

Govt coy on funding after complaints

JACK CHAMBERS has said he will not pre-empt discussions when asked if Government funding could be withheld from the IRFU.

Sport Ireland representatives were in front of an Oireachtas Committee yesterday to discuss the challenges faced by women in sport.

The appearance was timely following a letter from 62 current and former Irish rugby players outlining their lack of trust in the Union to run the female side of the game properly.

It drew a strong response from the IRFU but prompted Minister for Sport Catherine Martin and Minister for State Chambers to request a meeting with the governing body.

But the Junior Minister would not be drawn on whether the withdrawal of state support would be considered unless the women's concerns are adequately addressed.

The IRFU is due €18million in Covid-19-related aid this year, with Sinn Féin TD Imelda Munster and Fianna Fáil Senator Shane Cassells asking if that was in jeopardy.

Chambers (above) said ministers will have a 'frank, robust and comprehensive' discussion



By **NEIL O'RIORDAN**

about the issues raised. And he added: "I respect and take extremely seriously what they have set out to us."

"That is why we have sought to engage with IRFU and reflect the issues raised and to engage with players and provide them assistance. I was disappointed with the remarks made in the statement from the IRFU - it could be more conciliatory in their approach."

"We need to focus and have a constructive pathway and that is what I am focused on doing now."

Sport Ireland also said it was willing to meet players before Christmas to discuss their concerns.

CHAMPIONS CUP

Scrumthing a bit different

BUT DORIS STILL READY

WAITING GAME... Caelan Doris is keeping his mind on the job despite distractions



SCRUMMAGING with face masks offers some indication about how preparations this week have been different to normal for Leinster.

With three players testing positive for Covid-19 last week and an unspecified number of additional cases this week, the province is doing its best to try to contain the outbreak.

Saracens were forced yesterday to forfeit their weekend fixture against Pau for similar reasons.

But, for now, Leinster are due to travel to France today to take on Montpellier tomorrow evening hoping that the extra measures they have adopted will stand to them.

Caelan Doris said: "It is stricter around keeping your distance in meetings, being spaced out, having masks on all the time."

"We were doing scrums there with masks on so it was strange. I was in the back row so it doesn't impact me too much. I'd say it is strange up front anyway."

"It's quite a dynamic situation. We're doing a hell of a lot of testing to mitigate as much of the risk as possible."

"We are still prepping as if it's all going ahead, which we hope it is. We've been probably quite lucky that we've got to this stage without too many cases. We've kind of learned from other clubs and seen how they've got through it."

"We're not the first, we've got a lot of testing to mitigate as much of the risk as possible."

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CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

precedent to follow there, follow the guidelines and hopefully we'll come out the other side OK."

While it is primarily up to the coaches to come up with contingency plans to deal with the various scenarios, the players have not been totally untouched by the disruption.

Training on Monday had to be cancelled to allow for more testing which has left very little time to prepare for a Friday night game but Doris said: "I think we'll be well prepped."

It is, he admitted, an advantage that so many players are lining out alongside each other both for Leinster and Ireland, even if it is not as simple as transferring from one team to the other.

He said: "There are more similarities than differences in how we're playing, between the two teams, more now than probably in the past anyway, definitely."

"It's still about getting up to speed with the language again, those nuances around maybe taking it to the edge a little bit more in attack or obviously slightly different styles of playing so it can take a while."

And, while most sides would be happy with a bonus-point win in Europe, there was some disgruntlement in the Leinster camp that the second-half performance against Bath last week lacked the intensity and cohesion of the first.

The Mayo man added: "I thought we sort of struggled to get into our flow a little bit, not sticking to systems, maybe going off ourselves and forcing a few offloads."

"Obviously it was a good result, we were happy with the five points but we know we're going to need to be a lot better, even on Friday, and with teams to come in the future."

"Bath have struggled a bit this year. Even though the scoreline is quite flattering in our favour, it probably wasn't our most impressive performance."



Recruitment

Chef de Partie required for full time permanent position at Mount Juliet luxury estate and hotel, Thomastown, County Kilkenny

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Salary 30,000 per annum.

Full time permanent position.

39 hours per week.

This position will have you working different sections in our 5 star hotel kitchen.

Working on starters, mains, food prep, kitchen health and hygiene up keep, recipes, and dessert section.

Must have a minimum of 2 years chef work experience in a full professional kitchen.

Must have experience in kitchen health and hygiene procedures and have a team work ethic.

For further details please email your cv to hr@mountjuliet.ie or post to: HR Department, Mount Juliet, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland.

Legal Notices

AEP Networks Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation) Sections 622 & 674 Companies Act 2014

The creditors of the Company are required, on or before 16:00 on 28 January 2022 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors, if any, to the undersigned, the Liquidator of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from me, are to file such affidavits in proof of claims as they may be advised and to give notice of filing thereof to me and to attend at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or, in default thereof, they will be excluded from any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved. 4 February 2022 at 10:00 am has been appointed for hearing and adjudicating upon the said debts and claims.

Declan de Lacy, Liquidator
PKF O'Connor, Leddy & Holmes Limited, Century House, Harold's Cross Road, Dublin 6W, 14 December 2021. NOTE: This is a members' voluntary liquidation. All admitted creditors have been or will be paid in full.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Gail & Ronan Carey are applying for Planning Permission for domestic extension to side and rear of existing property. The extension includes first floor extension partially over existing ground floor extension to rear & two storey extension to side of existing dwelling with internal alterations and all associate site works at 32 St Patricks Cottages, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 D14 C2W5. This application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of South Dublin County Council during its public opening hours of 9am - 4pm, Mon-Fri, and a submission or observation may be made to South Dublin County Council in writing and on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by South Dublin County Council of the application.