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Spending Review 2018

Sports Capital Programme

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This paper has been prepared by IGEES staff in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The views presented in this paper are those of the authors alone and do not represent the official views of the Department or the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Summary

- The Sports Capital Programme is a scheme of Government capital grants for investment in sporting equipment and infrastructure across the country.
- Since 1998, almost €1bn has been awarded to over 10,000 individual projects. In 2017, €62.2m was awarded by the programme.
- The scheme will be the subject of a VFM in 2019 or 2020. In preparation for this review, a survey of 2017 applicants was conducted in February and March of this year with the objective of establishing a baseline of sporting participation before the drawing down of grant funding.
- Preliminary findings from the survey include:
 - Response rates of 68.9% among successful applicants and 66.3% for unsuccessful applicants.
 - Successful applicant respondents represent 68.3% of the total funding award (70.8% of the total when successful appeals are excluded).
 - Greater active participation among men than women and among under-18s than 18-64-year-olds, with significantly less participation among over-65s.
 - A greater share of successful applicants than unsuccessful applicants reported giving other organisations free access to their facilities.
 - Unsuccessful applicants reported providing more hours of access to other organisations on average and more access for individual non-members.
- Future runs of the survey will seek to incorporate lessons around survey design, response rates and burden on respondents, as well as being conducted in accordance with GDPR.

1. Introduction

The Sports Capital Programme is a scheme of grant funding available to sporting organisations across the country for the purpose of investing in equipment and facilities. It has the objectives of increasing sporting participation, prioritising the needs of disadvantaged areas and encouraging the sharing of facilities. Under the 2017 round of the scheme, grants worth a total of €62.2m were awarded.

The Sports Capital Programme will be the subject of a Value for Money and Policy Review (VFM) as part of the Government's current value for money review cycle. In preparation for this, the Strategic Research and Analysis Division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has conducted a survey of applicants under the 2017 round. The objective of this

survey is to establish a baseline of sporting participation among applicants against which changes can be measured by future surveys. This data will then be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme at achieving its stated objective of increasing sporting participation in the future VFM. The purpose of this Spending Review paper is to serve as a short precursor to the VFM and highlight some of the preliminary survey findings.

Section 2 of the paper gives a general overview of the Sports Capital Programme, with a particular focus on the 2017 round. Section 3 discusses the future VFM and the general approach that will be taken when evaluating the programme. Section 4 discusses the baselining survey that was undertaken this year before Section 5 sets out preliminary findings. Section 6 discusses next steps and lessons learned and Section 7 concludes with some summary remarks. Two appendices accompany the paper, setting out in detail the survey questions and data underlying the preliminary findings.

2. Overview of the Sports Capital Programme

The Sports Capital Programme is a Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport scheme of capital expenditure awarding grants to sporting organisations for the purchase of equipment and the development of facilities and infrastructure. The scheme is accounted for under Budgetary subhead D.3 of Vote 31. The scheme's objectives are:

1. To support sporting bodies in maximising participation in sport;
2. To prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas and groups; and,
3. To encourage the sharing of sporting facilities.

Grants are available to sports clubs, voluntary and community groups, national governing bodies and local authorities. Schools and other educational institutes may also apply on the condition that they do so jointly with a sporting body.

Generally speaking, the overall amount of funding available for grants to each county is calculated on a per capita basis. Applications from each county are then assessed against a number of criteria – capturing, among other things, likelihood of the project increasing participation, socioeconomic disadvantage in the project area and whether or not facilities will be shared – to determine if a grant will be awarded and, if so, what the value of the grant will be. The criteria and weightings for scoring 2017 applications are set out in greater detail in subsection 2.1.

Since its introduction in 1998 the scheme has awarded almost €1bn in grants to over 10,000 projects. Examples of the types of projects which have received funding include floodlighting, the laying of artificial playing surfaces and the building or refurbishment of club facilities. It should be noted that the scheme is predominately small-scale and local in focus, and that the Department is currently engaged in preparatory work for a new scheme for large sporting infrastructure which was announced in Budget 2018.

The Sports Capital Programme was run annually in the decade from 1998 to 2008 inclusive and intermittently in the decade since due to fiscal constraints brought about by the financial crisis. The four most recent rounds of the scheme have been in 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2017, with the 2017 round the focus of this Spending Review paper. It is anticipated that a further round of the scheme will be launched later in 2018.

2.1 Sports Capital Programme 2017

Looking specifically at the 2017 round of the scheme, 2,320 applications were received requesting a total amount of €150m. 463 of the applications received were determined to be invalid. Initially, €30m was available to award to successful applicants but supplementary funding secured as part of Budget 2018 saw this amount double to €60m. Of this, €56m was allocated to individual counties on a per capita basis and the remaining €4m was allocated to regional projects. The maximum grant awardable for a local project was €150,000 while the maximum grant available for a regional project was €200,000.

Box 1: Sports Capital Programme 2017 – Allocation Methodology for Valid Local Applications

The maximum grant for each valid application was multiplied by the application's assessment score, producing a weighted score **A**.

For each county, the **A** for every valid application was summed to derive a total county score of **T**.

T was then divided by the per capita level of funding available for each county, **C**. This produced a ratio of the total number of weighted points awarded in each county to the level of funding available in that county. Put another way, given the level of funding available in a county, this determined how much each weighted point an application received in the assessment phase should be worth in terms of allocating funding.

Recommended allocations were then derived on a pro-rated basis for each individual application using **A**.

Applications were scored from one to three against six criteria, with the score then weighted. The maximum possible score was 87. The six criteria and associated weight were:

1. Likelihood of increasing participation or performance (7);
2. Sharing of facilities (4);
3. Level of socioeconomic disadvantage in area (5);
4. Technical merits of project (4);
5. Level of own funding available (5); and,
6. Level of Sports Capital Programme funding received in previous 10 years (4).

