

Conspiracy, Hypocrisy & Double-Standards. George Collins and the Achill Rovers Debacle.



In April 2009, after a public dispute with referee Stephen Manning, George Collins (left) Chairperson of Achill Rovers FDAC declared that he was going to, “*get Manning removed from soccer*”.

In June 2009, Philip McNulty, the Secretary of Achill Rovers Soccer Club signed a letter ‘on behalf of the Club’ which had been authored by George Collins. The letter in question made several false allegations against Mr Manning - all designed to imply that he was a danger to children. The letter contained only twenty lines of text. There were twenty-one outright lies or gross exaggerations in it.

Before composing the letter, George Collins had phoned Ballina FC coaches asking them if the referee had done anything ‘untoward’ on the day. Mr Collins specifically asked if Mr Manning had entered the girls’ changing rooms at any time. The Ballina coaches said ‘NO’ - he did not! They were emphatic about this point. Nevertheless George Collins authorised the construction of that letter and Philip McNulty signed it ‘on behalf of the Achill Rovers Committee’ without informing any of the committee members that they were doing so! George Collins and Philip McNulty would later lie about these facts in Court documents, stating there had been a committee meeting on the subject.

An internal investigation by the FAI and the Irish Soccer Referee’s Society immediately cleared Stephen Manning of any wrongdoing - or of any *suspicion* of wrongdoing. Messrs Collins and McNulty refused to cooperate with that investigation. Mr Collins’ remarks to the FAI Referee’s Assessor were demeaning and contemptuous, stating that Mayo Referees were ‘a bunch of clowns’.

In the meantime, Stephen Manning made numerous sincere efforts to have the matter dealt with quickly and without any unnecessary distress to the persons involved. He simply asked for a retraction and an apology and to have his legal expenses covered - which were only €700 at that time. Mr Manning’s legal advisors had explained that he had no choice but to sue the whole Committee if they didn’t retract and apologise because the letter was signed ‘on their behalf’ by Philip McNulty, the Secretary of A R.

Unfortunately, Collins and McNulty were intransigent, and they refused to cooperate in any way. In fact, they were so intransigent that they were almost jailed for contempt of Court in 2010 for refusing to supply information to the Manning’s legal team. In the meantime, Mr Collins privately informed the other A R Committee members that he would ‘indemnify the Club against any losses’ - as long as they backed him up. Mr Manning got no responses to numerous letters to the Committee members in which the Mannings literally begged the Committee members to simply do the right thing and avoid a costly and distressing lawsuit. Unfortunately, there were no replies, and the Mannings had no option but to initiate a legal action for defamation.

A campaign of mostly ‘anonymous’ attacks online against Stephen Manning in particular then began. 723 separate incidents over an 18-month period were reported to the Gardaí. Some involved credible death threats and the hiring of ‘ heavies ’ to break Mr Manning’s legs. Many of the online attacks were harassing, abusive and perverse, some with disgusting sexual themes. Local senior Gardaí would subsequently lie to the Mannings about ‘ongoing investigations’ as would the DPP’s Office.

Stephen Manning won the defamation case outright in 2011. The decision was appealed on a technicality and retried again in 2012. The case was eventually settled for a substantial figure when the Defence learned that Manning’s legal team had absolute proofs of fraud, perjury and collusion between George Collins, Philip McNulty and several other involved parties, including local Garda management.

* * *

In September 2011, whilst the Manning defamation case was pending a retrial, George Collins walked into the under-12 girls’ changing room uninvited - without knocking on the door or alerting the girls that he was entering. He was, apparently, somewhat shocked and surprised to see the Manning girls had signed up to the girls soccer team a week earlier. The following letters detail what happened next...

Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr George Collins
Dooagh
Achill
Co. Mayo

(By email and recorded delivery)

Tuesday Sept 20th 2011

Dear Mr Collins;

We have been informed that on one of the recent Tuesday evening soccer training sessions, you stepped inside the girl's changing room uninvited, apparently enquiring whether any of the girls required change for their subs?

We are aware from our own experience of the seriousness with which incidents of this nature are viewed. Under the circumstances, we believe we have the right to expect some explanation, as well as your personal assurance that this will not happen again.

We would be obliged for a response by 5pm Friday Sept 23rd, failing which, we reserve the right to bring this matter to the attention of the Secretary of Achill Rovers in the first instance, as per the required protocols.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Mobile:

Email:



THE Achill Rovers changing rooms in 2011. There is good reason for a referee entering the door on the left because it is also the entry to the ref's changing room. However, (and especially given the prevailing circumstances with a Court case ongoing) there is no excuse or reason for a male coach entering the door on the right when females are inside - in this case, before an under-12 girls' training session at a time when they might very well be undressing.

