

Date: 16 January 2003

Time: 1.30pm -4.00pm

Venue: National Assembly for Wales, Committee Room 2

5. BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN SPORT / PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Recent participation surveys conducted by Sports Council for Wales have collected a small amount of attitudinal data towards sport and leisure to supplement the significant amount of behavioural data. This data includes factors which touch on barriers towards participation – namely cost and time.

Chart 14 shows the percentage of people who agree with statements relating to those two factors.

Cost will always be a barrier for some people in specific sports, but at a general level it is not regarded as being as significant a problem as lack of time. Only 16% agree that cost is a barrier compared to 40% for time.

Indeed, attempts to overcome barriers to participation in sport must consider not only the greater time pressures on people in their working environment but also the proliferation of available leisure activities.

Sport and physical recreation is competing for time in a fast evolving leisure world. Chart 15 shows how people are using their leisure time.