Given the substantial increase in available funding following Budget 2018, a decision was taken that every valid local application would be awarded some amount of funding. In the

case of Dublin, the total valid funding request fell short of that county's per capita allocation, meaning that all valid applications in the county received the maximum grant requested. A downside of this approach is that it effectively removed the ability to discriminate between valid Dublin applications on the basis of social disadvantage, etc. The surplus Dublin allocation of €2.4m was reallocated to the rest of the country, again on a per capita basis. The methodology used to determine recommended grant awards is outlined in Box 1. It should be noted, however, that it is unlikely this methodology will be applied in future rounds, as the foreknowledge that every valid application will receive a grant might encourage applications regardless of their merit.

For the smaller pool of funding available for regional projects, those scoring in the top two-thirds of valid applications were awarded some amount of funding.

Finally, for the first time in 2017, applicants were able to appeal a funding decision. 149 appeals were made and 35 of these were upheld, leading an additional award of €2.3m in grants. These grants have been awarded outside of the normal per capita funding distribution for each county and will be met from existing resources. Including successful appeals, then, the overall amount awarded under the 2017 round of the Sports Capital Programme was €62.2m and the total number of projects funded was 1,800.

3. Future Value for Money and Policy Review

As part of the current value for money review cycle agreed by Government in July 2015, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport will conduct a VFM of the Sports Capital Programme. The scheme was previously reviewed in the early 2000s when it was administered by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. However, given that the previous review predates the update of the value for money review process in 2008 and publication of the Public Spending Code in 2013, and that improved fiscal conditions make regular runs of the programme in future more likely than in the recent past, the current review is a timely opportunity to ensure the best use of Sports Capital Programme funding. This short Spending Review paper is a precursor to the full VFM, which is expected to be completed in 2019 or 2020.

Each VFM aims to evaluate a scheme of expenditure against the following three questions:

1. Is the scheme of expenditure still relevant?
2. Is funding being used efficiently?
3. Is funding being used effectively?

In addressing the first of these questions, the VFM will take into consideration the original rationale for the scheme, whether that rationale still applies today and if the objectives of the scheme could be better delivered through some other mechanism or channel. In addressing the second question, the VFM will take into consideration the resources being used to deliver the scheme, and its administrative and governance arrangements.

Regarding the third question, the VFM will assess how effectively the scheme delivers on its three objectives set out in Section 2. To a large extent, delivery of two of the scheme's objectives can be facilitated by its design: the prioritisation of disadvantaged areas and the encouraging of facility sharing. The criteria used by the Sports Capital Programmes Division to score applications explicitly prioritises projects in areas designated as deprived on the Pobal deprivation index and which can demonstrate evidence that facilities will be shared. For the full VFM, then, it should be possible to use existing data to evaluate the scheme's effectiveness at achieving these two objectives.

Where a data gap currently exists, however, is in assessing how effective the scheme is at increasing participation in sport. To address this gap, the Strategic Research and Analysis Division carried out a baselining survey of applicants under the 2017 round of the scheme. It is worth emphasising that, due to the availability of data elsewhere to assess effectiveness

with regard to prioritising disadvantaged areas and encouraging sharing of facilities as outlined above, the core focus of the baselining survey is simply to capture participation. A small amount of additional data on sharing of facilities was captured by the survey but the issue of socioeconomic disadvantage was not intended to be addressed by the survey whatsoever. Finally, as the scheme's objective is to increase participation generally, only high level demographic data about participants was sought such as age and gender. Moreover, it was not expected that applicants would commonly hold more granular data with regard to their membership.

With the baseline established, it is intended that similar surveys will be undertaken in 2019 and 2020 to determine the impact investment has on participation over time.

4. Baseline Survey

The main objective of the baselining survey is to obtain an estimate of organisations' active sporting participation before Sports Capital Programme investment is drawn down, both for successful applicants and, if possible, unsuccessful applicants to serve as a control group. The survey was conducted using SurveyMonkey and first circulated to applicants for funding under the 2017 round of the Sports Capital Programme on 23 February 2018. The original deadline for responses was 16 March 2018 but, on foot of several requests from recipients for an extension, the deadline was extended to 31 March 2018. A small number of responses were received past this formal deadline.

The survey contained 20 questions divided into three broad sections: information about the organisation, information about the grant received (if any), and information about access to facilities by non-members. There was also a final, general question about survey follow up. Complete details of the survey questions can be found in Appendix 1.

In designing the covering emails that issued with the survey, some simple behavioural insights were used to encourage as high a response rate as possible. These included personalisation in the form of addressing contacts by their first name, keeping the email concise and simple, and setting out clearly what recipients had to do next and roughly how long the survey would take.

Over the course of running the survey, the Strategic Research and Analysis Division received queries from 165 survey recipients for issues ranging from accidentally submitting an incorrect survey to how best to estimate participation for schools. Aside from the obvious savings in terms of time and cost compared to conducting the survey by post, one of the main benefits of conducting the survey through SurveyMonkey is the dialogue that it facilitated between the review team and recipients, which allowed issues to be addressed and clarified before responses were submitted.

The overall, fully complete response rate for the survey was 1,582 out of 2,313 (68.4%). 1,275 of these responses indicated that they were awarded some amount of funding under the 2018 round of the scheme compared to 307 that indicated they did not receive a grant. Assuming respondents answered accurately about whether their organisation received a grant, this corresponds to response rate of 68.9% for successful applicants and a response rate of 66.3% for unsuccessful applicants.

5. Summary of Preliminary Findings

Note: Appendix 2 of this document contains the summary tables and figures referenced in the following text.

5.1 Participation

The total number of active participants reported by all survey respondents is 2,175,208. A number of caveats must be applied to this figure. Firstly, there may be duplication among memberships, i.e., people may be members of more than one organisation at the same time as memberships are not mutually exclusive. Secondly, the respondents include several very large umbrella organisations who reported six-figure membership numbers, e.g., GAA county boards. Thirdly, some organisations submitted multiple responses as a result of multiple applications, and submitted the same membership figure for each separate response – in a case where an organisation submitted four separate responses, their membership figure contributes to the total four times instead of once. Follow-up surveys, to be conducted in future as part of the full VFM, will ask respondents to once again report numbers of active participants in order to ascertain if these numbers have changed in the time since the awarding of grant funding.

