

FROM: CHRIS MACCABE
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cc: see distribution list

Des Browne (B&L)

DFA FUNDING FOR NORTHERN IRELAND-RELATED PROJECTS

At this morning's meeting I mentioned that the Department of Foreign Affairs was putting a steady stream of money into NI-related projects throughout the NI community and beyond. This initiative has been around since the 1980s, but seems to have increased in volume in recent years and to be aimed more than ever in a unionist/loyalist direction. The principal channel for the funds is the Irish Side of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat, and wearing my other hat as Joint Secretary of that body, I have put several hopefuls in touch with my Irish counterpart, Ray Bassett. All their requests have been successful to a greater or lesser extent.

2. The attached list shows where the Irish money went in 2001. In total an astonishing £700,000. I don't have comparable figures for 2002, but know, for example, that £15,000 was donated to Linfield Football Club at the request of Billy Hutchinson.

3. Naturally we are grateful for this cross-border contribution to our national running costs. Any discomfort I've felt in watching the Irish take the credit for something I would like to have been doing myself, has been more than offset by the looks of gratitude on the faces of the funds' recipients!

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EMM/4407: DFA funding for NI-related projects

Group	Amount
Ardoyne Fleadh	£10,000
Ardoyne Women's Group (North Belfast);	£5,000
Ballymoney Estate Group	£30,000
Ballyronan Afterschool Club (Magherafelt);	£5,000
Centre for Cross-Border Studies (Armagh)	£50,000
Cliftonville Football Club	£30,000
Club Oige Mhacaire Bothàin (Belfast)	£10,000
Conference Report on the Future Orange Halls	£500
Derry and Raphoe Action	£25,000
Dove House Community Trust - Youthfirst Project(Derry)	£25,000
Drogheda/Shankill Partnership	£10,000
Edge, The	£15,000
Falls Community Council	£110,000
Farset Inishowen and Border Counties Initiative (East Belfast);	£5,000
Federation for Ulster Local Studies	£8,000
Finaghy Cross-Community Development Group (Belfast)	£5,000
Glencairn People's Project- Fernhill House Museum (Belfast)	£10,000
Integrated Education Fund (Belfast)	£15,000
International School for Peace Studies (Messines):	£10,000
John Hewitt International Summer School	£12,000
Let's Talk Project (East Belfast):	£3,000
Maiden City Festival	£30,000
Mayfair Business Centre (Garvaghy Road, Portadown)	£2,000
North Belfast Community Development Centre	£25,000
Parishes of Ballyroan and Drumcree Friendship Group	£1,000
Peace on the Streets Project (East Belfast);	£5,000
Rasharkin Community Association (Ballymena)	£10,000
Saint Columb's Cathedral	£100,000
Seeds of Hope	£10,000
Shankill/Shankill Project	£10,000
Springboard (North Belfast)	£5,000
Ulster Project	£10,000
Upper Springfield Development Trust	£50,000
VAST. The Victims and Survivors Trust (Belfast)	£20,000
Vital Voices Conference	£8,576
Waterside Development Trust (Derry)	£20,000
Whiterock Festival Group	£1,000