Strictly Private & Confidential

(By email and recorded delivery)

Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
Fr O'Brien Park
The Valley
Achill
Co. Mayo



Saturday Sept 24th 2011

Dear Secretary;

As you are aware, we signed up our daughters Christina and Colleen to join Achill Rovers some weeks past.

Our daughters have informed us that on one of the Tuesday evening training sessions they were sitting inside the girls' changing rooms along with a number of other girls, when Achill Rovers' Chairman George Collins stepped inside the room uninvited, apparently enquiring whether any of the girls required change for their subs?

My daughters were sitting on a bench behind the door, and have described how Mr Collins stepped sufficiently inside the room for him to look at them, around the open door, before exiting again.

In context of the committees' reaction and response to an allegation that I was inappropriately in the vicinity of a girls' changing room in 2009; we are deeply troubled that the Chairman of Achill Rovers apparently feels at liberty to enter the girls changing rooms at will.

In accordance with the Child Protection Guidelines of the FAI, we have already notified Mr Collins of our concerns 'in confidence' but unfortunately, he has failed to respond.

We would therefore be most obliged for an immediate response from you in your role as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC, as to how we should proceed to address this matter in a sensitive, mature and responsible manner.

Failing a response from you within seven days (by 5pm Friday Sept 30th) we respectfully reserve the right to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Mobile:
Email:

Strictly Private & Confidential

(By email and registered post)

Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
Fr O'Brien Park
The Valley
Achill
Co. Mayo

Monday October 3rd 2011

Dear Secretary;

We refer to our letter dated Sept 24th (copy again attached) and note that we received no response from you as requested.

With the addition of this third letter, we have now tried three times, by email, recorded delivery and registered post, to solicit a response from Mr Collins and yourself regarding this matter.

Given previous history regarding 'difficulties' communicating effectively with you, both as a private individual as well as the Secretary of Achill Rovers, we feel that we have now made every reasonable attempt to bring this matter to your attention in a fair, timely and respectful manner that aligns with FAI protocols.

We note for the record that the aforementioned 'difficulties' included your own repeated refusals over an 8-month period to confirm with An Post (your employer) that important letters had been received and forwarded to addressees; as well as Mr Collins and yourself being threatened with jail after 18 months of obstructionism, if you did not comply with a Court order to release other requested information.

Accordingly, we find it unhelpful in the extreme that you have failed to respond as requested, and wish to make it clear that if you do not respond by 5pm Friday October 7th, that we will have no option but to take the matter to the authorities.

We repeat our wish and intention to deal with this matter in a mature, responsible and adult manner that causes the least distress or embarrassment to anyone concerned.

We look forward to a response at your earliest convenience please.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Mobile:

Email: [g](#)

Strictly Private & Confidential

(By email and registered post)

Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
Fr O'Brien Park
The Valley
Achill
Co. Mayo

Saturday October 8th 2011

Dear Secretary;

Previous correspondence in this matter refers.

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated Oct 5th that arrived here on Oct 7th by registered post.

Unfortunately Philip, your letter does nothing to address the matters previously raised, only informing us that our letter of Sept 24th was forwarded to An Garda Síochána.

Accordingly, we ask that you please respond by Friday next with clarifications as follows, as we intend to pursue this matter as previously advised (as per FAI protocols) and do not wish to compound matters unnecessarily by hampering any possible Garda investigation:

1. To whom specifically did you forward that '*Strictly Private & Confidential*' letter of Sept 24th last? To which particular Garda station; to which officer; on what date please?
2. What were your instructions to the Gardai – if any – regarding the contents of that letter?
3. Have you discussed the matter with Mr Collins, and if so, what was his response?
4. Have you informed the Achill Rovers Committee of this matter, and if so, when? And what, if any, was their response?
5. If you have not informed Achill Rovers Committee, please explain your reasons.
6. Does Achill Rovers intend to follow the FAI guidelines and protocols regarding matters of this nature? And if so, when might we expect a formal response from you in your role as Secretary, that actually addresses the matter at hand?
7. If it is not your intention to follow FAI protocols, please explain why this is so.

We look forward to a more helpful response from you Philip by 5pm Friday Oct 14th 2011. Naturally we reserve the right to approach the respective authorities in the event you fail to follow the appropriate FAI protocols as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC.