5.2 Age and Gender

Information relating to the gender profile of reported active participants is shown in Table 1. Respondents reported average numbers of 674 male and 570 female participants respectively. 99.2% of respondents reported some number of male active participants, while 98.7% of respondents reported female active participants. The age profile of reported active participants is shown in Table 2. On average, respondents reported 619 active participants under the age of 18, 575 active participants in the 18-64 age group, and 131 active participants aged 65 or over. Only 79.1% of respondents reported having active participants aged 65 or over, lower than the corresponding figures of 95.3% for participants aged under 18 and 96.8% for participants aged 18-64.

Tables 3 and 4 show the reported gender and age characteristics of active participants for respondent cohorts broken down by reported application status. In the cohort of respondents who reported being awarded a grant, the average reported levels of active participants were 656 male and 568 female, while unsuccessful applicants reported on average 750 male and 580 female participants. Regarding age, the average figures reported for the successful cohort were 625 active participants aged under 18, 567 aged 18-64 and 115 aged 65 or over, while

those for the unsuccessful cohort were 591 aged under 18, 610 aged 18-64 and 204 aged 65 or over.

5.3 Regional Distribution of Funding

The breakdown by county of funding amounts for respondents who reported being successfully awarded a grant is shown in Table 5. The total amount of funding award reported is €42,491,055 which represents 68.3% of the total award of €62.2m (70.8% of the pre-appeals total of €60m). As the table shows, Dublin has a significantly higher share of the reported funding awards than any other county at 21.5%, reflecting the per capita distribution of funding at the county level. Respondents from Cork reported funding awards totalling 11.8% of all reported awards, with Galway (6.4%) and Kildare (5.2%) the only other counties to have reported funding awards of over 5%. Longford and Leitrim had the lowest levels of reported funding awards, with 0.9% each.

5.4 Purposes of Funding

Further information on the sports and purposes for which funding was sought is available for respondents who reported being successful in their funding applications (due to the structure of the SurveyMonkey form, these questions were not asked of respondents who reported being unsuccessful in their application). The breakdown of sports for which these respondents sought funding is shown in Table 6 and Figure A. (It is important to note that applicants could seek funding for multiple sports.) Gaelic Games was the category of sport for which funding was sought most often with 39.4% of successful applicant respondents stating they sought funding for this category. 19.8% of successful applicant respondents sought funding for soccer, 10.7% for athletics, with funding for the other specified categories (tennis, rugby, boxing and golf) being sought less often. 38.8% of successful applicant respondents sought funding for sports other than those specified.

The purposes for which funding was sought by respondents who reported successful applications are shown in Table 7 and Figure B. (Again, it is important to note that applicants could report seeking funding for several purposes.) 84.9% reported seeking funding for “increased quality of facilities”. “Increasing participation among current members” was reported as a purpose for funding sought by 62.4% of successful applicant respondents, with “attracting new members” reported by 59.5% of respondents. A little over one in three of these respondents (36.9%) reported seeking funding to “facilitate use of facilities by multiple organisations”, while one in four (26.3%) reported seeking funding to “facilitate use of facilities for multiple sports”. 30% of respondents reported seeking funding for “improved facilities for disabled users”. As shown in Table 8, 88.8% of successful applicant respondents who

answered on target groups for funding reported that they sought funding for the benefit of the organisation in general, with just under 6% reporting seeking funding for the benefit of a particular group within their organisation and 5.3% for a group outside their organisation.

5.5 Access to Facilities

Table 9 shows the breakdown of respondents' answers on the topic of access provided to their facilities for other organisations (schools, clubs, community groups, etc.). 83.1% of all respondents reported that they provided access to their facilities to other groups (82.9% of respondents whose applications were successful, and 83.7% among unsuccessful applicant respondents). Table 10 and Figure C show that 56.3% of all respondents reported providing access to other organisations on an unpaid basis, with 26.9% reporting provision of access on a paid basis and 16.9% not answering. A higher percentage of successful applicant respondents reported providing free access for other organisations than unsuccessful applicant respondents (57.2% as opposed to 52.4%). Table 11 and Figure D display data on the number of other organisations that respondents reported giving access to. The data shows that, broadly speaking, greater proportions of successful than unsuccessful applicant respondents provide access to between 1 and 8 other organisations, although the difference in proportions in these categories is marginal. The proportion of unsuccessful applicant respondents providing access to 9 or more organisations is notably larger than the proportions for successful applicant respondents. Table 12 shows that unsuccessful applicant respondents reported a higher average number of hours of access provided per week to other organisations than successful applicant respondents (22.8 hours versus 20.1 hours).

Table 13 and Figure E show that, when asked about providing access to individual users (non-members), 31.1% of respondents reported providing individual access without fees, 8.9% reported providing access with regular (e.g. monthly) fees, and 34.5% reported providing access with pay-as-you-go fees. (Again, it is possible for respondents to have chosen more than one of these answer categories.) 39.9% of organisations reported providing no access to individual non-members. Figure E shows that a higher percentage of successful applicant respondents reported providing no access to individual non-members than unsuccessful applicant respondents (40.6% versus 36.8%), and that the proportion of unsuccessful applicant respondents providing access to individual non-members was consistently greater than that of successful applicant respondents across the three answer categories for provision of access (free, regular fees and pay-as-you-go fees).

5.6 Summary of Findings

Some high-level conclusions from the data as discussed above are the following:

- Active participation is greater among men than woman and greater among those aged under 18 or 18-64 than among those over 65 (findings that hold across successful and unsuccessful applicant cohorts).
- The distribution of funding among respondents broadly follows expected patterns based on per-capita allocation, with Dublin the county receiving the highest proportion of funding.
- Of the sports specifically suggested in the survey, Gaelic games, soccer and athletics were those for which the largest numbers of successful respondents reported seeking funding.
- Successful applicants most frequently reported seeking funding to increase the quality of their facilities, to increase participation among current members, and to attract new members, with use of facilities by multiple organisations and for multiple sports less frequently cited.
- A greater proportion of successful than unsuccessful applicants reported offering free access to their facilities for other organisations, while unsuccessful applicants reported providing more hours of access to other organisations each week on average and more access for individual non-members than successful applicants.

