

Press release

Ministers Martin and Byrne congratulate Team Ireland on return from Berlin Special Olympics World Games

From [Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media](#)
([/en/organisation/department-of-tourism-culture-arts-gaeltacht-sport-and-media/](#)).

Published on 26 June 2023

Last updated on 29 July 2023

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin, and Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne, have today (Monday 26 June 2023) welcomed the return of Ireland's team from the Special Olympics World Games that were held from 17-25 June in Berlin. Special Olympics Ireland works to transform lives through sport, by working with people with intellectual disabilities.

Minister Martin said:



“It is truly inspiring to see a team filled with an abundance of talent return with such success. I’d like to offer my thanks to the town and people of Bielefeld in Germany for hosting our team in the run up to the games. I would also like to thank the coaches, background teams and families who have supported our athletes in their preparations for these Games. Our 73 athletes have competed at the highest levels of their sports. To come back from Berlin with 24 gold, 22 silver and 29 bronze medals across a diverse range of sports is a fantastic achievement, even above and beyond what reaching this international level represents. Of course, it’s not all about winning medals. Far from it. The number of our athletes who achieved personal bests is equally noteworthy and deserving of special acknowledgement. Their record performances and their success will certainly inspire future generations of athletes to qualify and compete at world level.”

Minister of State Byrne said:

“Just over a week ago, I had the honour of walking out with Team Ireland at the opening ceremony of the Games. It was wonderful to see the joy and pride of the team members as they joined with thousands of other athletes from all over the world. Today, we welcome the return of more than 100 people who went to Berlin as part of Team Ireland, whether as athletes, coaches or volunteers. They have truly done Ireland proud. This year, we mark the 20th anniversary of Ireland hosting the Games and since that time, the Special Olympics movement has gone from strength to strength. I’d like to thank the athletes and the teams of people behind the athletes, including their devoted family members and brilliant volunteers, for all of their effort and dedication. They are outstanding representatives of the sporting system that we want to achieve in this country, a system where sport is truly for all.”

Part of

Policies

[Sport \(/en/policy/6d07a6-sport/\)](/en/policy/6d07a6-sport/)

BETA

This is a prototype - your feedback will help us to improve it.

Help us improve gov.ie**[Leave feedback](#)****Departments and publications**[Circulars \(/en/circulars/\)](/en/circulars/)[Consultations \(/en/consultations/\)](/en/consultations/)[Directory \(/en/directory/\)](/en/directory/)[Policies \(/en/policies/\)](/en/policies/)[Publications \(/en/publications/\)](/en/publications/)**About gov.ie**[About gov.ie \(/en/help/about-govie/\)](/en/help/about-govie/)[Accessibility \(/en/help/accessibility/\)](/en/help/accessibility/)[Privacy policy \(/en/help/privacy-policy/\)](/en/help/privacy-policy/)[Who does what \(/en/help/e170a-who-does-what/\)](/en/help/e170a-who-does-what/)

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Manage cookie preferences[Manage preferences](#)