We repeat our wish and intention to deal with this matter in a mature, responsible and adult manner that causes the least distress or embarrassment to anyone concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Mobile:
Email:

Strictly Private & Confidential

(By email and registered post)

Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
Fr O'Brien Park
The Valley
Achill
Co. Mayo

Tuesday October 18th 2011

Dear Secretary;

Previous correspondence in this matter refers, especially our unanswered letter of Oct 8th last (attached).

Firstly, we repeat our wish and intention to deal with this matter in a mature, responsible and adult manner that causes the least distress or embarrassment to anyone concerned. However, with the exception of your non-specific and unhelpful response dated Oct 5th last, you have yet to respond properly Philip to any of our correspondences thus far. For that reason, we must conclude that you do not intend to follow the respective FAI protocols for Club Secretaries as laid out in the Child Protection Guidelines of the Irish Sports Council.

For the avoidance of doubt Philip, we are parents of children enrolled with Achill Rovers FDAC, and we have the right – indeed the obligation – to address this matter in a responsible and sensitive way, as per FAI protocols, and your uncooperative position thus far is tantamount to direct and deliberate obstruction.

Given the reaction of yourself and others to an unsubstantiated third-party allegation in 2009 that (you argued) was based upon your *'genuine concerns about the children'*.. we are at a loss to understand why – with everyone at Achill Rovers now so very aware of the respective FAI guidelines and protocols – that you, as Secretary, are explicitly refusing to follow them?

In your repeated failure to respond properly as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC, we must of course assume that you are in fact refusing to process this matter as per FAI protocols, in which case, and in addition to the outstanding questions in our letter of Oct 8th (attached) we also now formally request;

- (i) The name and contact details of Achill Rovers' Child Protection Officer.
- (ii) The report or complaint number assigned to this matter by Gardai when you referred our letter to An Garda Síochána.

Your repeated refusal to cooperate or respond as required by FAI protocols and Child Protection Guidelines has been noted Philip, and will be presented to the appropriate agencies or authorities as required or requested.

We believe it is reasonable to expect a written response by Nov 1st 2011 (14 days from now).

We trust the position is clear Philip.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Mobile:

Email:

Strictly Private & Confidential – Recorded Delivery

To: [redacted]
Secretary, Mayo Youths League
[redacted]
Castlebar
Co. Mayo

Oct 28th 2011

Dear David,

I am writing to ask for some assistance in securing some information that we are having difficulty getting from our local soccer club.

We enrolled our daughters aged 12 and 10 into Achill Rovers girls' team earlier this year, and they participated in the An Post Soccer Summer Camp, as well as some weekly training sessions with Achill Rovers girls' team, which overall they enjoyed very much.

During one of the weekly training sessions 'an incident' occurred that involved one of the club's male coaches, which, according to the respective FAI / Irish Sports Council guidelines, we felt obliged, as parents, to bring to the attention of the club.

We first of all wrote to the coach involved 'in the strictest confidence' on Sept 20th, but we received no reply. We then wrote to Mr Philip McNulty, the Secretary of Achill Rovers also 'in the strictest confidence' asking how we could proceed to address the matter "*in a mature, responsible and adult manner that causes the least distress or embarrassment to anyone concerned.*" But he also failed to respond. We have since sent three letters (two by registered post) with all our contact details, but the only response from Mr McNulty so far has been a two-line letter stating he had given our letter to Gardai.

Our last correspondence asked for clarity on a number of issues, including asking Mr McNulty if he intended to follow FAI protocols in dealing with this matter, as well as requesting the contact details of Achill Rovers' Child Protection Officer, but again, he has failed to respond.

For a number of reasons David, we feel it is very important that this matter is dealt with properly according to the FAI / Irish Sports Council guidelines, and therefore ask if you would be kind enough to supply us with the contact details of Achill Rovers Child Protection Officer, so we may approach him/her directly, and hopefully deal with this matter appropriately at the local level, as per the respective guidelines for coaches and parents who are involved in children's soccer.

Naturally, we would request that any reference to this matter be kept strictly private and confidential until such time as may be necessary to involve any other statutory bodies – something which we sincerely hope will not be the case.

Thank you kindly David.

Yours truly,

Mrs Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Strictly Private & Confidential

(By email and recorded post)

Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
Fr O'Brien Park
The Valley
Achill
Co. Mayo

Tuesday Nov 1st 2011

Dear Secretary;

Previous correspondence in this matter refers, especially our unanswered letters of Oct 8th last and October 18th – the latter wherein we requested the following specific information:

1. The name and contact details of Achill Rovers' Child Protection Officer.
2. The report or complaint number assigned to this matter by Gardai when you allegedly referred our letter to An Garda Síochána.

