

Jack Sargeant AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1561
Ein cyf/Our ref JS/00716/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

27 October 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter seeking my views on Petition P-06-1561 “Close the gender gap in Welsh women’s football: fund a national equality plan”.

National Governing Bodies of sports, including the Football Association of Wales (FAW), are independent organisations, and as such are responsible for their own governance, policies and procedures. It would therefore be for the FAW to decide on the appropriate player pathways for women’s football at all levels, from the grassroots to the elite, and what age-grade teams should be established to support player development.

In 2021 the FAW published “Our Wales: For Her”, their strategy for women and girls football in Wales and published an update on their progress against this last October ([Our-Wales-For-Her-Strategy-Progress-Report80.pdf](#)). I am also aware that the FAW is working with FIFA to revamp its girl’s academy system and is growing its range of age grade teams with a view to having a better pathway for young girls to progress to the national team, as the petitioner suggests. Additionally, the FAW has recently been named as the winner of the Best Women’s Football Initiative (sponsored by Women in Football) at the World Football Summit Awards 2025 for its “For Us. For Them. For Her. Cymru WEURO25 Legacy Campaign” funded through the Welsh Government’s £1m Euro 2025 Partner Support Fund.

Regarding equal pay, the Welsh Government has set out a range of expectations on moving to eliminate inequality in all of its forms as well as celebrating diversity in Sport Wales’s Term of Government Remit Letter.

The letter also makes clear that any remaining pay gaps based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, and other forms of discrimination which may exist, must be addressed.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In light of this, the FAW announced in January 2023 that it had reached an agreement with the Cymru Men's and Women's National Teams to achieve equal pay. The agreement covers the period up to and including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup. I have attached a link to that announcement below.

<https://faw.cymru/news/equal-pay-agreement-reached-between-faw-national-teams/>

I hope this information will be helpful to you and your Committee members.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Jack Sargeant AS/MS

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