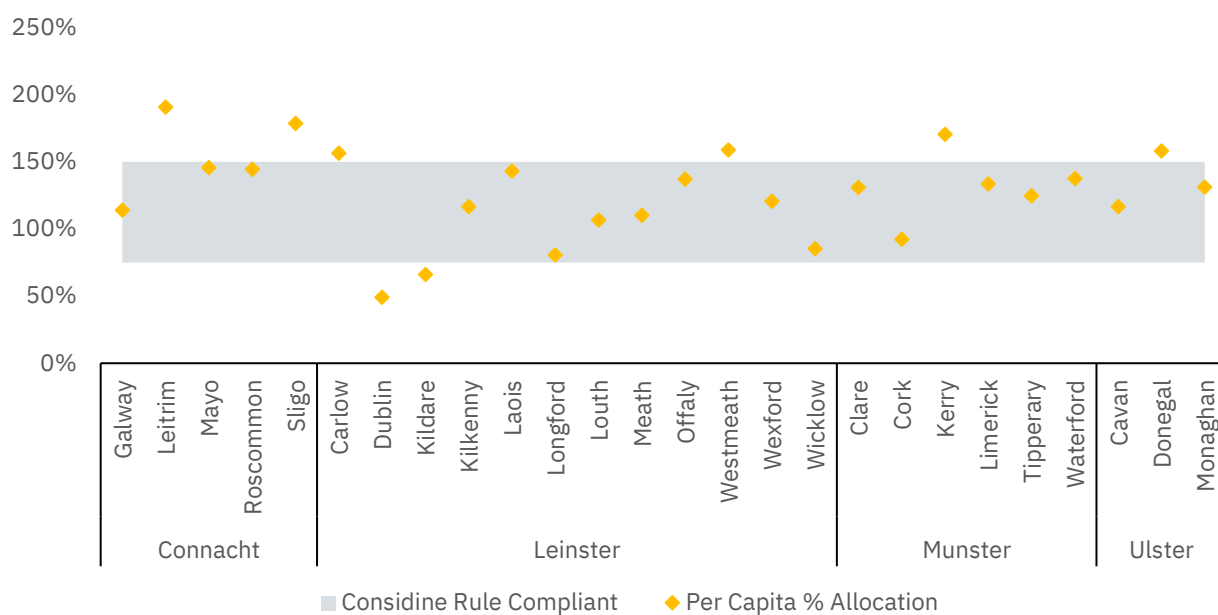
It should be noted that the 2023 local applications were assessed using the Pobal Deprivation Index as the primary calculation factor, thus ensuring disadvantaged areas were prioritised.

¹⁴ Considine, J., & Doran, J. (2016). [Evaluation of an informal rule for the allocation of sports capital funding](#). Public Choice, 168, 43-54. doi:10.1007/s11127-016-0348-1. (p. 44)

¹⁵ Considine, J., Crowley, F., Foley, S. and O'Connor, M., [Irish National Lottery Sports Capital Grant Allocations, 1999–2007](#): Natural Experiments on Political Influence, Economic Affairs, Vol. 28, No. 3, September 2008, 38–44. doi:10.1111/j.1468-0270.2008.00843. (p.40)

¹⁶ Considine, J., & Doran, J. (2016). [Evaluation of an informal rule for the allocation of sports capital funding](#). Public Choice, 168, 43-54. doi:10.1007/s11127-016-0348-1. (p. 44)

Figure 8: Counties funding in line with the ‘Considine Rule’.



Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025); and The Central Statistics Office, [Profile 1 - Population Distribution and Movement](#), Census 2022.

3.8. Conclusion

The Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF) has played a pivotal role in enhancing sports infrastructure and accessibility across Ireland since its inception in 1998. With over €1.4 billion allocated to almost 19,000 projects, the programme has significantly contributed to the development and refurbishment of sports facilities and the acquisition of sports equipment.

Analysing the breakdown of funding by sport, Gaelic Games receives the highest amount of funding in each round. The GAA has over 2,200 clubs¹⁷ and roughly 511,500 registered members across the island of Ireland.¹⁸ The broad distribution of clubs nationwide results in the funding having greater direct impact in towns and villages across Ireland.

Previously, the programme has been criticised due to political bias present in grant allocations. Even though the Considine rule still is not implemented accurately, recently the grant allocations have not weighted towards the Minister for Sport's constituency county. In the last round of grant allocations, Dublin received 26% less per capita than the minimum end of the set range.

The substantial increase in average grant amounts and the focus on high-participation sports demonstrate the programme's alignment with national sports participation goals and the programme for Government commitments.