We note that you have not furnished us with this information as requested, and, given we have extended the time limits for a response on three occasions now, we are interpreting your continued lack of response as a refusal to surrender this information.

We further note that this is our fifth letter in succession to you since September where, as parents of children enrolled with Achill Rovers, we have requested information from you in your role as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC concerning an incident that comes under the remit of FAI Child Protection issues – and you have repeatedly failed to respond in any helpful or meaningful way.

Accordingly Philip, as per previous correspondence, we regret to inform you that we are now approaching the Mayo League in relation to this matter, and reserve the right to approach other authorities as advised, and as necessary to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

We trust the position is clear Philip.

Fell free to contact us if you feel that may be helpful in any way.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Mobile:

Email:

Achill Rovers FDAC

Fr. O'Brien Park

The Valley

Achill,

Co. Mayo

1st November 2011

Mr. Stephen Manning

Dooagh

Achill

Co. Mayo

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

PERSONAL ADDRESSEE ONLY

Re: Letter dated 24th September 2011

Dear Mr. Manning,

Previous correspondence refers and in particular your letter dated the 18th October 2011.

Firstly, please note the following;

- (a) Our Childrens Officer is Mr. Padraic Corrigan of Dookinella, Achill, County Mayo. His phone number is 087 2357875.
- (b) This matter was reported to the **Gardai at Achill Garda Station on the 28th day of September 2011**. The Garda concerned is Garda C. Hastings. We are not aware of any complaint number assigned to this report.

The welfare of the Children who are members of this club is of **paramount importance** to the Club. Given the contents of your letter the most appropriate course of action was to refer the matter to the Gardai for investigation. We are currently awaiting a formal response from the Gardai.


Upon receipt of your letter, the Chairman, Mr. George Collins immediately stood down from all child related coaching etc pending the outcome of the Garda investigation.

Given the sensitive nature of your letter and in view of the fact that Mr. Collins is entitled to a presumption of innocence and to the benefit of fair procedures, it would be inappropriate to make any further comment until the investigation by the statutory authorities is completed.

I will of course, let you know the outcome of the investigation when it is completed.

I trust this is in order.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Mc Nulty". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

Philip Mc Nulty

Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
post)
Achill Rovers FDAC

(By email and recorded

Friday Nov 4th 2011

Dear Philip;

Previous correspondence in this matter refers.

We acknowledge receipt of a letter from you dated Nov 1st which arrived here yesterday Nov 3rd in apparent response to our latest letter of Nov 1st (also sent by email) that alerted you to the fact that we had now written five times since September 24th, asking for specific information from you, without proper response.

We note that we did not see your copied email until this morning, and unfortunately your posted letter arrived a full two days after the third extended deadline for receipt of the information requested. Accordingly, after waiting over five weeks for a proper response from you Philip, we felt obliged to contact the Child Protection Officer of the Mayo Youths, requesting the contact details of Achill Rovers' Child Protection Officer, so we could progress this matter 'in the strictest confidence', sensitively and discretely, according to FAI / Irish Sports Council guidelines.

Notwithstanding the above, we acknowledge that you have now furnished us with two of the specifics we requested namely; (i) the name and contact details of Achill Rovers' Child Protection Officer, and (ii) the date, and name of the Garda to whom you gave our letter of Sept 24th. However, your letter remains problematic for the following reasons:

1. Firstly, we draw your specific attention once again, to the fact that you are not following the FAI / Irish Sports Council Guidelines for matters of this nature, which, under these specific circumstances (as outlined in previous correspondence) is highly irregular and disconcerting to say the least.

2. In your letter you state; *"Given the contents of your letter the most appropriate course of action was to refer the matter to the Gardai for investigation."* We would ask you to specify who made the decision to forward our 'strictly private and confidential' letter to the Gardai, and for what reasons, because first of all (and unless there are some other issues that we are unaware of); (i) such an action was not explicitly required in response to our letter of Sept 24th; (ii) such an action does not properly nor appropriately conform to FAI / Irish Sports Council Child Protection Guidelines, and (iii) in doing so, you are unnecessarily disseminating a highly sensitive, confidential letter without consulting with us – the authors – which we are advised, is another serious breach of due protocols.

3. We further note that Mr Canice Sullivan, Treasurer and PRO of Achill Rovers, forwarded your letter of Nov 1st to you by email, before you sent it to us. Accordingly, we must assume that you have already discussed this matter and shared our letter(s) with third parties, and we would be obliged if you would confirm who those persons are so there can be no doubt or confusion as to the source of any further dissemination of this matter.