6. Next Steps and Lessons Learned

As previously stated, it is intended that the survey will be rerun in future to help evaluate the effectiveness of the programme in terms of increasing sporting participation. Given that, for various reasons, there can be a long period of time between a grant being awarded to an organisation and funding actually being drawn down, it is important to leave sufficient time between runs of the survey for funding to have had an impact. The review team will liaise with the Sports Capital Programmes Division to determine the appropriate timeframe before running the survey again, though it is currently anticipated that it will take place in approximately 12 months' time. A number of lessons have been learned from conducting the recent survey and these will help to inform future iterations.

6.1 Survey Design

Good survey design is a fundamental element of capturing the desired data efficiently and effectively. While the current survey seems to have worked well for the majority of respondents and had a good response rate, a number of modifications may be made in future runs to ensure its added value is maximised.

A simple modification made while the recent survey was live and that will likely be retained in future was the addition of a final question, unrelated to the core research, making clear that once the respondent pressed submit the survey would end and they would no longer be able to modify their answers. This amendment was taken in response to a number of emails received from respondents early on stating that they had submitted their responses in error, either because they did not realise they had reached the end of the survey or because they were going through the survey filling in dummy answers to see the questions in advance of completing it properly.

Another common complaint received from schools and education and training boards is that the early sections of the survey were more relevant to sports clubs with members. Respondents in such cases were asked to estimate the active users of facilities as nearly as possible, or submit a value of zero if they were unable to do so, as the later questions in the survey relating to access to facilities would be more directly relevant to their organisation. However, in future runs it may be worth determining the type of organisation responding early in the survey and directing them to a tailored set of relevant questions.

As mentioned in Section 5, another issue is that due to the structure of the survey unsuccessful applicants did not provide information on the purpose of the grant they sought. While the core

purpose of the baselining survey is to measure participation, such data would have been valuable to compare the characteristics of successful and unsuccessful applicants. This can easily be rectified in future through reordering of the survey.

6.2 Response Rates

Another issue that was only identified by the review team midway through running the survey is that email invitations did not initially issue in respect of 140 applications (about 6% of total applications received). This occurred in instances where one email address was associated with multiple applications, typically in the case of Local Authorities that submitted a large number of applications for their area. Where the same email address occurs multiple times in a contact list, SurveyMonkey issues just one survey for the first instance of the email address that it encounters. As a consequence of this, additional emails were sent manually on the 23 March 2018 asking affected recipients to complete the survey for each application they were attached to. Despite this, the fully complete survey response rate from the affected group was 19.5%, which was substantially lower than the overall response rate of 68.4%. While it can be expected that the response rate from applicants with multiple projects will always be lower than average due to the additional burden of completing the survey multiple times, awareness of this issue with SurveyMonkey's automated mailing feature will mean that manual emails are issued at the outset next time and hopefully lead to a better response rate from Local Authorities and other large bodies.

6.3 Burden on Respondents

Some respondents complained that the survey asked them to provide similar information to that already provided as part of their grant application. While the review team is satisfied that the survey generally gathered information beyond what was collected as part of the application process and was not unduly burdensome (average survey completion once started was 88% and average time taken was 13 minutes and 39 seconds), it is accepted that some streamlining may be possible in future runs by incorporating more application data and maintaining a focus on the core data gap of participation. Reducing the burden on respondents should help to increase response rates, however it may be worth considering the inclusion of a question on participation rates in the application process itself in future to ensure comprehensive coverage.

6.4 Data Protection

Finally, it is unclear if the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulation on 25 May 2018 will have any implications for conducting the survey in future. Before running the survey again, the review team will liaise with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

to ensure data protection compliance while still aiming to gather the necessary data to assess effectiveness as part of the future VFM.

7. Conclusions

The objective of this paper was to provide an overview of the Sports Capital Programme and set out the preliminary findings from the baselining applicant survey undertaken this year in advance of a full Value for Money and Policy Review. The paper has set out the scheme's function as a means of providing Government support for small sporting projects throughout the country, with the objectives of increasing participation, supporting disadvantaged areas and encouraging the sharing of facilities. In the 2017 round of the programme a total of €62.2m was awarded to 1,800 individual projects.

To assess the effectiveness of the programme at increasing sporting participation, a survey of applicants under the 2017 round was undertaken to establish a baseline of activity before investment is drawn down. Future surveys will assess the variation in participation from this baseline following investment and with reference to a control group. The survey had a fully complete response rate of 68.4% capturing 68.3% of the total, post-appeals value of grants awarded. Some of the high-level findings from the survey are that active participation is greatest among men and those aged under 18, a greater proportion of successful organisations reported offering free access to their facilities, and unsuccessful organisations reported providing more hours of access to other organisations each week on average and more access for individual non-members.

A number of themes emerged from the review team's correspondence with respondents, and these will be taken into consideration when running the survey again in future. These include better tailoring of the survey to non-sporting organisations such as schools, reordering of questions to capture more information from unsuccessful organisations and, as far as possible, reducing the burden of completing the survey by incorporating more data already captured as part of the application process.

Appendix 1: Sports Capital Programme 2017 Baseline Survey

Below is the complete list of questions asked to Sports Capital Programme funding applicants as part of the baselining survey. It should be noted that question logic was applied, meaning that not all respondents were presented with all questions. For example, a negative response to question 6 would have moved the survey forward to question 13. It should be noted, also, that a few slight amendments were made to the survey while it was live on foot of feedback received from respondents, and the below list represents the final survey used.

