

cc: Mr Ritchie ✓
Dr McCoy
Ms Smith
Mr Morrison
Mr Carson
Mr O'Connor
Mr Tierney

From: Patricia K McAlister

26 July 1999

To: Tony Canavan

FUNDING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR LANGUAGES

1. The purpose of this note is to:

- clarify arrangements for handling requests for funding which come from outside organisations to Linguistic Diversity Branch (LDB); and
- flag up some policy issues which I feel will need to be addressed across Branch boundaries.

Funding

2. We know that quite a lot of people in the lobbies - Irish, Ulster-Scots and ethnic minorities - have a mistaken idea about the role of LDB. Some are under the impression that the Branch has a budget, others that we have control or at least powerful influence over the CCRU budget or other vague, unspecified sources of Government funding.

3. As a result we have received direct approaches (some duplicated to Mr Ritchie's side) for help in securing funding or clarifying Government's future intentions regarding funding. Recent contacts include:

- An Gael Aras - request for bursaries to support students on the diploma course;
- Conradh na Gaeilge - start up costs for a shop;

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- Ultach - request for a meeting to discuss future funding strategy;
 - Ulster Folk & Transport Museum - request for help with an Ulster/Scots research/archiving project;
 - Ulster-Scots Language Society - request to facilitate development of a corporate and operational plan;
 - NICEE - request to facilitate and co-ordinate a development plan for an interpreting service.
4. We acknowledge these approaches, explaining that we are not in a position to address funding issues and that we are passing the requests to a named contact in CR Branch (generally John Carson) or, where appropriate, Dr McCoy's Branch. We inform the Branch in question what has been done. We acknowledge the approaches:
- for reasons of courtesy;
 - because, to meet Government's wider objectives, we want to create a good image for LDB and to build up a good relationship with the clients, ie the lobby and other stakeholders; and
 - to meet our Citizens Charter obligations to acknowledge correspondence within five days of receipt. The obligation to provide a substantive response or acceptable holding reply within 10 days then passes to the transferee Branch.

Policy Development

5. I am being asked by the lobby how our Branch's policy role combines with the activity carried out by CR Branch in relation to Irish. Our answer is that we are normally given the opportunity to advise on the merits of a proposal. I am conscious, however, that our advice is offered on a very ad hoc basis, in a bit of a policy vacuum, with no framework of reference, ie objectives, priorities, targets or performance indicators. The CCRU research strategy is focused on community relations and makes no mention of linguistic matters, though Ulster-Scots, Irish and ethnic minorities studies have received support. I believe this points to the need for a more structured approach, to ensure that our various activities complement and are seen to complement each other.

6. When the Cross Border Body gets off the ground LDB will advise Ministers how the Body's corporate and operational plans align with Government's own linguistic strategy and operational plans - which have still to be drafted. If the Body fails to materialise in the near future we will have an even greater need for a clearly articulated game plan, not least as a platform on which to build a case for a substantive bid. In order to develop our own policy we will need to consult with the lobbies, have access to quality research and access to regular information on performance of funded initiatives against clear criteria.
7. In the immediate future I believe we need to be able to indicate to Mr Semple and the Permanent Secretaries at the presentation proposed for August that we have put work in hand to develop for CCRU a coherent set of aims, objectives and mechanisms for translating the Good Friday linguistic diversity commitments into effect. I am conscious that it will also be important, before we begin to persuade the rest of the system to introduce change to effect the minutiae of Part III, that we have ourselves a clear idea of the big picture.

Recommendation

8. I suggest we start to fill the gaps by developing
 - greater mutual understanding of our respective strategic objectives and operational priorities among (for a start) the three Donegall Street Branches; and
 - some practical housekeeping arrangements.
9. I would be grateful for a meeting to hear your views on the points I have raised and am happy to discuss with all recipients.

Patricia K. McAlister

PATRICIA K McALISTER

PMcA7247/DW

cc Ms McAlister
Dr McCoy
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Mr Tierney