3.9. Dashboard

The Community Sport Facilities Fund Dashboard ([available here](#)) was developed by the Parliamentary Budget Office. The dashboard presents data by county, sport and year in a visual and interactive format. The aim of the dashboard is to improve Members' and Committees' understanding of the Community Sport Facilities Fund and to provide added value through detailed analysis of grants allocated in a more accessible way.

¹⁷ The Gaelic Athletic Association, [About the GAA](#).

¹⁸ Ireland's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, [Hurling/Iománaíocht](#).

The dashboard features several pages, or tabs, along the top of the screen. Clicking on a tab will display different charts and data. To view data for a county, sport or year select the options from the drop-down lists on each page. The structure of the dashboard is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Dashboard Structure

Tab	Purpose
Overview	Map provides a breakdown of allocations by county and sport for the years 2018/2020/2023.
User Guide	Provides instructions on how to navigate the dashboard.
Sport & Deprivation	Map provides a breakdown of allocations by Pobal Index scores at county and sport level for the years 2018/2020/2023.
Organisation Profile	This tab illustrates each organisations youth and adult membership breakdowns by county and sport for the years 2018/2020/2023. These figures were provided by the club at application stage.
Per Capita	Chart compares the per capita allocation for each county for 2023 against the national per capita grant allocation.
Organisational Breakdown	Chart displays a breakdown of grants allocated to each organisation over the course of the three years.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1: Programmes part-funded by the National Lottery.

EXPENDITURE PART-FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY *						
Vote/Subhead	2024			2025		
	Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
			-	-	-	-
33. Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media						
B.9 An Chomhairle Ealaíon	132,233	2,045	134,278	137,993	2,045	140,038
C.4 Irish Language Support Schemes	9,900	3,200	13,100	10,700	4,750	15,450
D.3 Grants for Sporting Bodies and the Provision of Sports and Recreational Facilities		49,536	49,536		73,350	73,350
D.5 Sports Ireland	97,179	11,600	108,779	103,555	12,200	115,755
Subtotal :-	239,312	66,381	305,693	252,248	92,345	344,593
34. Housing, Local Government and Heritage						
A.9 Communal Facilities in Housing Projects		500	500		500	500
A.18 Private Housing Grants		75,000	75,000		100,000	100,000
F.3 Grant for An Chomhairle Oidreacht (Heritage Council)	8,000	7,500	15,500	9,550	9,239	18,789
Subtotal :-	8,000	83,000	91,000	9,550	109,739	119,289
38. Health						
J.1 Health Agencies and Other Similar Organisations	4,513		4,513	4,513		4,513
Subtotal :-	4,513		4,513	4,513		4,513
40. Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth						
B.6.1 Youth Organisations and Services	77,848	450	78,298	83,798	1,000	84,798
Subtotal :-	77,848	450	78,298	83,798	1,000	84,798
42. Rural and Community Development						
B.3.1 Volunteering Supports - National	6,607		6,607	7,334		7,334
B.3.2 Seniors Alert Scheme	2,300		2,300	1,100		1,100
B.3.3(II) Supports for Community and Voluntary Sector - National Organisations						
Funding	6,721		6,721	7,221		7,221
B.4.1 Local/Regional Development Supports	1,207		1,207	1,207		1,207
B.4.2 Society of St Vincent de Paul and Protestant Aid	1,590		1,590	1,890		1,890
Subtotal :-	18,425		18,425	18,752		18,752
Total* :-	348,098	149,831	497,479	368,861	203,084	571,945

Source: Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, [The Revised Estimates for Public Services 2025](#) (December 2024) p.260.

Appendix 2: Application process

Grants are available to voluntary, not-for profit sports clubs, community groups, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport, and local authorities. Third level colleges, Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and schools may only apply for funding jointly with sports clubs or organisations. All applications are split into two categories, a local application or a regional application both varying in funding levels and both with specific criteria. All applications are made through the [OSCAR](#) (Online Sports Capital Register) system.¹⁹

The Community Sport Facilities Fund scoring system is designed to evaluate applications based on six criteria agreed with the Minister in advance of each round. The criteria for rounds prior to 2023 included:

- Increasing participation and improving performance,
- Sharing of facilities,
- Socio-economic disadvantage,
- Technical merits and sustainability,
- Level of own funding, and
- Previous SCEP funding received.

Each criterion has specific sub-criteria and weightings, such as the likelihood of increasing participation, the quality of licence agreements for shared facilities, and the socio-economic status of the area served by the project.

In the 2023 round local applications were assessed using the Pobal Deprivation Index as the primary calculation factor, thus ensuring disadvantaged areas were prioritised.

The scoring system for regional applications in 2023 round was designed to, inter alia, reward applications from disadvantaged areas, applications that showed evidence of sharing and that had engaged with the planning process.

