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The Office of the First Minister
And Deputy First Minister

COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT
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251/92 .

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Mr Mairtin Ó Mulláin
Managing Editor
LA
301 Glen Road
BELFAST
BT11 8BU

cc Clare McGivern
Pat McAlister
John Carson
(for information)

From: Denis Ritchie

19 April 2000

**To: Tony Canavan
Director for Equality and Community Relations**

FUNDING FOR IRISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER LÁ

You sought advice in relation to Mairtin Ó Mulleoir's letter to you of 5 April.

The background is given in the attached copy correspondence between Noel Redmond of DCAL and me. I attach also a draft response, as suggested by Pat McAlister, which merely confirms that the responsibility for funding Lá passed to the Irish Language Agency from 1 April 2000 and gives the relevant contact name and address.



D J RITCHIE

The Office of the First Minister And Deputy First Minister

COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT
20-24 DONEGALL STREET
BELFAST BT1 2GP

Tel: 02890-522735 Fax: 02890-544500

Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleor
Managing Editor
Lá
301 Glen Road
BELFAST
BT11 8BU

April 2000

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 5th April in which you raise concerns regarding the continued funding of Lá.

I can confirm that from 1st April 2000, Irish language funding is the responsibility of the Irish Language Agency. Lá should therefore submit its funding application to Éamon Ó hArgáin, An Foras Teanga, 7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Yours sincerely

J A CANAVAN

Andersonstown News Group

301 Glen Road

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S.4
Tony Canavan
CCRU

By Fax: 520761

5 April 2000

Dear Tony,

As you are aware, for some years now CCRU has been providing grant assistance to Lá. When Lá merged with the Andersonstown News Group last year, this grant assistance continued.

However, our present arrangement finished at the end of March 2000. There is a suggestion that we should now apply to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for grant assistance for this financial year (April 1 2000-March 31 2001).

However, with the collapse of the Language Body, it seems to me that we could be caught in a limbo and certainly it appears unlikely that we will receive any assistance from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure by the end of April 2001. Moreover, there is no knowing when funding will be cleared.

In such circumstances, I would like to ask for our funding to remain within the CCRU remit for the present financial year.

Ie meas,

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Managing Editor Lá

c.c. Gerry Adams MP
Éamon Ó Cuív TD

5/4
1. cc Par-Mu Aislin
2. M. Lincum ✓
- Aislin p'.

5/4

The Office of the First Minister
And Deputy First Minister

Mr. Denis Ritchie
OFMDFM
Community Relations Branch
20 -24, Donegall Street,
Belfast BT1 2GP

16th April 2000

Dear Denis

CRU: FUNDING FOR LANGUAGE GROUPS

I refer to your letters of 22nd March and 28th January 2000 and apologise for the delay in providing you with a written reply but we did discuss the way forward on the telephone. I am now writing to confirm that we agree that the North South Language Body should be responsible for funding the groups listed in Annex A to your letter of 28th January. The new arrangements would be effective from the 1st April 2000. Arrangements can to transfer the appropriate monies to the DCAL baseline at July monitoring round.

I am copying this letter to Carmel Coffey, Aubrey Playfair, Patricia McAuley in the OFM/DFM, Will Glendenning in the Community Relations Council and to Pat McAlister, Linguistic Diversity Branch, DCAL.

I will contact you during the year to confirm the exact amount of money to be transferred. In the meanwhile, however, please do not hesitate to contact me should the need arise.

Yours sincerely



NOEL REDMOND
Head of Financial Planning and Accountability Branch

The Office of the First Minister
And Deputy First Minister

Mr N Redmond
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
Interpoint Building (Third Floor)
20-24 York Street
BELFAST
BT15 1AQ

28th January 2000

Dear Noel,

CCRU: FUNDING FOR LANGUAGE GROUPS

I refer to our recent telephone discussions.

1. As you are aware, the former Central Community Relations Unit (CCRU) has been providing recurrent funding to a number of language groups. Since this is linked to the core activities of the groups concerned as distinct from project funding, it would be appropriate for responsibility for future dealings with these groups together with the relevant financial provision (some £200,000) to be transferred from 1 April 2000 to your Department in view of the specific role of the North/South Language Body set up under the Good Friday Agreement.
2. The groups concerned together with the grant presently payable and a brief outline of what this covers are listed at Annex A. In all cases, except for the Ultach Trust, the current CCRU contract ends on 31 March of this year and we would not propose to renew these. The agreement with Ultach ends on 31 March 2001, but having regard to its scheduling in relevant RoI legislation I assume you would see no difficulty in taking this over.

Community Relations Unit has also been providing funding to language groups for projects which meet the relevant criteria under the Community Relations Measure of the now closed EU Physical and Social Environment Programme (which CCRU administers) and under its own Cultural Diversity Sub Programme. All existing projects under these headings also terminate by 31 March of this year. A list of the groups concerned, project descriptions and amounts are at Annexes B and C respectively.

