

Culture Committee CC 01-03 p3

Date: 16 January 2003

Time: 1.30pm -4.00pm

Venue: National Assembly for Wales, Committee Room 2

CULTURE COMMITTEE: REVIEW OF PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

I am responding to Rhodri Glyn Thomas's letter of 29 October inviting the Sports Council for Wales (SCW) to submit evidence to the Culture Committee as part of the review of sport.

Although SCW will give evidence to the Committee in January, I hope the enclosed information will be helpful in providing a specific focus on barriers to increasing participation both within the population in general and specific identifiable groups.

We have pulled together some data from a number of sources and, although some of it may have been seen already, I trust that bringing it all together in one package will assist Committee members. This letter, along with the attached position paper and its specific annexes, comprise our submission.

1. review of recent research literature confirms the key factors cited by potential participants as barriers to more regular involvement in sport. A brief summary has been compiled under the headings of gender, ethnicity and age and is attached as **Annex 1** to the position paper. There are few surprises identified by this review but it is clear that positive intervention will be necessary to effect the lifestyle changes that are necessary to reverse current trends in health promoting physical activity throughout an individual's lifetime.
2. SCW survey reports, which are based on its longitudinal biennial research programme, are published on a regular basis and the latest Adult Participation Sports Update will have been received by Assembly Members within the last few weeks. This report comments on barriers to participation and this is summarised as **Annex 2** to the position paper. The single largest issue is finding the time to participate or, as some commentators interpret, finding the motivation.
3. The parallels in sports participation and physical activity rates are of particular significance when taken in the context of health improvement. Wales's position in world health league tables effectively mirrors its physical activity levels which are in decline. It is difficult to draw straight comparisons between surveys in different countries but the data included at **Annex 3** to the position report confirms the fact that Wales still lags behind England and both only achieve around 50% of the attainment in Australia.
4. SCWs Corporate Plan, submitted in June 2002, included a number of potential development areas that were considered to be high priority for the further development of sport in Wales which, in effect, are about removing current barriers to increasing participation. Supplementary

information has subsequently been provided at the request of the sponsor division and this is summarised as **Annex 4** to the position paper. Again this focuses on coaching, women and girls and the costs of being selected to play for Wales.

Brian Goffee

Director of Corporate Development

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

- 2. Sports participation rates vary widely across Wales as shown in Figure 1.



SPORTLOT capital investment since 1995

All Wales	£19,427,990	26%
North Wales	£16,085,822	21%
South East Wales	£23,999,583	32%
South West Wales	£15,782,335	21%

SPORTLOT Minor Grants

National	£16,018	4%
North Wales	£166,886	36%
South East Wales	£147,485	32%
South West Wales	£126,221	28%

SPORTLOT Community Chest

	spend to date	percentage	budget 2002/03	percentage
North Wales	£569,744	22%	£293,750	25%
South East Wales	£1,335,378	51%	£579,543	50%
South West Wales	£700,995	27%	£293,750	25%