The assessment procedures involve a thorough review process to ensure applications meet the minimum requirements. This includes checking supporting

¹⁹ Details on how to register through the OSCAR system can be found [here](#).

documents, validating the level of own funding, and ensuring compliance with title/access requirements. Applications are divided into local and national/regional categories and assessed accordingly. Invalid applications are given a chance to rectify deficiencies. The process emphasizes transparency, fairness, and adherence to guidelines, with regular assessment meetings to address any issues that arise.²⁰

Appendix 3: Assessment / Appeals Process

Applications submitted by the deadline are assessed by the Department.

Applications can be deemed invalid for several reasons, such as incomplete documentation or failure to meet eligibility criteria. Once a list for all provisional allocations and invalid applications is released, an email is sent to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. All unsuccessful applicants and those that receive less than 50% of amount sought are offered a 3-week period to appeal the Department's decision, the deadline for which was 29 October 2024. For every appeal, the application was reviewed by an officer other than the original assessor. During the appeal process, applicants can submit any missing or corrected documents to address the issues identified in the initial assessment.²¹

²⁰ Further details on the scoring system and assessment procedures can be found at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [SCEP 2023 - Scoring System and Assessment Procedures \(2024\)](#).

²¹ Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [OSCAR](#) (Accessed 16 December 2024)

Appendix 4: Grant Allocations by County

County	Allocation 2018	Allocation 2020	Allocation 2023
Carlow	€832,733	€3,252,611	€5,232,806
Cavan	€984,850	€2,964,521	€5,139,033
Clare	€1,568,528	€5,189,189	€9,037,315
Cork	€6,414,995	€18,344,840	€29,108,020
Donegal	€2,429,943	€7,976,136	€14,249,825
Dublin	€11,101,741	€25,512,992	€38,646,892
Galway	€3,948,410	€11,214,119	€17,065,345
Kerry	€2,566,461	€6,709,075	€14,406,067
Kildare	€2,559,208	€6,863,178	€8,812,989
Kilkenny	€1,275,215	€3,645,147	€6,548,046
Laois	€997,668	€4,380,251	€7,092,368
Leitrim	€562,056	€1,216,401	€3,622,730
Limerick	€2,451,799	€8,016,249	€15,109,363
Longford	€481,536	€1,744,305	€2,035,554
Louth	€1,568,273	€4,645,107	€8,036,599
Mayo	€1,745,601	€6,079,745	€10,839,937
Meath	€2,408,071	€7,533,216	€13,136,152
Monaghan	€710,278	€2,943,702	€4,624,094
Offaly	€1,089,823	€3,101,468	€6,150,277
Roscommon	€954,800	€2,913,043	€5,480,483
Sligo	€1,229,072	€2,695,997	€6,769,072
Tipperary	€1,999,521	€7,611,790	€11,292,141
Waterford	€1,685,694	€5,339,162	€9,456,053
Westmeath	€1,562,535	€4,750,134	€8,249,149
Wexford	€1,942,296	€6,499,098	€10,677,065
Wicklow	€1,848,693	€5,512,197	€7,172,737
Grand Total	€56,919,800	€166,653,673	€277,990,112

Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023); and Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).

Appendix 5: Grant Allocations by Sport

Sports	Allocation 2018	Allocation 2020	Allocation 2023
American Football	€19,141	€91,923	€59,024
Angling/Fishing	€64,331	€228,440	€138,956
Archery	€49,822	€117,632	€206,743
Athletics	€2,178,635	€3,545,315	€6,026,157
Badminton	€55,863	€185,401	€509,604
Baseball	€0	€13,976	€2,592
Basketball	€307,968	€762,704	€2,050,350
Billiards & Snooker	€51,073	€71,369	€82,605
Bowls	€98,659	€118,782	€135,936
Boxing	€935,034	€1,317,361	€1,966,859
Camogie	€225,416	€607,500	€1,544,827
Canoeing / Kayaking	€611,398	€984,640	€1,670,132
Cerebral Palsy Sport	€0	€7,254	€0
Clay Pigeon Shooting	€24,631	€105,309	€112,459
Community Games	€359,120	€1,066,661	€1,867,479
Cricket	€350,384	€786,415	€1,399,963
Croquet	€0	€15,699	€0
Cycling	€232,539	€571,116	€634,027
Diving/Snorkelling	€414,590	€538,625	€1,188,979
Equestrian Sports	€288,753	€1,187,130	€1,304,366
Fencing	€28,100	€45,926	€38,198
Gaelic Games	€19,266,125	€65,369,016	€107,776,787
Gliding	€0	€0	€1,693
Golf	€4,637,037	€8,809,309	€13,403,163
Gymnastics	€372,824	€495,145	€837,676
Handball	€228,089	€700,583	€1,637,632
Hillwalking	€145,513	€388,422	€58,178
Hockey	€798,722	€2,041,513	€2,126,604
Ice Hockey	€69,060	€19,485	€10,822
Judo	€20,096	€32,735	€49,096
Lacrosse	€0	€0	€7,000
Ladies Gaelic Football	€24,970	€488,680	€272,332
Martial Arts	€55,469	€191,468	€120,334
Modern Pentathlon	€0	€0	€32,734