Organisation Information

1. What is your organisation's name?
2. What is your organisation's unique application/grant number?
3. How many actively participating members does your organisation have in total?
4. Of these active participants, how many fall into the following gender categories?
(Male/Female)
5. Of these active participants, how many fall into the following age categories?
(Under 18/18-64/65+)

Grant Information

6. Was your organisation awarded a grant under the 2017 round of the Sports Capital Programme?
(Yes/No)
7. What is the value of the grant awarded to your organisation?
8. In what county will investment take place?
9. Which sport(s) does your organisation intend to use Sports Capital Programme funding to invest in? (Check all that apply)
(Gaelic Games/Soccer/Golf/Boxing/Rugby/Tennis/Athletics/Other (please specify))

10. What is the purpose of this investment? (Check all that apply)
*(Attracting new members/Increasing participation among current members/Increased quality of facilities/Improved safety standard of facilities/Improved sustainability of facilities/
Improved facilities for disabled users/To facilitate improved sporting performance for members/To facilitate use of facilities for multiple sports/To facilitate use of facilities by multiple organisations/Other (please specify))*
11. Is the investment mainly for the benefit of your organisation in general or aimed towards a particular group of members/participants? (Please choose one answer only.)
(Organisation in general/Particular group (please specify which))
12. How many members/participants are in the group targeted for investment?

Access to Facilities

13. Does your organisation provide access to facilities to other groups (schools, clubs, community groups, etc.)?
(If yes, how many organisations access your facilities currently?)
14. Please specify the names of the organisations that use your facilities currently. (Take a new line for each organisation)
15. On average, for how many hours per week are other organisations provided with access to your facilities?
16. Is access for other organisations on a paid basis?
17. Does your organisation provide access to individual users (non-members)?
(Yes, without fees/Yes, with regular fees (e.g., monthly)/Yes, with pay-as-you-go fees/No/If more than one of the above applies, please explain)
18. Is there a standard or typical hourly/sessional rate for use of facilities?
(If yes, please specify the rate)
19. Do different rates apply? (e.g. concessionary rates for unemployed, pensioners, etc.)

(If yes, please specify the average level of discount available (e.g., 30%))

Survey Follow Up

20. Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey. Can we contact you again if we wish to clarify any of your responses? (Note: You won't be able to change your answers once you submit the survey)

Appendix 2: Baseline Survey Results - Tables and Graphs

Table 1: Gender characteristics of active participants

Of [your reported] active participants, how many fall into the following gender categories?				
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	% of total answers
Male	674	1057323	1569	99.2%
Female	570	890577	1562	98.7%
			Answered	1582
			Skipped	0

Table 2: Age characteristics of active participants

Of [your reported] active participants, how many fall into the following age categories?				
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	% of total answers
Under 18	619	932674	1507	95.3%
18-64	575	880618	1531	96.8%
65+	131	164199	1251	79.1%
			Answered	1582
			Skipped	0

Table 3: Gender characteristics of active participants, successful and unsuccessful applicants

Successful applicants

Of [your reported] active participants, how many fall into the following gender categories?				
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	% of total answers
Male	656	830899	1267	99.4%
Female	568	712906	1256	98.5%
			Answered	1275
			Skipped	0

Unsuccessful applicants

Of [your reported] active participants, how many fall into the following gender categories?				
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	% of total answers
Male	750	226440	302	98.4%
Female	580	177602	306	99.7%
			Answered	307
			Skipped	0

Table 4: Age characteristics of active participants, successful and unsuccessful applicants

Successful applicants

Of [your reported] active participants, how many fall into the following age categories?				
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	% of total answers
Under 18	625	763708	1221	95.8%
18-64	567	701823	1238	97.1%
65+	115	117188	1020	80.0%

Answered 1275

Skipped 0

Unsuccessful applicants

Of [your reported] active participants, how many fall into the following age categories?				
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	% of total answers
Under 18	591	168966	286	93.2%
18-64	610	178795	293	95.4%
65+	204	47011	231	75.2%

Answered 307

Skipped 0

Table 5: Reported funding awarded by county (successful applicants only)

County	Observations	Mean (€)	Total (€)	% of total
Dublin	153	59,691.33	9,132,773.49	21.5%
Cork	147	34,043.37	5,004,375.39	11.8%
Galway	91	30,028.57	2,732,599.87	6.4%
Kildare	54	40,897.30	2,208,454.20	5.2%
Meath	59	32,301.49	1,905,787.91	4.5%
Tipperary	66	27,869.70	1,839,400.20	4.3%
Limerick	61	27,819.67	1,696,999.87	4.0%
Louth	35	43,011.89	1,505,416.15	3.5%
Mayo	54	26,353.87	1,423,108.98	3.3%
Kerry	59	23,807.03	1,404,614.77	3.3%
Wicklow	47	28,845.15	1,355,722.05	3.2%
Waterford	35	36,798.57	1,287,949.95	3.0%
Clare	42	29,978.21	1,259,084.82	3.0%
Wexford	45	27,818.89	1,251,850.05	2.9%
Donegal	46	25,243.48	1,161,200.08	2.7%
Offaly	30	27,273.53	818,205.90	1.9%
Kilkenny	37	21,974.65	813,062.05	1.9%
Laois	34	23,662.82	804,535.88	1.9%
Cavan	27	29,213.30	788,759.10	1.9%
Carlow	25	31,250.52	781,263.00	1.8%
Westmeath	25	29,116.00	727,900.00	1.7%
Sligo	22	28,991.45	637,811.90	1.5%
Roscommon	29	21,251.72	616,299.88	1.5%
Monaghan	27	21,314.07	575,479.89	1.4%
Longford	12	31,700.00	380,400.00	0.9%
Leitrim	13	29,076.92	377,999.96	0.9%
Total	1275		42,491,055.34	100.0%

Table 6: Sports for which funding was sought (successful applicants only)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Gaelic Games	39.4%	502
Soccer	19.8%	252
Golf	3.9%	50
Boxing	4.2%	53
Rugby	5.5%	70
Tennis	5.7%	72
Athletics	10.7%	136
Other (please specify)	38.8%	495
	Answered	1275
	Skipped	307

Figure A: Sports for which funding was sought (successful applicants only)

