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Chairman: Paul Walsh, Fia Rua, Ballinclare, Ballycanew, Gorey, Co Wexford  
Tele: 086-828 2700 Email: [paul.a.walshpc@gmail.com](mailto:paul.a.walshpc@gmail.com)

**Attention: All T.D.'S & Senators.**

**Re: Proposed FCP Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2018 @ 9.30am**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since our inception the Sports Coalition has enjoyed the support of many members of Leinster House and have regularly updated the members with mailshots to inform you of the progress being made in relation to the recreational use of firearms for both hunting and target shooting.

Unfortunately we must now report that the Sports Coalition has been forced into a position where we cannot attend the next meeting of the Firearms Consultative Panel.

Two criminal matters were reported by us to An Garda Siochana in relation to an NGO that also sits on the FCP. We took the decision to report these matters when it became quite apparent to us that nobody else was going to do anything. We hesitantly became the 'whistle blowers' while it was also obvious that some of our members were the innocent victims. Subsequent to making our complaints we were somewhat concerned by the length of time it took to initiate the investigation.

It is regrettable to say that a meeting of the FCP is scheduled for this Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb with the NGO present to advise the Minister on future matters while they are under investigation.

The reward for standing up and telling the truth is to be put in a position where we cannot attend a meeting for fear of jeopardising investigation matters. The Sports Coalition represents a broad spectrum of countryside users who have become 'Whistle Blowers' 'Victims' and 'Complainants' of these matters and the treatment of our members in these regards is disappointing to say the least.

Yours sincerely

*...Paul Walsh.....*

**Paul Walsh Chairperson Sports Coalition.**