

J K Jamison Esq (Director)  
Arts Council  
Riddle Hall  
181A Stranmillis Road  
BELFAST BT9 5DU

Mr. Jordan

M'Kew  
as per Thos  
3/11.

You will wish to see. *[Signature]*  
2/11/89.

2 November 1989

Dear Mr Jamison

We have been in touch recently about the funding of activities in Conway Mill and you wrote to Tom Johnston on 4 October about a recent application for financial assistance from Glor na Ngael for a day of cultural activities which they propose to mount in Conway Mill.

It is the Department's firm view that assistance by the Arts Council of Glor na Ngael for the proposed day of activities in Conway Mill would constitute a breach of the condition contained in paragraph 5 of its letter to the Arts Council of 4 April 1989. The then Secretary of State, in his answer to a parliamentary question on 9 February 1989, stated that "Government policy on the payment of public funds to community groups, where there is evidence that such payments could directly or indirectly further the aims of a paramilitary organisation, is set out in the parliamentary statement of 27 June 1985 by the then Secretary of State. The nature and extent of paramilitary influence within Conway Mill is such that this policy has been applied to groups operating in or out of the Mill. Whilst I have reviewed the situation I am satisfied from the information available to me that influence remains such as to justify the continued withholding of funds to such groups in accordance with the terms of the parliamentary statement".

That remains the situation, and the Department is satisfied that to assist Glor na Ngael in this proposed project would by reason of its being located in Conway Mill give rise to a grave risk of thereby improving the standing and furthering the aims of a paramilitary organisation. The relevant conditions outlined in paragraph 5 prevail, and the Department therefore requires the Arts Council to deny assistance to Glor na Ngael on this occasion and to any other application relating to a project in Conway Mill.

The Department appreciates that the Arts Council has itself no information upon which to form a view as to paramilitary influence in Conway Mill. However, the terms of the condition do not require it to do so, and it does seem to the Department that the proper reason to be advanced for denying the application of Glor na Ngael is that the Arts Council is not permitted, by reason of its funding arrangements with the Department, to assist projects in Conway Mill at the present time.

Yours sincerely

*[Signature]*  
G McLEOWN



Central Secretariat  
Stormont Castle  
Belfas BT4 3ST  
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Mr W G McKeown  
Department of Education  
Rathgael  
BANGOR  
Co Down

| November 1989

Dear Jordan

**ARTS COUNCIL AND CONWAY MILL**

Your minute of 9 October and T Johnston's of 28 September 1989 refers.

As requested I now attach a draft response to the Arts Council which sets out clearly the position to be taken by the Council in relation to a request for assistance from Glor na Ngael and to any other applications in respect of a project in Conway Mill.

You will see that the final paragraph also gives the Council a clear guide on how to respond to any such applications.

Yours sincerely

S P HUGHES

I am content with the letter  
below.  
2/11

Mr. Jordan

The papers below set out the background to this issue.

You will see that ACNI is at present considering a request for assistance with a project in Conway Mill and a letter from us is required urgently to ensure that policy is not infringed. I am content with the draft below which has been prepared by DFP Solicitor's Branch. I will be happy to discuss if necessary.

CONFIDENTIAL

beginning.  
2/11/89.