

Sport Wales National Centre

Canolfan Genedlaethol Chwaraeon Cymru

Sophia Gardens | Gerddi Sophia

Cardiff | Caerdydd

CF11 9SW

0300 3003123

www.sport.wales | www.chwaraeon.cymru

Acting CEO | Prif Weithredwr dros dro: Brian Davies

Chair | Cadeirydd: Baroness, Y Farwnes Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, DL

Delyth Jewell MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated 17th February, as well as the opportunity earlier in that week for Sport Wales to appear before the committee to discuss these important issues. I am grateful to be able to provide a response to the committee's follow up questions, as well as to reaffirm some points made in our initial evidence.

To reiterate some of the evidence we previously provided, Sport Wales is not a regulator; however, we have robust monitoring arrangements. These include the capability framework, the self-assessment protocols, and the ability to financially audit and instigate governance reviews. We also monitor our partner networks delivery against the funding requirements as an ongoing practice through each partner's relationship manager. Where concerns do get raised, we may act as an intermediary, signposting individuals to the relevant contacts for resolution, or offering to facilitate solutions through mediation.

In terms of the specific questions raised in your letter I am happy to attach a list of organisations who attended the Sport Summit referenced at the committee. I would ask the committee to note that organisations would have, in many instances, had multiple representatives in attendance. I am also happy to have attached the summit overview agenda for the committee's information.

In relation to requests for any complaints we have received in the past 5 years, there have been two formal complaints received by Sport Wales. As confirmed within our evidence to the committee, Sport Wales is not a regulator for National Governing Bodies (NGB) and does not have regulatory powers. In these instances however we did offer to mediate as a way of supporting compromise and reconciliation on the issues that had been raised.

Given it is not the role of Sport Wales to act as a regulator it is therefore possible, and indeed likely, there have been other issues in the sport sector, but that individuals or groups would not bring these directly to Sport Wales given our limited role in responding to direct complaints. There would be other avenues more appropriate for the individual specific complaints.

We do work with all of our partner network on their governance to support the focus on equality within an organisation, and as also noted in our committee appearance, will deal with any matters we are made aware of on a case-by-case basis.

It should also be noted that, whilst not formal complaints, Sport Wales is periodically tagged into individual complaints on social media that are directed at National Governing Bodies and other sport organisations. For the most part these require no follow up but on occasion we will make the relevant personnel aware of issues that have been picked up.

Further to the above, I can also confirm that we are working proactively on issues of equality in our broader sector leadership role. This includes for example the joint Home Councils Tackling Racism and Race Inequality in Sport (TRARIIS) Review, and the subsequent recommendations and actions that emerged from this. Details of that can be found here <https://www.ukssport.gov.uk/news/2021/06/23/tackling-racism-and-racial-inequality-in-sport-review>

Other activities include the collaborative approach to developing the UK Sports Council Guidance for Transgender Inclusion in Domestic Sport, or our ongoing partnership with the International Working Group (IWG) on Women & Sport.

Finally, the circumstances in which Sport Wales wouldn't fund an NGB would include (i) clear and obvious fraud; (ii) misuse of public funding; (iii) insolvency and (iv) repeated failure to meet funding requirements / conditions. There have been instances where funding has been withheld in the past, indeed notice has been given to the WRU that future improvements in relation to governance would be required to ensure public funding is forthcoming. Sport Wales recognise that in most instances an NGB is dependent on public funding and is committed to helping partners improve. In line with our evidence, we would reiterate that we are also conscious of the need to work with our partner network and support their improvements in a way that helps the wider sport succeed. This may mean that short of withdrawing funding Sport Wales may amend the way we financially support partners e.g., monthly payment on receipt of expenditure or quarterly payments with specific conditions of grant added in to reflect emerging concerns.

The conditions placed on partners would universally apply to the above expectations of use of public money. Each grant is also subject to the Sport Wales terms and conditions of grant, which can be accessed here. [Sport Wales Terms and Conditions of Grant | Sport Wales](#). However, there will also be bespoke conditions specific to individual partners in line with the size, scope and reach of their sport and where Sport Wales and the NGB in question can best collaborate to make a difference.

Yours Sincerely,



Brian Davies
Acting Chief Executive
Sport Wales



Baroness Grey-Thompson
Chair
Sport Wales