

Media statement

Tuesday 8 September 2026

Dr Mary McAleese has resigned with immediate effect as Independent Chair of the Steering Group on Integration (SGI), following a significant change in the GAA's position on the agreed pathway and timeline for integrating the GAA, Camogie Association and Ladies Gaelic Football Association.

The three Associations had collectively committed to achieving integration by 2027 and had agreed to hold Special Congresses in October 2026 to enable the creation of one membership of one association from April 2027 and implementing transitional arrangements towards full integration. However, on Monday 7 September, the GAA informed the SGI that it could no longer commit to a definitive timeline for integration and wished to reconsider the approach, with a greater focus on equity rather than equality.

Dr McAleese said this change creates significant uncertainty around the previously agreed and publicly announced roadmap. With that roadmap now effectively blocked and no alternative pathway offered, she said she was unable to continue in her role as Independent Chair.

Ms McAleese reaffirms her strong support for the integration of all Gaelic games, describing it as the overwhelmingly expressed will of the memberships of all three Associations and an opportunity for an exciting new chapter for Gaelic games.