4. You also make reference to *"a presumption of innocence"* – another statement that leaves us somewhat bewildered Philip. Please clarify what exactly you are alluding to here. Are we to understand it that there is any question as to the facts of the matter? For certainly, in re-reading our letter of Sept 24th we see no particular need for such overt legalisms – especially when the respective guidelines are so very clear about the manner and processes to be followed; locally, confidentially and sensitively. As parents of children enrolled in the Club, we simply brought your attention to a 'reportable incident' in the expectation you would deal with it appropriately. The manner in which you are handling this matter thus far is not only highly irregular, but is extremely disquieting to us – as we're sure it must also be for Mr Collins – and unnecessarily so, we might add.

5. You also refer somewhat misleadingly to *"fair procedures"* when at the same time you are repeatedly and systematically ignoring – or failing to observe the proper FAI procedures. You also misleadingly state, *"Upon receipt of your letter, the Chairman, Mr. George Collins immediately stood down from all child related coaching etc.."* Unfortunately Philip, we are reliably informed that this is not an accurate or truthful statement, and we are disappointed that you would include disingenuous statements in a correspondence of such importance. Accordingly, we respectfully ask that you be more forthright in future correspondence please.

6. We ask again that as secretary of Achill Rovers you now comply properly with FAI / Child Protection Guidelines for dealing with matters of this nature, and we await confirmation that you intend to do so without delay. We respectfully request a response by 5pm Nov 11th (7 days from now).

We trust the position is clear Philip.

Sincerely, Stephen and Noriko Manning

Strictly Private and Confidential

To Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
The Valley
Achill
Co Mayo.

By email and recorded post

Nov 11th 2011

Mr McNulty,

Previous correspondence refers.

We note for the record that you have once again failed to respond to our latest letter, which was sent by email and recorded post on Nov 4th last.

We note that we have now written seven formal letters to you since September 24th regarding a 'reportable incident' pertaining to child protection-related matters, and you have repeatedly failed to respond in an appropriate manner.

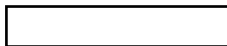
We further note that you have implicitly refused to follow the recommended child protection guidelines regarding this matter, and you have failed to respond in any meaningful way to the reasonable enquiries we have made.

We also note for the record that it is now over seven weeks since we first brought your attention to this reportable incident, and that we have yet to be contacted by anybody supposedly 'conducting an investigation'. We would therefore be obliged to know when we might expect to hear from Achill Rovers Child Protection Officer – or any other person 'in authority' concerning the matter at hand.

We believe it is reasonable to expect a clear and unequivocal response within seven days.

Sincerely

Stephen & Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Co. Mayo.



Dec 8th 2011

We regret to have to bring this to your attention, but we are writing to Achill Rovers committee members to alert you to a matter of concern. We wrote to Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary of Achill Rovers in September this year, alerting him to an episode involving an Achill Rovers coach, which, as parents of young children enrolled in the club, caused us some disquiet.

Having written to the coach in question without response, we emphasised to Mr McNulty that we were now approaching him in his role as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC – “in the strictest confidence” – enquiring how we should proceed to address this particular matter locally, in a sensitive, mature and responsible manner that aligned with established FAI guidelines and protocols. But unfortunately Mr McNulty failed to respond.

We then wrote two more confidential letters, repeating our wish and intention to deal with the matter in a mature, responsible and adult manner that caused the least distress to anyone concerned, and advising Mr McNulty that if we continued to receive no responses from him, that we would have no choice but to approach other agencies for guidance.

Eventually, we received a four-line generic response that was of no help or assistance whatsoever. Since then, we have written four more letters, three of which went unanswered. We acknowledge that Mr McNulty sent a second correspondence to us during this sequence, but again, the contents were not at all helpful.

Our last unanswered correspondence to Mr McNulty was sent four weeks ago. In it we repeated several reasonable questions that he has continually failed to address, and drew his specific attention to the fact that he was NOT following FAI protocols, and therefore was in effect, deliberately obstructing our efforts to deal with the matter locally in an appropriate and sensitive manner. Once again, he has not responded.

In light of the possibility that you may not have been aware of this ongoing ‘communications problem’; and in light of the fact this may reflect upon other Achill Rovers committee members; and in light of repeated and highly-problematic similar ‘communication problems’ with Mr McNulty in particular these past two-and-a-half years; we feel we should alert you to this issue with a view to avoiding any further complications, raised tensions or other unnecessary sources of stress or anxiety to those who may not approve of the manner in which Mr McNulty is apparently ‘acting on your behalf’.