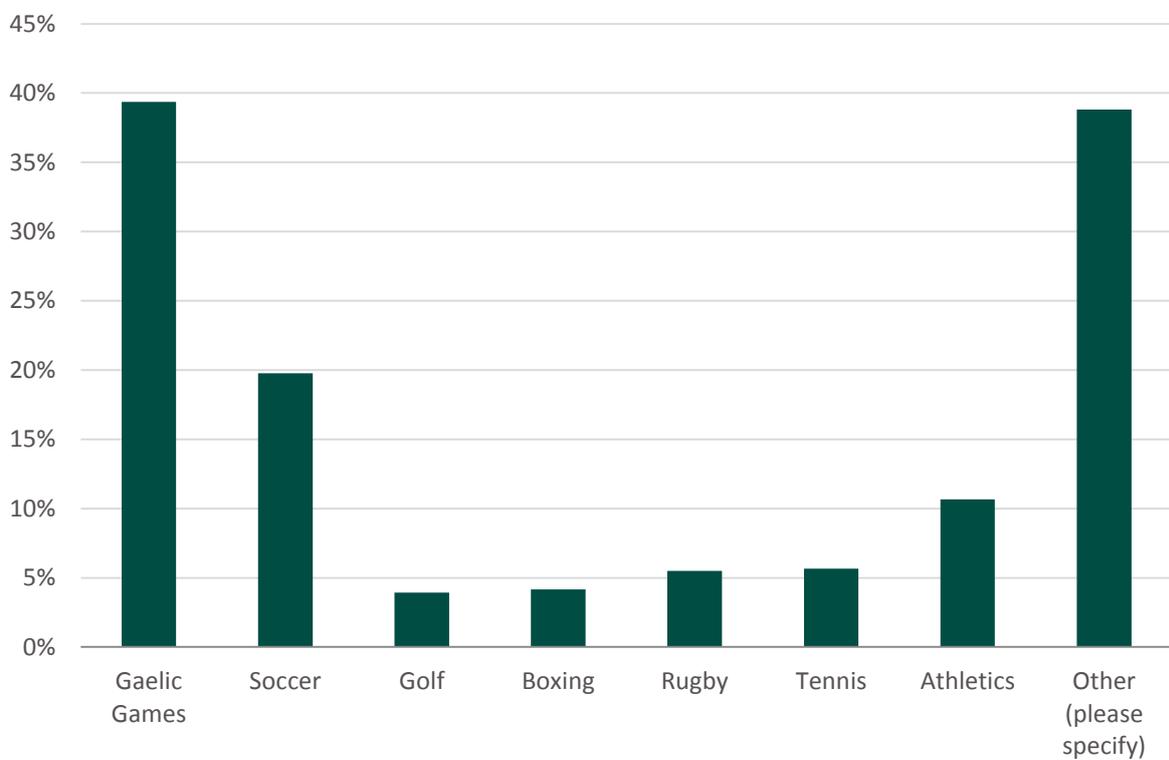


Table 7: Purposes for which funding was sought (successful applicants only)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Attracting new members	59.45%	758
Increasing participation among current members	62.43%	796
Increased quality of facilities	84.86%	1082
Improved safety standard of facilities	45.57%	581
Improved sustainability of facilities	43.84%	559
Improved facilities for disabled users	29.96%	382
To facilitate improved sporting performance for members	53.96%	688
To facilitate use of facilities for multiple sports	26.27%	335
To facilitate use of facilities by multiple organisations	36.94%	471
Other (please specify)	7.76%	99
	Answered	1275
	Skipped	307

Figure B: Purposes for which funding was sought (successful applicants only)

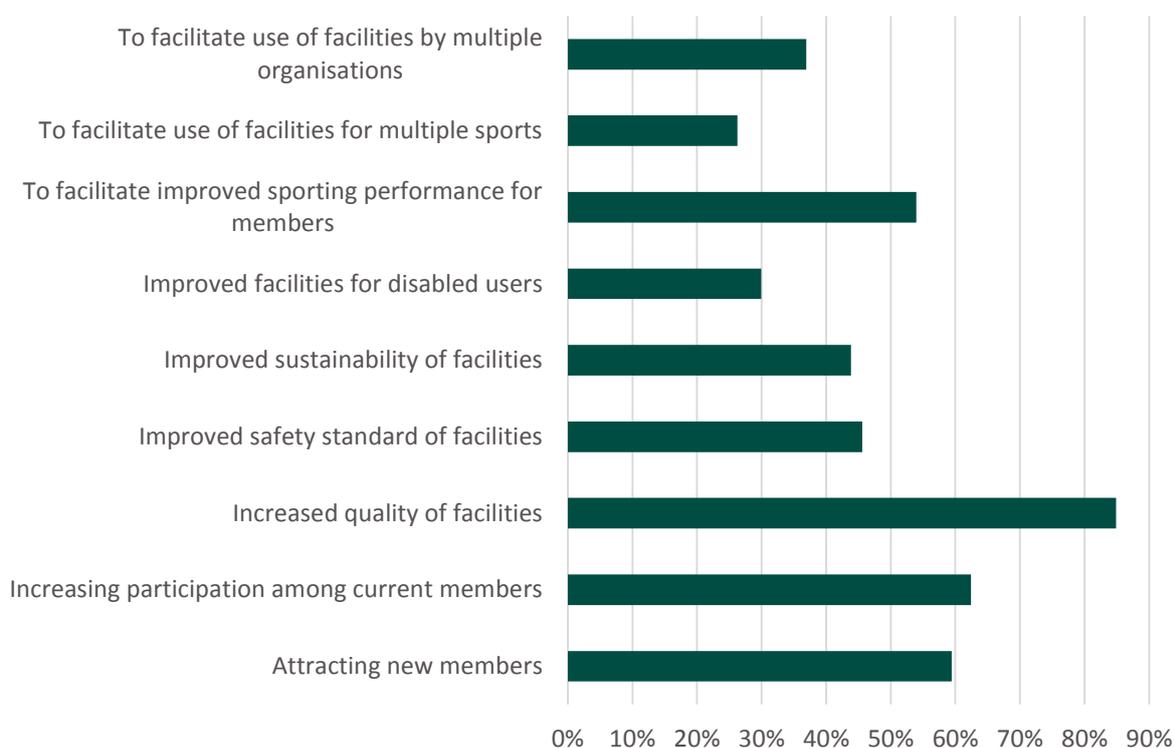


Table 8: Group for which funding was sought (successful applicants only)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Organisation in general	88.78%	1132
Particular group within organisation	5.96%	76
Particular group outside organisation	5.25%	67
	Answered	1275
	Skipped	307

Table 9: Access provided to facilities for other organisations

Does your organisation provide access to facilities to other groups (schools, clubs, community groups, etc.)?

