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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 October 2007 14:07  
**To:** DCAL Sport  
**Subject:** Response to Consultative Doc.

(1)

Please find attached a response from two organisations and a school.  
I am Head of P.E in St. Catherine's College, Armagh Chairperson of Edendork Camogie Club  
Volunteer Officer with Dungannon Special Olympics Club

Fionnuala Mc Grath

Response to Draft Document on Sport and Physical Recreation – Oct.'07

1. Do you agree that the proposed format of the Strategy is reader-friendly, logical and useful?

✓ Well laid out document, well sectioned, interspersed with time to digest information.

2. Do you agree that the Vision (Ch.1) reflects your aspirations for sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland?

✓ Would agree that the document addresses in general what our aspirations would be

3. Do you believe that Government should commit to taking action that will develop sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland (Ch. 2)? if yes, do you believe that the commitments proposed in the draft will help in achieving your/your organisation's aspirations for sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland?

✓ The Government has to take action to promote, increase and sustain participation in sport and physical recreation. Schools and voluntary organizations must feel supported in theory and in practical terms. Current models of good practice need to be valued

4. Do you believe that the Targets proposed (Ch. 3) are suitable as the key steps to achieve the Vision? Have you any suggested improvements/additions?

✓ Targets are admirable- are they achievable? The role of volunteers seems to be missing.

5. Do you consider that the Key Steps for Success in Table 1 (Ch. 4) link appropriately to the Targets proposed (Ch. 3)?

✓ Yes, very wide ranging. Particularly interested in the review of existing delivery networks. How complete is present knowledge?

Active school partnerships seem very attractive. So also do the new quality accreditation standards for clubs but they must not be a paper exercise.

6. Do you agree with the proposals for implementing the Strategy including the monitoring arrangements (Ch. 6)? Can you identify a role for your organisation in the implementation of the Strategy?

✓ Procedures appear comprehensive and transparent; Members of SMG and SIGs must show a cross section not only as outlined but from grassroots as well as paid administration. As a school representative I would envisage that schools could pilot implementation and then mentor others as part of a regulated fund development procedure. From a club point of view the community enhancement must be to the forefront of implementation. Greater evidence of joint approaches from clubs and schools who would benefit all-round participation and athlete development. It is particularly important that Disability groups are involved in this implementation and monitoring, again community should be the catalyst for involvement. Special Olympics groups are perfect examples of community initiatives using volunteers, accessing District Council facilities/club facilities and involving local sports clubs for expertise. The structures and people are out there but they are working with limited resources, in isolation and with little capital input. Our three organizations will continue to attempt to deliver in difficult circumstances but would greatly benefit from professional administration and capital projects input.

7. Have you any other comments on the draft Strategy that you wish to offer?

✓ Training is essential for Teachers coaches and administrators to provide for joined up approaches. Funding must not be caught up in reams of red tape putting many organizations off considering a move forward or teachers spending time on paperwork that should be spent delivering. Young people do want to participate and succeed we have to provide the opportunities. This could not happen fast enough. Facilities, Facilities, Facilities.

St. Catherine's College P.E Department, Armagh

Edendork Camogie Club

Dungannon Special Olympics Club

Responses should be submitted to DCAL at the address below no later than

**9th January 2008**

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Sports Branch

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