



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Dublin 2



8 June, 2012

Ms Fiona Cashin  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Dear Ms Cashin,

I refer to your letter of 31 May seeking further clarification on the work of the Irish Technology Leadership Group and Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) funding granted to them.

The ITLG was founded in 2007 by a group of Irish and Irish Americans, based mostly in Silicon Valley, and active in the technology sector. The Group are committed to promoting Ireland as a location for US technology companies to invest in, and also to mentor and support the growth and development of Irish based start-up technology companies.

Craig Barrett, former Intel Chairman and member of the Global Irish Network, who was appointed Honorary Chairman of the ITLG in 2010, continues to play a prominent role in the organisation.

The ITLG has undergone a major expansion in the past two years and now boasts a membership of some 4,000. New branches were established in May, 2011 on the East Coast and a Southern California Chapter in September, 2011. The active engagement of ITLG executives has benefited many Irish start-up companies. The platform and advice provided by the ITLG has helped many young Irish entrepreneurs to monetise and bring their good ideas to market.

As indicated in my letter of 16 May, funding amounting to \$772,648 has been provided to the ITLG through the ESP to support the work of its secretariat and the not-for-profit activities of the ITLG.

In 2009, £301,324 was granted in two separate grants - \$50,000 to develop and maintain its website and \$251,324 to fund its secretariat. The second of these was

granted following the first Global Irish Economic Forum in Farmleigh in 2009, where its members played a particularly helpful role. These grants were paid to support the ITLG in 2009/10.

In 2010 a grant of **\$251,324** was made for the following purposes in 2010/2011:

\$175,224 towards Secretariat Staffing Costs including Taxes and Insurances  
\$39,600 Utilities and Running Expenses  
\$7,200 Accounting & IT Support  
\$5,300 Computer & Telephony Equipment  
\$24,000 Website Development & Maintenance

In 2011, **\$220,000** was granted to cover the following costs in 2011/2012:

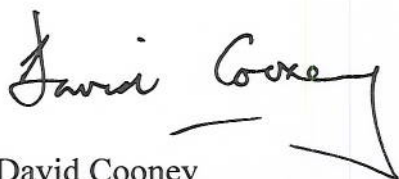
\$105,000 - towards Secretariat Staffing Costs including taxes and insurances  
\$39,600 - Utilities and Running Expenses  
\$24,900 - Website Development & IT  
\$28,000 - Networking  
\$22,500 - Marketing & Mentoring Programmes

One of the key objectives of the ITLG is to help raise the profile of “brand Ireland”. Among the events and programs organised by ITLG is to achieve this are:

- **Silicon Valley Comes to Ireland Event** – this event has taken place each autumn for the past three years bringing a delegation of executives and investors (30 last year) to Ireland. It is designed to strengthen the relationship between Silicon Valley and Ireland, and to introduce promising Irish technology start-ups to some of Silicon Valley’s more successful business leaders, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.
- **Annual awards dinner in Silicon Valley**, held jointly with the Irish Times, recognise and promote innovative young Irish companies. The ITLG mentor and introduce them to potential investors, particularly from the venture capital world.
- **Mentorship Programme** - this provides mentoring and experience to participants, working at a U.S. technology corporation for one year. The objective of the Programme is to position participants to return to Ireland with the skills and experience necessary to start businesses.
- **Innovation in Entertainment** – this event, which will take place at Sony Pictures Studios Los Angeles in September this year, aims at celebrating the impact of technology on entertainment and recognizes the major advances made by Irish entrepreneurs and technologists. Senior entertainment executives will take the stage on the night to discuss how innovation will shape the future of their industry.

I hope that this helps to give the Committee members a clearer picture of the work of the ITLG and how it is supported through the Emigrant Support Programme. If there are any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Cooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David Cooney  
Secretary General