

**The Welsh Government's response to the recommendations in the Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee report.**

**"Allegations concerning the Welsh Rugby Union".**

**Recommendation 1**

When the Independent Review Panel publishes its report the WRU should, as soon as practical, publish an implementation plan showing how and when it will implement its recommendations. It should also attend the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee to explain its current and planned actions in this area.

**Response:**

This recommendation is for the WRU to consider.

**Recommendation 2**

The Welsh Government should ensure that any future financial support it provides to the WRU is compatible with all aspects of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy and the Economic Contract.

**Response:**

Accept.

Whilst we do not provide core funding to national sports governing bodies – that is the role of Sport Wales – the Welsh Government did, under very exceptional circumstances during Covid, provide essential and urgent grant and loan support to the WRU, and other organisations, to survive the crisis they were facing.

In recently agreeing to restructure the loan agreement, originally undertaken to help the WRU buy out its UK Government CLBILS loan, the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism wrote to the WRU setting out some pre-requisites for discussions to commence. They included the promotion of an inclusive game where women and girls feel safe, heard and supported with workplaces that pursue fair work practices and protecting and ensuring value for money in any public investment. The letter also included reference to the economic contract, which formed part of existing previous financial support to the WRU, and how the WRU and the Welsh Government should further build the requirements of that into our partnership to ensure that this investment supports their longer-term plans for a healthier business. These were all agreed to by the WRU.

The Welsh Government will also ensure the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy can be embedded in any future funding that WRU receives from the Welsh Government. They will also include these in the formal account management arrangements in place with the WRU to monitor compliance with the loan agreement.

**Recommendation 3**

The Welsh Government should set out how concerns around an organisation's culture will be factored into the Welsh Government's decisions on whether to provide that organisation with financial support.

Response:

Accept.

The Welsh Government has a duty to protect public funds, ensuring that they are handled with probity, stewardship and in the public interest. It is important that there is confidence in the organisations the Welsh Government funds ensuring funding meets the highest standards of public conduct. A number of factors are taken into consideration as part of the appraisal process of providing funding to organisations.

As previously outlined, the Welsh Government does not provide core funding direct to sports organisations but direct Sport Wales, as part of their remit, to provide funds to sports organisations, such as national governing bodies. In determining whether to provide funding to those organisations, there is a requirement to demonstrate their capability against a governance framework which assesses whether organisations have sufficient governance arrangements, including robust policies and procedures, to provide assurance that they are fit to receive public funds. The Welsh Government regularly monitors this with Sport Wales and Sport Wales is confident that they dispatch this responsibility effectively. They also recently received substantial assurance on their processes from their auditors.

**Recommendation 4**

The Welsh Government should review its protocols for responding to concerns raised with Ministers, Deputy Ministers and civil servants about inappropriate behaviour in organisations in Wales. It should report back to the Committee within the next six months on the outcome of this review and should set out what steps it will take as a result.

Response:

Accept.

The Welsh Government accepts this recommendation and will write back to the Committee within six months, as requested.

**Recommendation 5**

The Welsh Government should set out how the organisations it funds should use this funding in remit letters. Good scrutiny rests on being able to assess whether these aims have been delivered. To this end, the Welsh Government should ensure that the requirements in remit letters of the organisations it funds are clear and tangible.

Response:

Accept.

The Welsh Government already provides direction to standalone grant recipients it supports on how funding should be spent through the terms, conditions and schedules in the grant offer letter.

Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies, including Sport Wales, are arm's length organisations. As such, they are responsible for making their own funding decisions based on Welsh Government policy priorities as set out in their term of government remit letters.

## **Recommendation 6**

Sport Wales should consider the funding it provides to national governing bodies in light of any allegations of inappropriate behaviour within these governing bodies.

### Response:

This recommendation is for Sport Wales to consider.