We are aware at present that at least three members of Achill Rovers committee are fully apprised of the situation; namely Chairman George Collins, Secretary Philip McNulty and Treasurer Canice O’Sullivan. However, in the interests of due process and confidentiality we see no need to disclose the identity of the coach in question – neither would we expect the above-named three to do so. Indeed, we make a specific point of stating that other than in the above-mentioned correspondence to Mr McNulty, we have not at this point disseminated that specific information further. However, after failing to secure proper responses from Mr McNulty we were obliged to request the name of Achill Rovers CPO from Mayo Youths with a view to dealing with the matter directly. Unfortunately, and despite Mr McNulty informing us in writing that he will “*inform us when the investigation is completed*” – we have received no contact from the Achill Rovers CPO, nor from any statutory authorities, leaving us to wonder what type of ‘investigation’ could possibly be underway – when the eyewitnesses have yet to be interviewed? Considering the amount of time that has elapsed since we first drew his attention to this matter; and considering all the letters we have sent by recorded post, email and registered letter to Mr McNulty since; and especially in context of the speedy and vigorous reaction of Mr McNulty (and certain others) to certain allegations made in June 2009; well, clearly, it would be remiss of us not to document this matter in detail, and ensure that all who may be affected by what we see as the inappropriate handling of this matter by Mr McNulty – who is ostensibly acting ‘on your behalf’ in his role as Secretary of Achill Rovers – that all who may be affected should be fully alerted to the circumstances.

Accordingly, now that all current committee members have been fully apprised, we continue to await formal notification that this matter will be properly addressed as per the appropriate FAI guidelines, and we look forward to some helpful response from any member of the committee – either in private, or as a collective. We invite any response you may wish to make to arrive within 14 days, failing which (as we are sure you will understand) we will be obliged to bring this matter to the attention of whichever agencies are appropriate or required, for clearly, we cannot simply let the matter hang indefinitely, especially as the coach in question (so we have been told) has since stood down from certain activities pending the outcome of the alleged ‘investigation’ and cannot of course be reinstated until a proper enquiry has been conducted.

We remain available to discuss this matter at your convenience, either on or off the record, in confidence or otherwise, and can assure you of our absolute discretion.

Sincerely, Stephen and Noriko Manning. Tel:

Garda Patrina Hastings
Achill Sound
Co. Mayo

Dear Patrina,

Dec 15th 2011

Thank you for coming to our house with Sgt Gerry McNally as scheduled to deal with the three outstanding matters we brought to your attention on Thursday last.

We have found it prudent to document all that transpires, and so we wish to note for the record that whilst Sgt McNally acknowledged that a letter we sent to Philip McNulty in September last was indeed handed in to Achill Garda Station in September, that the Sgt said that he was not in a position to tell us why the letter had been given to Gardai, and kept repeating that we should ask Achill Rovers instead.

When I informed Sgt McNally that Mr McNulty (Secretary of Achill Rovers) would not tell us why the letter had been handed in, but had in fact written a letter (copy attached) stating clearly that a 'Garda investigation' was underway, the Sgt repeatedly refused to confirm one way or the other whether or not an investigation was in fact underway; only that "the matter would be dealt with as (he) saw fit".

We regret that words of discontent were directed at Sgt McNally as you both left our house, but after all that has happened to us these past two-and-a-half years, and with all the proofs we have of improper and illegal activities on the part of certain Gardai, it is very difficult indeed for us to entertain any sort of evasiveness, dismissiveness or condescension – such as we felt was being displayed by the Sgt as he repeatedly avoided some of our questions.

Having spent some considerable time convincing me of his personal integrity and professionalism, for Sgt McNally to point-blank refuse to answer a simple yes-or-no question regarding the letter in question, was deeply disquieting to me personally. If the attached letter contains lies, inaccuracies or other misleading information, then why can't the Sgt simply say so – and we can take it from there? After all, we are not the ones asking the Gardai to get involved. So why is it suddenly 'inappropriate' for Sgt McNally to simply confirm the facts? For him to fail to answer our reasonable questions in an open and forthright manner does little to convince us that we are being properly or professionally served.

We would now formally ask Patrina for some explanation regarding the status of the '*Strictly Private & Confidential*' letter in question, particularly:

- (i) What were the circumstances of its delivery to the Gardai?
- (ii) Were any instructions sought or given by those who handed in the letter, and if so, what were they?
- (iii) Is a Garda investigation actually 'underway' as stated in the attached letter signed by Mr McNulty, and if so, what sort of investigation exactly is it?
- (iv) What is the current status of the matter – other than an acknowledgement that the letter is 'on file' at the Garda Station?