Motor Sport	€12,440	€68,983	€0
Motorcycling	€15,353	€12,000	€14,250
Mountaineering	€53,829	€95,744	€0
Multi-sport	€10,531,375	€29,364,180	€48,560,093
Olympic Handball	€0	€38,577	€482,151
Orienteering	€8,200	€40,544	€125,429
Pickleball	€0	€0	€16,847
Pitch and Putt	€201,222	€433,686	€804,691
Racquetball	€100,276	€0	€0
Rock Climbing	€10,429	€51,210	€41,502
Roller Derby	€1,189	€4,576	€0
Rowing	€1,343,655	€2,598,717	€5,167,421
Rugby	€2,627,110	€8,737,026	€10,900,628
Sailing	€584,817	€1,515,466	€1,986,646
Shooting Sports	€2,768	€38,194	€68,810
Skiing	€0	€173,394	€204,875
Skateboarding	€82,956	€0	€0
Skydiving	€0	€59,911	€45,000
Soccer	€6,596,489	€25,140,589	€50,513,475
Special Olympics	€0	€120,978	€332,380
Squash	€115,977	€178,909	€1,028,615
Surfing	€13,788	€20,129	€76,960
Swimming	€461,869	€997,095	€1,510,749
Table Tennis	€12,830	€0	€71,674
Taekwondo	€0	€65,398	€8,679
Tennis	€1,984,881	€5,067,022	€8,008,729
Tenpin bowling	€11,950	€19,458	€47,000
Triathlon	€119,136	€437,456	€211,716
Tug of War	€13,250	€24,077	€0
Volleyball	€38,499	€87,083	€87,211
Water-skiing & Wakeboarding	€0	€38,059	€0
Weightlifting	€62,150	€61,967	€111,255
Wheelchair Sport	€0	€257,711	€290,019
Grand Total	€56,919,800	€166,605,017	€277,990,112

Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [REVIEW OF SPORTS CAPITAL AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME 2020](#) (May 2023); and Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025).

Appendix 6: Per capita Breakdown of 2023 Grant Allocation

County	Allocation 2023	Population (Census 2022)	Per Capita Allocation	Per Capita Percentage
Carlow	€5,232,806	61,968	€84.44	156%
Cavan	€5,139,033	81,704	€62.90	117%
Clare	€9,037,315	127,938	€70.64	131%
Cork	€29,108,020	58,4156	€49.83	92%
Donegal	€14,249,825	167,084	€85.29	158%
Dublin	€38,646,892	1,458,154	€26.50	49%
Galway	€17,065,345	277,737	€61.44	114%
Kerry	€14,406,067	156,458	€92.08	171%
Kildare	€8,812,989	247,774	€35.57	66%
Kilkenny	€6,548,046	104,160	€62.87	116%
Laois	€7,092,368	91,877	€77.19	143%
Leitrim	€3,622,730	35,199	€102.92	191%
Limerick	€15,109,363	209,536	€72.11	134%
Longford	€2,035,554	46,751	€43.54	81%
Louth	€8,036,599	139,703	€57.53	107%
Mayo	€10,839,937	137,970	€78.57	146%
Meath	€13,136,152	220,826	€59.49	110%
Monaghan	€4,624,094	65,288	€70.83	131%
Offaly	€6,150,277	83,150	€73.97	137%
Roscommon	€5,480,483	70,259	€78.00	144%
Sligo	€6,769,072	70,198	€96.43	179%
Tipperary	€11,292,141	167,895	€67.26	125%
Waterford	€9,456,053	127,363	€74.24	138%
Westmeath	€8,249,149	96,221	€85.73	159%
Wexford	€10,677,065	163,919	€65.14	121%
Wicklow	€7,172,737	155,851	€46.02	85%
Grand Total	€277,990,112	5,149,139	€53.99	

Source: PBO based on the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, [2023 Community Sport Facilities Fund - all allocations](#) (July 2025); and The Central Statistics Office, [Profile 1 - Population Distribution and Movement](#), Census 2022.

Contact: pbo@oireachtas.ie

Go to our webpage: www.Oireachtas.ie/PBO

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Houses of the Oireachtas

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

D02 XR20

www.oireachtas.ie

Tel: +353 (0)1 6183000 or 076 1001700

Twitter: @OireachtasNews

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