From: Denis Ritchie
CCRU

28 July 1999

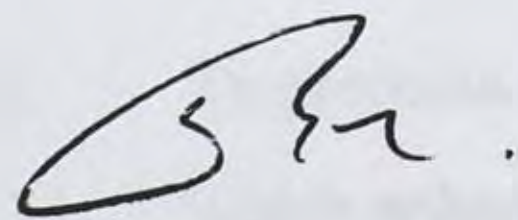
To: Tony Canavan

FUNDING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT FOR LANGUAGES

1. I refer to Pat McAlister's note to you of 26 July and you will not be surprised to learn that the situation which she describes is causing some difficulty for my Branch also. While we have been able to deal with a limited number of applications for funding from linguistic groups on an ad hoc basis we have neither the policy framework, staff expertise nor financial provision to deal with the influx which seems likely to arise from the delay in establishing the Cross Border Implementation Body.
2. In the interim the approach that Community Relations Branch has taken is that we will help to the limited extent existing resources permit, but focusing on non-recurrent costs, since these do not represent a forward commitment for the Cross Border Implementation Body. If we can obtain additional resources we can continue with this approach but this will be unsatisfactory from both CR Branch's and Linguistic Groups' perspectives. As far as CR Branch is concerned we have no way of prioritising linguistic applications, either against one another or our other funding responsibilities. Nor do we have any linguistic expertise, even lacking fundamental knowledge about gaps in existing provision and what is needed to address these. From the linguistic groups' point of view their aim will be to obtain core-funding which in my view it would be inappropriate to provide other than in context of an agreed forward strategy, even if the resources were available.

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3. Of course we do, as you know, currently core-fund some linguistic groups, which complicates the position further. These were mainly inherited and in a couple of cases their value with regard to community relations is very peripheral in relation to their main objective of promoting the language. This is the crux of the matter - CCRU's funding authority under the Community Relations (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1975, as amended is:
- (a) giving financial or other assistance to any persons or organisations appearing to be concerned with community relations;
 - (b) giving financial assistance towards the conduct of research into community relations.
4. Consequently there is a question about how these statutory powers should be interpreted with regard to handling applications from linguistic groups. Clearly some of the activities proposed will have very little if anything to do with promoting community relations. The remit of the future Cross Border Body, that of promoting the language per se, will of course be much wider in what it can accommodate.
5. In summary therefore I agree with Pat's conclusion that we need to agree a more structured approach as to applications for funding from linguistic groups. We will also require additional resources but it seems dubious these can be obtained. You will recall that our in year bid for additional provision for this purpose last year was unsuccessful, despite Ministerial support.
6. Finally I offer for comment a proposed response indicating our current approach (and resource situation). We need to issue this fairly urgently since we are under some pressure from Conradh na Gaeilige in the person of Gerry O'Hara. At present it seems to me we have very little choice other than to take this line. It is not however likely to enamour applicants and may well in due course become a political issue; O'Hara has already expressed his discontent in a telephone conversation with the Branch.



D J RITCHIE

4892/DR/MM

CULTURAL TRADITIONS PROGRAMME

Aims

- ◆ to enhance understanding and appreciation of the rich cultural diversity in Northern Ireland;
- ◆ to promote a wider and more informed debate on a cross-community basis;
- ◆ to explore how the existence of different cultural traditions can be handled in a way which is positive and constructive rather than threatening and divisive; and
- ◆ to enhance awareness and appreciation of the language in the context of encouraging greater mutual understanding across the community.

Objectives

1. To provide support for cultural heritage and cultural diversity:
 - in the arts
 - ^{ams} museum
 - local communities
 - publications and
 - media
2. To increase understanding of cultural heritage and respect for diversities of outlook and belief.
3. To support local and national cultural initiatives which can be shared by both communities [overlap with ACNI/DENI?].
4. To promote and develop a wide range of Irish language activities, particularly those which enhance awareness and appreciation of the contribution which the Irish language has made to the cultural traditions of the whole community.

Funding

- up to 90% of costs; and
- 75% of support costs.

In exceptional circumstances 100% funding may be provided.

Other sources of funding

CCRU also funds the NICRC Local Cultural Traditions Grant Scheme.

In addition the District Councils operate modest grant aid to cultural traditions work, under their Community Relations Programmes.

ACNI

DENI

Type of Groups Eligible

- Locally based NI groups and individuals.
- Preference will be given to voluntary community organisations which encourage the organised involvement of volunteers.
- Youth-based projects will generally be funded by DENI.

Applications for core-funding will be carefully evaluated. Priority will be given to those which measure up against the criteria, and can demonstrate:

- a deliverable programme of cultural activity over the next 3 years.
- support and participation from other groups and individuals, which demonstrate a demand or successful potential for development of their project areas.

Criteria

- proposals must contribute to the debate on cultural traditions or community divisions and emanate from properly constituted organisations.

Support may be given for work which is carried out within a particular cultural community, as well as work which is about establishing or increasing contact between people from differing traditions.

However priority will be given to work where the potential and commitment exists actively to share and address issues of differences between communities.

Priority will also be given to initiatives which demonstrate they are most likely to prove effective.

Exclusions

Travel outside Ireland and Britain.

Capital expenditure.