

# Big Phil's voluntary group cuts overturned

FUNDING worth €1.3million has been temporarily restored to 23 health and disability organisations for 12 months after a Government U-turn.

The decision by former Environment Minister Phil Hogan to cut funding had drawn strong criticism from the voluntary groups and the Opposition.

The organisations said they had been given only hours' notice of the withdrawal of funding with many of them saying they would have had to lay off staff or shut their doors.

However, that decision has now been reversed by Mr Hogan's successor Alan Kelly who said the funding was being restored on a 12-month basis while an in-depth review takes place.

In total, 30 organisations will have their funding restored until July of next year, including The Asthma Society of Ireland which will receive €41,448. The Irish Heart Foundation also received €41,448 and The Neurological Alliance of Ireland received €49,738.

Mr Kelly added however that the

By Eamon Donoghue

12-month period be 'used to find a more long-term sustainable solution to the funding problems of these organisations'.

Judy Windle of the Genetic and Rare disorders Organisation, which will now receive €16,580 for the next 12 months, told the Mail that she was thrilled with the decision to restore the monies provided under the Scheme to Support National Organisations.

She said: 'The minute I heard

## 'I was horrified by the cuts'

about the funding being cut I was horrified but I said that won't last, it had to be overturned. Listening to Micheál Martin in the Dáil I knew it had to change so I wasn't surprised with the U-turn. This funding is all we get... we would of course not of been able to continue if this was cut.'

Joe Mooney, CEO of the Muscular Dystrophy Ireland told RTE's



Change of plans: Environment Minister Alan Kelly with Joan Burton

Six One that 'if this funding hadn't been reinstated it may have meant that we would have had to curtail our services and curtail our opening hours'.

Derek O'Reilly from the Carmichael Centre explained that with 'today's good news we are very optimistic that the organisations can continue to provide the much needed services that they've always been providing'.

Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin welcomed the move but criti-

cised the Government for 'targeting some of the most vulnerable people in society for cruel cuts'.

He added: 'I am calling for a cross-departmental effort to ensure these groups are properly funded into the future. We need to see a unified Government position on this. It is simply unacceptable for these organisations to have their funding cut for no apparent reason. A way must be found to finance the groups.'

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## Men caught after child porn emailed by mistake

By Declan Brennan

TWO men were discovered to be sending dozens of images of child pornography to each other when one of them accidentally sent an image of a naked 12-year-old girl to an acquaintance.

Kevin Bowes, 60, later told the woman, Carol Anne Montgomery, that he would cut her throat after she reported it.

Bowes and his co-accused Kenneth Powell, 47, were found with 92 images of children engaged in sexual activity with each other and adults. The boys and girls were aged from ten to 17.

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard that Powell had phoned a charity, Child Fund Ireland, and made obscene comments to the volunteer staff.

It also heard how Bowes inadvertently sent the image, captioned 'she's 12, she's 12' to Ms Montgomery. She brought the image to gardaí and in March 2011, they went to Bowes's flat and seized three mobile phones.

Officers found thousands of texts sent between Bowes and a man named as 'Kinky Ken' or 'Master Ken' in Bowes's mobile. The phone number was linked to Powell who, in 39 messages, talked about abusing children.

Bowes later threatened Ms Montgomery, telling her: 'I will cut your throat if you don't drop the charge.'

Ms Montgomery said she has slept with a spade beside her bed since.

Bowes, of Markievicz House, Townsend Street, Dublin, and Powell of Bessborough Avenue, North Strand, Dublin, both pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography at their homes in March 2011. Bowes also pleaded guilty to intimidating a witness at Markievicz House on July 12, 2011. Sentencing was adjourned until later this month.



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