We believe it is reasonable to ask for a prompt response under the circumstances, especially as the confidential letter in question (according to Mr McNulty's attached letter) was given to Gardai nearly three months ago, and no-one has raised the matter with us since.

We close by reiterating that we neither asked for, nor expected any Garda involvement whatsoever in the matters raised in our Sept 24th letter to Mr McNulty, but we will of course cooperate fully with any legitimate requests for disclosure regarding this, or associated matters.

Whilst we are happy to invite you to return to our home in the event we need to discuss matters further Patrina, we regret that Sgt McNally is not welcome unless our solicitor is present, and/or until such time as he is willing to be candid, open and accountable to those he is being paid to serve. That is, inasmuch as he is allowed to do so under the law.

Thank you for your time and understanding this evening.

Sincerely, Stephen & Noriko Manning

Mobile:

To Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary
Achill Rovers FDAC
The Valley
Achill
Co Mayo.

By email and recorded post

Dec 16th 2011

Dear Mr McNulty,

Previous correspondence refers.

We note that you have again failed to respond to our latest letter, which was sent by email and recorded post on Nov 11th last.

Accordingly, and on the basis of the letter you sent to us dated Nov 1st 2011, we have approached the Gardai at Achill Sound seeking clarification of the specific statement you made in that letter; that *the Gardai were conducting an investigation* into the matter at hand.

We also asked Gardai to explain the reason why our '*Strictly Private & Confidential*' letter of Sept 24th was given to them (by you) in the first place – for we continue to see no necessity for this, especially as doing so runs contrary to FAI protocols as well as breaching the explicit confidentiality of our letter – but the Sgt and the Garda who took receipt of that letter stated they had no explanation for why the letter was handed in to them, and that we should revert to you directly for an explanation.

We also asked the Sgt what specific instructions or directions were sought or given on the matter when said letter was given to them, but he would only repeat that the letter of Sept 24th was indeed at Achill Sound, and that we should revert to you directly for any clarifications as to the reasons or purposes for giving that '*Strictly Private & Confidential*' letter to the Gardai.

Furthermore, the Sgt seemed taken aback when reading the statement in your letter of Nov 1st that an 'official Garda investigation' was underway. Other than confirming the letter was indeed at Achill Sound Garda Station, the Sgt was unable to supply any specific confirmation that any such investigation – formal, informal or otherwise – was indeed underway.

So Philip; we approach you once again in your official role as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC, and respectfully ask you to furnish an explanation for the following issues:

- (i) You stated in your letter of Nov 1st that an official Garda investigation was underway. How and why did you come to make this statement?
- (ii) Have the Gardai updated you (and/or Achill Rovers) as to the status of this alleged investigation at any time since September?
- (iii) If the Gardai have not advanced the matter in any way (which is the distinct impression given to us by the Sgt) then perhaps you can explain why there is no urgency on the part of yourself (as Secretary of Achill Rovers) to have the matter dealt with?
- (iv) Have you brought this matter to the attention of Achill Rovers Child Protection Officer (as required by FAI protocols)? If so, when? If not – why not?
- (v) If this matter has been brought to the attention of Achill Rovers CPO, then please explain why no-one has contacted us these past three months?
- (vi) When might we expect some formal response to all the outstanding matters at hand – especially when considering the coach in question (according to your letter of Nov 1st) has apparently stood down from certain activities pending the outcome of the alleged investigation?

We look forward to your prompt and helpful response within seven days Philip.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Stephen & Noriko Manning

Tel:

Sgt Gerry McNally
Achill Sound Gardai
Achill
Co. Mayo

Dear Sgt McNally,

Dec 20th 2011

In reference to your visit to our home on Thursday Dec 15th last with Garda Patrina Hastings, when you took statements of complaint from my wife and myself regarding an incident involving Mr George Collins on Thurs Dec 1st, we regret to inform you that we cannot after all provide you with the video footage of the incident, and therefore respectfully request that you process the matter based on the two eyewitness statements of complaint given to you.

We would also ask for copies of those two statements for our own records please.

Regarding the two other matters discussed on the night; we also wish to note that you advised us that the fact that Sgt Pat O'Hora did not attend the Circuit Court on Dec 7th last after being subpoenaed to do so, was not a matter for the Gardai to deal with – but for the Courts.

We also note that regarding the matter of a '*Strictly Private & Confidential*' letter (dated Sept 24th 2011) being handed in to Achill Gardai by Mr Philip McNulty, Secretary of Achill Rovers; that:

- I. You could not offer us any explanation for why that letter was given to you;
- II. That you would not give us any details of any instructions sought or given at the time;
- III. That you would not confirm one-way-or-the-other whether or not any sort of formal investigation was underway.

