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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)

Department of Justice & Equality  
94 St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

Attn: Marion Walsh

19<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

Dear Marion,

I refer to a proposed meeting of the Firearms Consultative Panel.

It is with considerable regret that I must inform you of our decision not to attend this meeting. This is not a decision which we reached easily. As you know the Sports Coalition made two complaints to An Garda Síochána in relation to an NGO which sits on the FCP. Indeed one of these complaints was made at a 'Night-time Shooting Working Group' meeting. The other complaint is in relation to the illegal use of the Garda Logo which is a serious crime with serious penalties.

Due to the seriousness of the implications of our not attending this meeting it is important that you understand the clear rationale behind our thinking. Because of the inaction of An Garda Síochána whose responsibility is to detect and investigate criminal matters we were forced into the position of 'whistle blowers', in these matters. It then became apparent to us that not only were we the 'whistle blower', but in fact also the innocent victims of this activity. We then as previously stated reported both matters to An Garda Síochána which in turn made us the complainants.

For the Department not to recognise that these three situations combined put us in a category where we deserve some credence but instead to disregard these outstanding circumstances and carry on regardless is insulting not only to us but to all people that the state asks to stand up and be counted upon when necessary.

It is quite simply a step too far for the Sports Coalition to sit at this meeting on any agenda with such an organisation present.

The track record of the SC is one of honesty and diligence to matters which we were charged with by Minister Fitzgerald when she reconvened the FCP. We have never avoided the hard or unpopular decisions and have clearly addressed all issues with an oversight of public safety and the pursuits of law abiding firearm users and under different circumstances we look forward to getting back to the positive work which the FCP was doing.

Yours sincerely

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

**Paul Walsh**

**Chairperson Sports Coalition**

**Mobile: 086 8282700**