4. With regard to project support, it is envisaged that language groups would, in the same way as other organisations, whether or not primarily concerned with community relations, continue to be eligible for financial assistance from the Community Relations Programme for projects which met the relevant criteria. (In most cases applications would be handled by the Community Relations Council which has become the main funder for small voluntary groups working in the community relations area). Language groups would also be able to apply for assistance under future EU Measures administered by either the Community Relations Unit or the Community Relations Council, including matching funding as necessary. Obviously therefore we have a need to retain the balance of our Cultural Diversity Programme budget.
5. The next step, I would suggest, is for us to agree this formally, including the amount to be transferred based on Annex A. I understand from contact with the two DFP Supply Officers concerned, Carmel Coffey for DCAL and Aubrey Playfair for OFM/DFM, that they would be content for us to agree a technical adjustment between the two Departments. This would probably take place in the first monitoring round next year and subsequently carry forward to our respective baselines for future years. If you feel a meeting would be useful to clarify any points of detail, I should be happy to convene one.
5. I am copying this letter to Pat McAlister in your Linguistic Diversity Branch, to Carmel Coffey and Aubrey Playfair, to Patricia McAuley in OFM/DFM and

Will Glendinning in the Community Relations Council. Any further observations from them would be welcome and I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Dennis Ritchie

D J RITCHIE

Cultural Traditions - Language Core (continued)	GRANT	ENDS
Children's Grants - Scholarships, Examinations and Publications	£27,325	31/3/00
To encourage a wider appreciation of the Irish language and cultural heritage in Northern Ireland and to promote the speaking and use of the Irish language.		
Children's Grants - Scholarships	£30,000	31/3/00
To encourage a wider appreciation of the Irish language and cultural heritage in Northern Ireland and to promote the speaking and use of the Irish language.		
Children's Grants - Scholarships	£3,000	31/3/00
To promote the Irish language and its culture among people of all backgrounds in Northern Ireland.		
Press as Pictorial - Production and Distribution of 'Lá'	£24,000	31/3/00
The production and distribution of the weekly Irish language newspaper 'Lá'.		
Ulster Trust - Services, Administration costs and Irish language activities	£102,312	31/3/01
To widen the appreciation of the contribution of the Irish language to the cultural heritage of Northern Ireland. To increase knowledge of the language throughout the community and to assist in the provision of written and oral material. To promote the wider use of the language throughout the whole community.		

U CULTURAL TRADITIONS – LANGUAGE GROUP CORE (RECURRENT) FUNDING

PROJECTS	GRANT	ENDS
Comhaltas Uladh – Scholarships, Examinations and Feiseanna. To encourage the spread and use of the Irish language in Northern Ireland.	£27,125	31/3/00
Gael Linn – Student and Adult Scholarships To encourage a wider appreciation of the Irish language and cultural heritage in Northern Ireland and to promote the teaching and use of the Irish language.	£50,000	31/3/00
Oldeas Gael Uladh – Adult Scholarships To promote the Irish language and its culture among people of all backgrounds in Northern Ireland.	£ 5,000	31/3/00
Preas an Phobail – Production and Distribution of La The production and distribution of the weekly Irish language newspaper 'La'.	£24,000	31/3/00
Ultach Trust – Salaries, Administration costs and Irish language activities To widen the appreciation of the contribution of the Irish language to the cultural heritage of Northern Ireland. To increase knowledge of the language throughout the community and to assist in the provision of written and oral material. To promote the wider use of the language throughout the whole community.	£102,312	31/3/01

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ANNEX B

**CRU CULTURAL TRADITIONS – LANGUAGE GROUP FUNDING PROVIDED
UNDER EU PSEP COMMUNITY RELATIONS MEASURE**

PROJECTS	GRANT	ENDS
Naiscoil Na Rinne – Salaries and Administration Costs To promote the Irish language and culture, especially with non-Irish speakers in the Protestant community and to encourage a greater understanding of cultural differences through the organisation of information sessions and awareness programmes in schools, colleges and community centres.	£25,000	29/2/00
Ultach Trust- Columba Initiative – Salaries and Administration Costs. To foster contact between the Gaelic speakers of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland with a view to increasing mutual understanding and co-operation.	£62,500	31/3/00
Ulster Scots Heritage Council – Salaries and Administration Costs To assist the development of the Ulster Scots Heritage Council's activities and to facilitate the growth and development of Ulster Scots cultural groups throughout Northern Ireland.	£50,000	31/3/00

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ANNEX C

**CRU CULTURAL TRADITIONS – LANGUAGE GROUP PROJECT
(NON RECURRENT) FUNDING**

PROJECTS	GRANT	ENDS
Forbairt an Feirste – Salaries, Administration Costs and Office equipment To promote acceptance of the Irish language as a medium of communication in economic life and to ensure that Irish speakers can conduct their daily business, including contact with statutory and non-statutory agencies, through their chosen medium.	£23,599	31/3/00
European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages – Assistance towards the direct costs of the Sub-Committee. To protect and promote local minority language interests through the Northern Ireland Sub-Committee. To keep abreast of developments on the minority language front in Europe and to maintain Northern Ireland's minority language interests on the EC and UK agenda.	£ 1,264	31/3/00
The European Language Initiative – English/Language Dictionary To compile, in collaboration with academics and other experts in Northern Ireland and the Republic, a dictionary of words and terms for use in public service institutions.	£ 8,000	31/3/00

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