

# PRESS RELEASE



**TO:** News Editors, Sports Correspondents

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## **FAI Governance Review Group**

The FAI Governance Review Group was established as a joint partnership initiative agreed between the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and Sport Ireland in April 2019 with the objective of completing our work and providing a final report on 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Group was tasked with reviewing the existing governance arrangements within the FAI and proposing a governance framework for the FAI in the context of good governance principles and practice.

Over recent weeks the review group have heard about, read about and been presented with much evidence of the great and unsung work done by volunteers, mentors, coaches, FAI staff and many others across the country and in a review of this nature it is important to acknowledge and to commend this work.

We have also unfortunately heard about and been presented with evidence of a breakdown in trust, confidence and faith in the Association. This review is primarily focussed on identifying and recommending actions and initiatives that, if implemented as envisaged, aim to rebuild and restore trust, confidence and faith in how the Association is governed.

The recommendations set out a clear pathway for improved corporate governance arrangements and better governance structures within the FAI. They point to the requirement for fundamental change. This fundamental change and reform will facilitate better governance practices at all levels in the organisation.

This report calls for serious reflection and determined action by those who have the authority and power to support and endorse these recommendations. The report also calls for a serious reflection by those who may see themselves taking on governance positions, to acknowledge the profound duties and expectations that go with these roles.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff at the FAI who provided the group with all the information and documentation we sought and who handled all of our requests in a professional and courteous manner.

On behalf of the Governance Review Group and on my own behalf, I would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation for all those who actively contributed to the work of the Group, including those who individually and collectively submitted proposals, ideas and perspectives, those who participated in the Stakeholder Forum as well as FAI board members, management and staff.

I would also like to thank the Board of the FAI, FAI President Donal Conway, FAI Chief Operating Officer Rea Walshe, Sport Ireland Chairperson Kieran Mulvey and Sport Ireland CEO John Tracey for their active support for our work.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Governance Review Group for their professionalism, commitment and valuable insights.

My final comment reflects a statement in a submission received from a contributor which I was particularly taken by. The statement read "good governance is at the heart of how we operate our business". I would like to think that this report is a contribution to ensure that good governance is at the heart of how the FAI operates and does its business from now on.

I wish the FAI success on its journey to reform.

**ENDS**