

E. R.

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cc. PS/PUS B&L - M.
PS/Mr Needham - M.
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Barry
Mr Chesterton - M.
Mr Ferneyhough
Mr Spence

PS/Secretary of State B&L - M

MICHAEL DAVITT GAELIC ATHLETIC CLUB

I refer to the letter of 9 July 1986 from Mr Eamon Hanna, General Secretary of the SDLP, to the Secretary of State; and to the letter of 18 July 1986 from Mr R Flynn, solicitor for the above Club, marked for the attention of Mr Needham.

Following a recommendation in January 1986 based on security advice, the Secretary of State decided to refuse the Davitt GA Club access to an Urban Development Grant. The Club was notified formally of that decision by a letter of 8 April 1986. There followed letters of complaint from the Club itself and from the Gaelic Athletic Association. Mr Needham responded in his letter of 9 June 1986 by pointing out that the decision had been taken after careful consideration and that it related only to the Davitt Club and not generally to clubs affiliated to the GAA.

The letter from the SDLP seeks to have the decision reconsidered, while the Club's solicitor seeks details of the reasons behind the decision to refuse the grant.

As far as reconsideration goes, there are no reasons why the Secretary of State should indicate any possibility of a reversal of his decision.

On the question of giving reasons for the decision, our legal advice in all such cases is that we should only refer to the statement of 27 June 1985 in anticipation of

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possible future legal action.

In these circumstances, therefore, I attach for your signature draft replies to both letters for the Secretary of State's consideration. The terms of the draft replies have been approved by the Solicitor's Department of the Department of Finance & Personnel.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Trevor Pearson'.

TREVOR PEARSON

6 August 1986

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