Answer Choices	Responses					
	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
Yes	1,057	82.9%	257	83.7%	1,314	83.1%
No	218	17.1%	50	16.3%	268	16.9%
Total	1,275	100.0%	307	100.0%	1,582	100.0%

Table 10: Access to other organisations on a paid/unpaid basis

Is access for other organisations on a paid basis?

Answer Choices	Responses					
	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
Yes (access is on a paid basis)	329	25.8%	96	31.3%	425	26.9%
No (access is free)	729	57.2%	161	52.4%	890	56.3%
Did not answer	217	17.0%	50	16.3%	267	16.9%
Total	1,275	100.0%	307	100.0%	1,582	100.0%

Figure C: Access to other organisations on a paid/unpaid basis

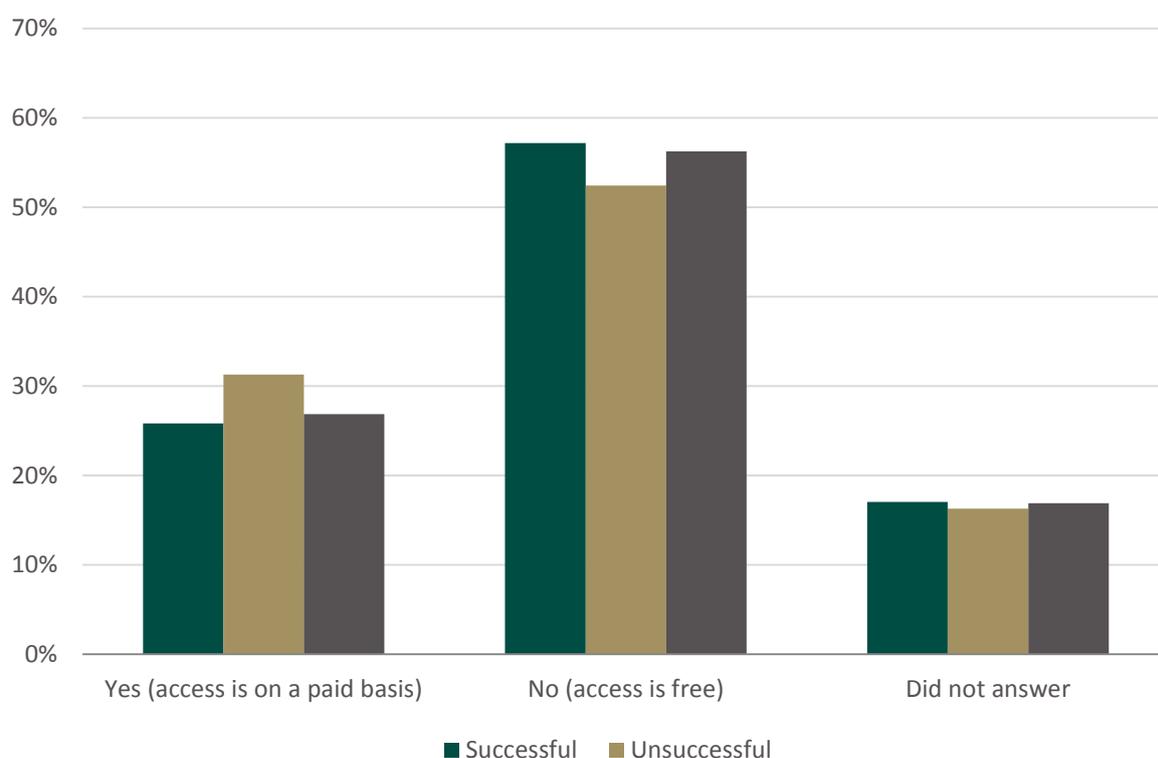


Table 11: Number of other organisations provided with access to facilities

Number of organisations	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
Did not answer	386	30.3%	72	23.5%	458	29.0%
1	58	4.5%	9	2.9%	67	4.2%
2	115	9.0%	27	8.8%	142	9.0%
3	124	9.7%	29	9.4%	153	9.7%
4	112	8.8%	27	8.8%	139	8.8%
5	115	9.0%	26	8.5%	141	8.9%
6	81	6.4%	14	4.6%	95	6.0%
7	37	2.9%	8	2.6%	45	2.8%
8	34	2.7%	8	2.6%	42	2.7%
9	17	1.3%	11	3.6%	28	1.8%
10	68	5.3%	25	8.1%	93	5.9%
11+	128	10.0%	51	16.6%	179	11.3%
Total	1,275	100%	307	100%	1,582	100%

