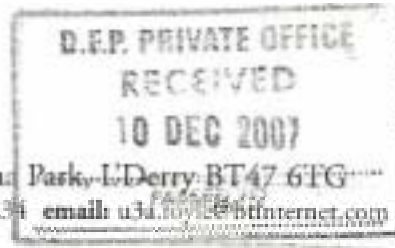




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6th December 2007

Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MP, **M L A**

Department Finance and Personnel

Craigantlet Buildings

Stoney Road

Belfast

BT4 3SX

Dear Mr **Robinson**

Deliver Sport NI's **investment** programmes*

i attended the information session held in **the Guildhall Londonderry on the three** government strategy draft documents on Thursday 29th November. At the time I attended I was aware that Central Government had withdrawn a considerable amount of lottery money to fund London Olympics 2012. As Chairman of U3A Foyle's Development Committee I had been informed by the Chairman Nick Harkness Director Participation and Facilities, Sport Northern Ireland, **that** our successful **bid** for funding for our project, an 'Active Ageing Centre' and multi-sports development officer, was in jeopardy due to 'funding constraints **on** SNI' as a result of withdrawal of lottery funding. Sports NI **wrote** to us to say that 'had we been able to reflect your application's strength with an offer it is likely that we would have:

- **Made a Stage One** offer of award;
- Reserved a capital figure of a maximum of £750,000 towards this project.'

U3A Foyle has been providing:

- Educational **courses**;
- Recreational activities;
- Social events;

for its members living in the North-West for 17 years.

Our active ageing programme is now reaching out across **the** community. This programme will provide a healthy and active lifestyle for older men and women. One of its many aims and benefits will be to provide a healthier old age for people, reducing and in a number of

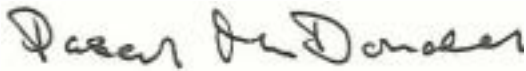
cases eliminating time spent in hospital and care homes. The net effect will be to reduce substantially money spent on health care – 47% of your budget.

To provide, develop and expand our programme we have employed consultants and prepared a 'Green Book'. The entire project will cost £2.5 million. Therefore you can appreciate it is essential that we obtain our share of the money allocated by the lottery to Sport NI.

I am asking you to support the bid of Sport NI to the Comprehensive Spending Review aware of the fact that you may have to go back to Central Government for additional funding.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pascal McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Pascal McDonald

Chairman U3A Foyle Development Committee

"Promoting Health and Addressing Health Inequalities" PSA 8