

Non-Statutory Inquiry Terms of Reference

24 August 2016

In August 2016, law enforcement authorities in Brazil initiated an investigation into the reselling of tickets for the Rio Olympic Games. The Brazilian authorities have stated that the tickets at the centre of their investigation were originally allocated to the Olympic Council of Ireland.

On 19 August 2016, Ministers Shane Ross and Patrick O'Donovan decided to establish a non-statutory inquiry to be chaired by a retired Judge in order to inquire into the circumstances and facts concerning this matter.

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry are:

1. To establish the policies, procedures, processes and practices relevant to:
 - a. the receipt, distribution and sale of tickets allocated by the International Olympic Committee (including its subsidiaries and/or agents, hereafter referred to as the IOC) to National Olympic Committees;
 - b. accreditations given by National Olympic Committees (such accreditations providing individual accreditation holders with access to Olympic Games events and transport to and from the events).
2. To inquire into:
 - a. the stated policies, procedures, processes and practices adopted by the Olympic Council of Ireland (including its subsidiaries and/or agents, hereafter referred to as the OCI) governing the receipt, distribution and sale of tickets allocated by the IOC to the OCI for Summer and Winter Olympic Games;
 - b. the stated policies, procedures, processes and practices adopted by the OCI governing all accreditations allocated by the OCI for Summer and Winter Olympic Games;
 - c. the implementation of those policies and procedures, and the actual processes (including any procurement process and any contract awarded by the OCI) and practices (including any resale of any tickets as part of hospitality packages), in the case of the accreditations and tickets allocated to the OCI for:
 - i. the 2016 Summer Olympic Games,
 - ii. the 2014 Winter Olympic Games,
 - iii. the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, and
 - iv. any previous Summer or Winter Games into which the Judge wishes to inquire;
3. Ancillary to the above, to inquire into any matter that the Judge considers necessary, including corporate governance within the OCI and the State funding of the OCI by Sport Ireland and its predecessor, the Irish Sports Council;
4. Arising from the above, to make any recommendations arising from the inquiry, e.g. recommendations regarding:
 - a. the establishment of a formal commission of investigation, on a formal statutory basis, to look into any matters raised by this non-statutory inquiry;

- b. the OCI's policies, procedures, processes and practices governing accreditations and the receipt, distribution and sale of tickets allocated to the OCI;
 - c. the corporate governance within the OCI; and
 - d. any other matter which the Judge considers appropriate for inclusion in the recommendations made;
- 5. Having inquired into the above matters, to present a report to both the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Tourism and Sport, setting out the findings and recommendations of the inquiry, within 12 weeks of the commencement of the inquiry;
- 6. As part of the Inquiry's remit, the Judge may:
 - a. commission her/his own work as she/he sees fit, including any analysis, assessment or other work required to be commissioned from independent auditors or accountants; and
 - b. consult with any person or organisation as she/he sees fit.