No whistle blown on FAI loan

Documents from 2017 show ‘no significant financial issues' were reported to association's council

Mark Tighe

The FAI's honorary treasurer told the association's council that ‘no significant issues' had arisen with respect to an expenditure of €100,000, according to minutes of a meeting held on Friday, which were published on the FAI's website this week.

The council minutes show that Eamon Breen, the FAI's honorary treasurer, during the Friday morning meeting in Dublin said that the FAI has hired Mazars, an independent firm to “examine and report on the €150,000 transaction in question, which occurred in 2011.”

The minutes add that the Mazars investigation is also looking into various key issues. The football body has been under fire since late March, when The Sunday Times revealed that John Delaney, the FAI's chief executive, made a proposal of €500,000 to the association in April 2012 to cover a cash shortfall. The transaction was not disclosed in the FAI's annual accounts.

During the Friday meeting, Delaney said that Breen, the FAI's hon-tary treasurer, had attended to the claim that €100,000 had been transferred to Breen’s account held in Switzerland, and that the FAI had refused to disclose the recipient’s name. Delaney’s lawyer, Brian Keating, has strongly denied that any transfer to Breen’s account had taken place.

The council minutes say that Delaney had asked Breen to “report on the €100,000 transaction, and to make sure the association's records are clear.”

The council minutes add that Breen had told Delaney that the full board had not been advised of the transaction at the time it took place.

The minutes add that Breen has told Delaney that the rec-ipient of the €100,000 has not offered to return it and that the FAI had not sought legal advice on the matter.

The council minutes add that Delaney has said that Breen had been “aware of the €100,000 transaction in August, and all being said that he should have been told about it.”

The council minutes add that Delaney has said that Breen has told him that the full board had not been advised of the transaction at the time it took place. Delaney has said that Breen had told him that the recipient of the €100,000 had not offered to return it and that the FAI had not sought legal advice on the matter.

The council minutes add that Delaney has said that Breen has told him that the FAI had not been informed of the transaction at the time it took place. Delaney has said that Breen had told him that he should have been told about it.

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