In respect of the latter, we then showed you a letter from Mr McNulty dated Nov 1st 2011 which stated three times, very clearly, that a Garda investigation was 'underway' since Sept 28th, but again, you would neither confirm or deny this claim, nor explain how any supposed investigation could possibly be underway without the eyewitnesses having been interviewed.

We believe we made our dissatisfaction clear to you, about what we saw as a lack of forthrightness on your part, as well as a sense of intimidation at times, when we persisted in asking for some unequivocal answers to our legitimate questions.

We close by reiterating that we neither asked for, nor expected any Garda involvement whatsoever in the matters raised in our Sept 24th letter to Mr McNulty, but we will of course cooperate fully with any legitimate requests for disclosure regarding this, or associated matters.

We respectfully refer you to our letter to Garda Patrina Hastings dated Dec 15th, and ask that the questions therein are responded to in a prompt and professional manner. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen & Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Co. Mayo

Mobile:

Mr Philip McNulty
Bunnacurry
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

(By email and recorded delivery)

February 7th 2012

Dear Mr McNulty,

I write in reference to two letters in your possession that you showed to my wife and myself on Saturday February 4th last, pertaining to a report submitted by us to you in September 2011, in your role as Secretary of Achill Rovers FDAC.

- (i) Letter from Inspector Joe McKenna of Westport Gardai to the HSE.
- (ii) Letter from Mary Melee of the HSE Child Protection Services to Mr George Collins.

You advised us that you had 'only recently' received these letters, and that you would forward copies to us, but we have not received any such correspondence to date.

We therefore request that you furnish us with copies of those letters as a matter of urgency, as they have a direct bearing on matters arising at the upcoming hearing on Tuesday February 14th next, and may be required in evidence.

We will personally collect copies of those letters, at your convenience, if necessary.

We look forward to your timely response Philip.

Sincerely

Stephen and Noriko Manning
Dooagh
Achill
Westport
Co. Mayo

Email:

The Mannings wrote several follow-up letters to the local Chief Superintendent and the Garda authorities but received no further contact on this matter.

They received no other contact from Achill Rovers Secretary Philip McNulty on the matter. Mr McNulty is currently the Chairperson of Fine Gael in Achill.

Mary Malee, the HSE Child Protection Officer (now TUSLA) who apparently exonerated George Collins without carrying out *any* investigation whatsoever or contacting *any* witnesses, is the very same individual who subjected the Manning family to a 'robust investigation' based on some of the anonymous lies posted on the Internet by George and Paul Collins in 2010.

In her role as lead investigator, Ms Melee interviewed the Manning girls aged 8 and 10 at the time - as well as their 6-year old Downs Syndrome brother - *without* the parents being present. Ms Malee tried to solicit damaging comments from the children about their father, but was unable to do so. The Manning parents were 100% exonerated of any suspicion of wrongdoing and the case was closed.

Mary Melee would surface again in January 2013 when she was appointed again to investigate Stephen Manning on charges reportedly lodged by the local Garda Chief Superintendent that Stephen had locked his children in the house unsupervised for three days. This vexatious referral arose out of an incident when Paul Collins (the criminal brother of George Collins) visited the Manning home 'incognito' in January 2013 along with a Garda escort and proceeded to intimidate and frighten the Manning girls. When Mr Manning contacted the Chief Superintendent for an appointment to discuss matters - the vexatious referral was made to Tusla.

By an amazing coincidence, on the very same day that Stephen Manning was summoned to the HSE Child Protection meeting (Jan 23rd 2013), Paul Collins was allowed to masquerade as an 'attorney' in the High Court, and proceeded to have the Manning's civil case 'indefinitely stayed' on the grounds that his brother was allegedly 'too sick' to attend Court. That case named his brother George Collins and three senior Gardaí in a conspiracy to pervert justice. The hearing had been moved forwards by a week. The Plaintiff, Stephen Manning had NOT been informed.

High Court proceedings have since been issued against the local HSE/Tusla the Courts Service and local Gardaí for conspiracy, and criminal complaints have been lodged naming three senior judges for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

These facts have been reported here because of ongoing 'anonymous' attacks, abuse and false allegations directed against the *Integrity Ireland Community* and against Stephen Manning in particular. The Collins brothers have been repeatedly warned in private that if they continue with their nefarious activities, that more and more proofs of their shameful activities will be posted online - because clearly, if we are going to wait for the Gardaí or the Courts to deal with them properly - we'll be waiting a very, very long time.

STM July 2015

