

FAW response to Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee request for additional information relating to the impact of funding cuts, and where we believe more public investment could have an impact on football in Wales

FOOTBALL IN WALES

917 clubs | 5743 teams | 99552 registered club players | 13041 female players - #1 female team sport | 17136 volunteers

£553.14m – total current impact of registered football participation | **£663.59m** projected impact of participation levels in 2026 (SROI)

189,268 school age children playing | **110,758** school age children would like to do more (School Sport Survey 2018)

#1 sport for participants with a **disability, BAME** and in **areas of deprivation** (School Sport Survey 2018)

206,000 adults take part in outdoor football (National Survey for Wales 18-19) | **1 person in every 33** in Wales play football – 16th in Europe

#1 TEAM SPORT in Wales in terms of public interest and participation (UEFA image research 2022)

CHALLENGES

27% reduction in participation investment from Sport Wales, bringing our forecast funding down to **£484,000** – reduction will have a significant impact on our ability to grow and develop W&G and inclusive opportunities as well as provide dedicated support to our 900+ clubs

Level of government investment in football per registered player **Wales - £9.17 | Scotland - £13.89 | Northern Ireland £13.13**

Poor facilities – **the #1 issue affecting players** | Pitches deteriorating with worsening weather conditions – **over 20% cancellations** | 10 years of reduced parks maintenance budgets | Over past 20 years - Football Foundation has invested **over £710m in grassroots facilities** in England

Wales needs **389 NEW pitches** to meet current and future demand = **£343m investment** over next 20 years

Attendance levels for domestic football significantly below European benchmark | Only **42%** of attendees are satisfied with their experiences

WG review of football, in 2005, **recognised a significant disparity in investment in football.....**which hasn't been addressed

OUR REQUEST - 10m PER YEAR INVESTMENT to meet the development needs of Welsh football - the biggest sport in Wales

£6M for COMMUNITY FACILITIES to develop new, to meet growth needs, and transform existing grassroots facilities at club, parks and education sites

£1M for DOMESTIC FOOTBALL facilities to improve supporter experiences attracting bigger audiences and more revenue for national league clubs

£3M for PROGRAMME AND PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT to enhance grassroots workforce and development services facilitating club growth, women and girls development and inclusive opportunities