Figure D: Number of other organisations provided with access to facilities

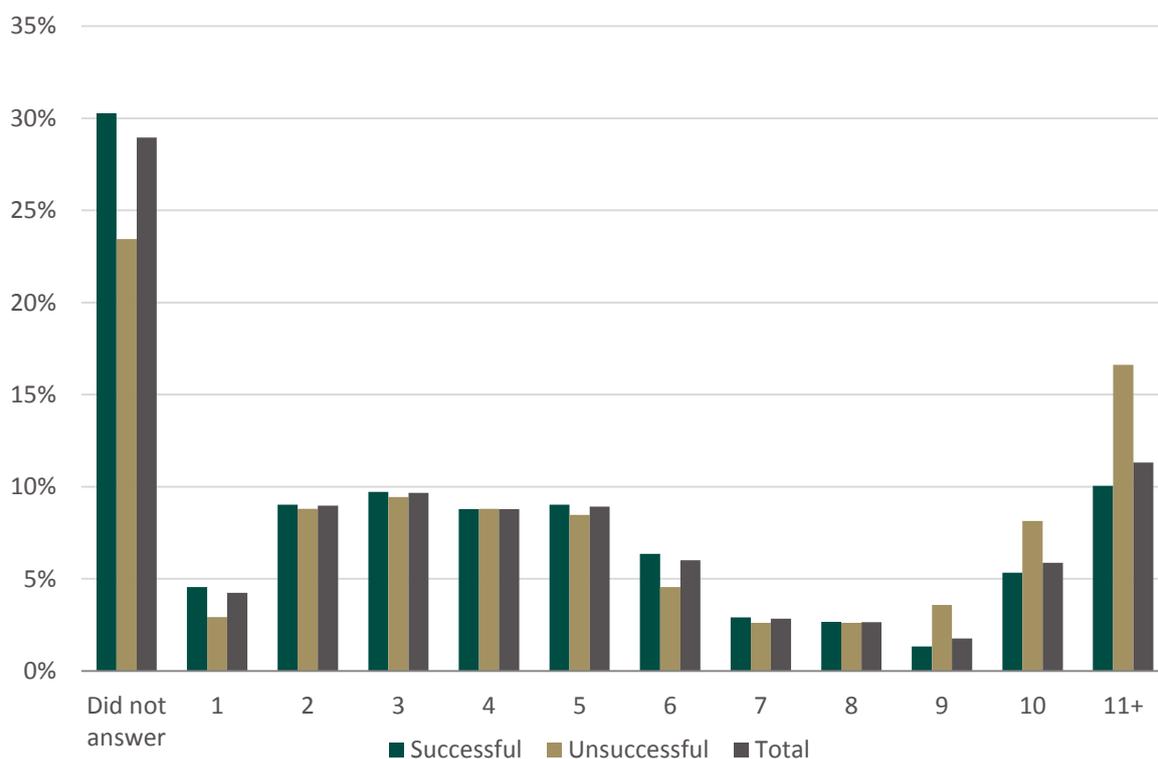


Table 12: Average hours of access to facilities per week for other organisations

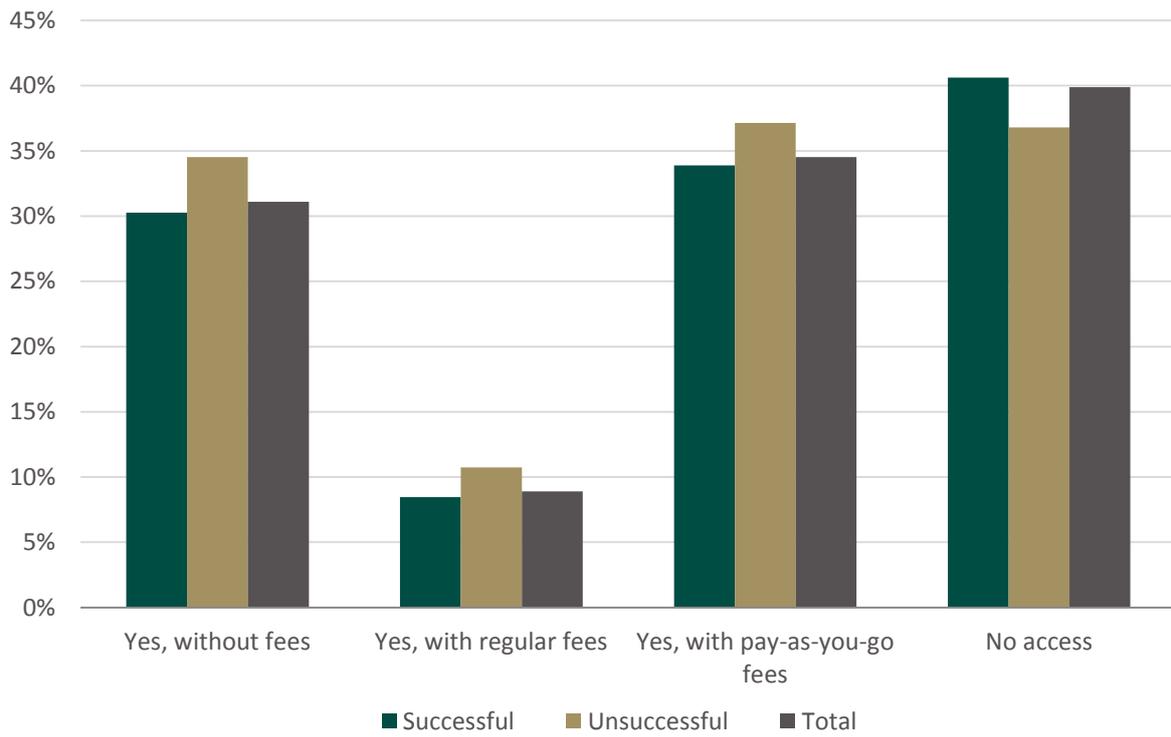
On average, for how many hours per week are other organisations provided with access to your facilities?	Hours
Successful applicants	20.1
Unsuccessful applicants	22.8
Total	20.6

Table 13: Access to facilities for individual non-members

Does your organisation provide access to individual users (non-members)?

Answer Choices	Responses					
	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
Yes, without fees	386	30.3%	106	34.5%	492	31.1%
Did not answer	889	69.7%	201	65.5%	1,090	68.9%
Total	1,275		307		1,582	
	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
Yes, with regular fees	108	8.5%	33	10.7%	141	8.9%
Did not answer	1,167	91.5%	274	89.3%	1,441	91.1%
Total	1,275		307		1,582	
	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
Yes, with pay-as-you-go fees	432	33.9%	114	37.1%	546	34.5%
Did not answer	843	66.1%	193	62.9%	1,036	65.5%
Total	1,275		307		1,582	
	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total	Total%
No access	518	40.6%	113	36.8%	631	39.9%
Did not answer	757	59.4%	194	63.2%	951	60.1%
Total	1,275		307		1,582	

Figure E: Access to facilities for individual non-members



Quality assurance process

To ensure accuracy and methodological rigour, the author engaged in the following quality assurance process.

- Internal/Departmental
 - Line management
 - Spending Review Steering group
 - Other divisions/sections
 - Peer review (IGEES network, seminars, conferences etc.)

- External
 - Other Government Department
 - Steering group
 - Quality Assurance Group (QAG)
 - Peer review (IGEES network, seminars, conferences etc.)
 - External expert(s)

- Other (relevant details)