

NICCY

northern ireland commissioner
for children and young people

patricia lewsley-mooney
commissioner

Sarah Benton
Department of Finance and Personnel
Rathgael House
Balloo Road
Bangor
BT19 7NA

1 November 2012

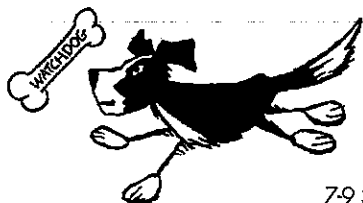
Dear Ms Benton

Dormant accounts funding consultation

While NICCY appreciates that the current consultation is concerned only with the means of distribution of dormant accounts funding I would like to take the opportunity to direct the Department to key concerns outlined in the enclosed 2009 submission.

While the delays in progressing scheme and the reduction in available funds from initial estimations have been disappointing, I welcome that work with children and young people is one of the Minister's priority areas for the monies and hope that this is endorsed by the Northern Ireland Executive. I would request that the allocation of funds from dormant accounts takes account of the issues raised in NICCY's original consultation response. NICCY would draw particular attention to the concern that there should be participation of children and young people in the overall operation of the funding arrangements and that this should be incorporated into the requirements for individual projects and programmes seeking to access monies.

While NICCY has no view with regard to the specific body through which dormant accounts funding is administered I would highlight that this must be in accordance with the original intent and principles of the funding scheme such as promoting social benefit and a not-for-profit ethos and should operate to the highest standards of transparency and accountability. The Department should also ensure that, regardless of the mechanism used for distribution, access to dormant accounts funds should not operate in a manner, which is more restricted than arrangements in other jurisdictions.



Do not hesitate to contact my office if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Lewsley-Mooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia Lewsley-Mooney
Commissioner for Children and Young People

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