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Senedd Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
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Dear Chair,

Thank you for the recent invite to join the Committee as part of a scrutiny session with Sport Wales. It was really positive to be able to share the work that we as an organisation, and sector, are undertaking. We also welcomed the opportunity to hear the views, questions and challenges from Committee members and we continue to be grateful for the constructive challenge that the Committee brings to these sessions.

We felt it important to ensure that we build on some of the points raised, as well as provide more in depth information and resources in relation to some of the points that both we, and the Committee members, highlighted during the discussions.

#### Cost of living and inflation

We wanted to initially respond to the issues of the cost-of-living crisis and inflationary pressures. These present themselves both as a challenge to Sport Wales and our partners in terms of our own budget resourcing and to the broader public's financial ability to participate in sport.

As noted, Sport Wales has been modelling the impact any financial cuts would have on our operational capability. We will seek to absorb as much as possible any changes to our indicative budget, but it is important to repeat that it is highly unlikely that we will be able to avoid having to reflect any negative budget changes in the offers that we make to partners. Undoubtedly, this will put pressure on their capacity, as well as our own, to deliver the services that we collectively provide.

There is also the impact on capital funding projects. We have been incredibly grateful to the Welsh Government for the foresight that they have had in investing significantly in capital projects via Sport Wales in recent years. The demand of course has far and away exceeded the level of funding available. With inflation pushing capital project costs up by up to 25%, the funding available is not able to stretch as far as it previously would have. This impacts both future and existing project costs.

Our concerns also relate to the participatory barriers. We know from the most recent published [Wales Activity Tracker](#) that the ongoing cost-of-living crisis is having a sustained impact on the public's participation rates and trends. Over a series of tracker surveys we have consistently seen the public note that they are changing their habits due to financial concerns. In some instances this has meant switching to free activities, in others it has resulted in the decision to stop activities altogether. We will continue to monitor this key trend through this quarterly data set.

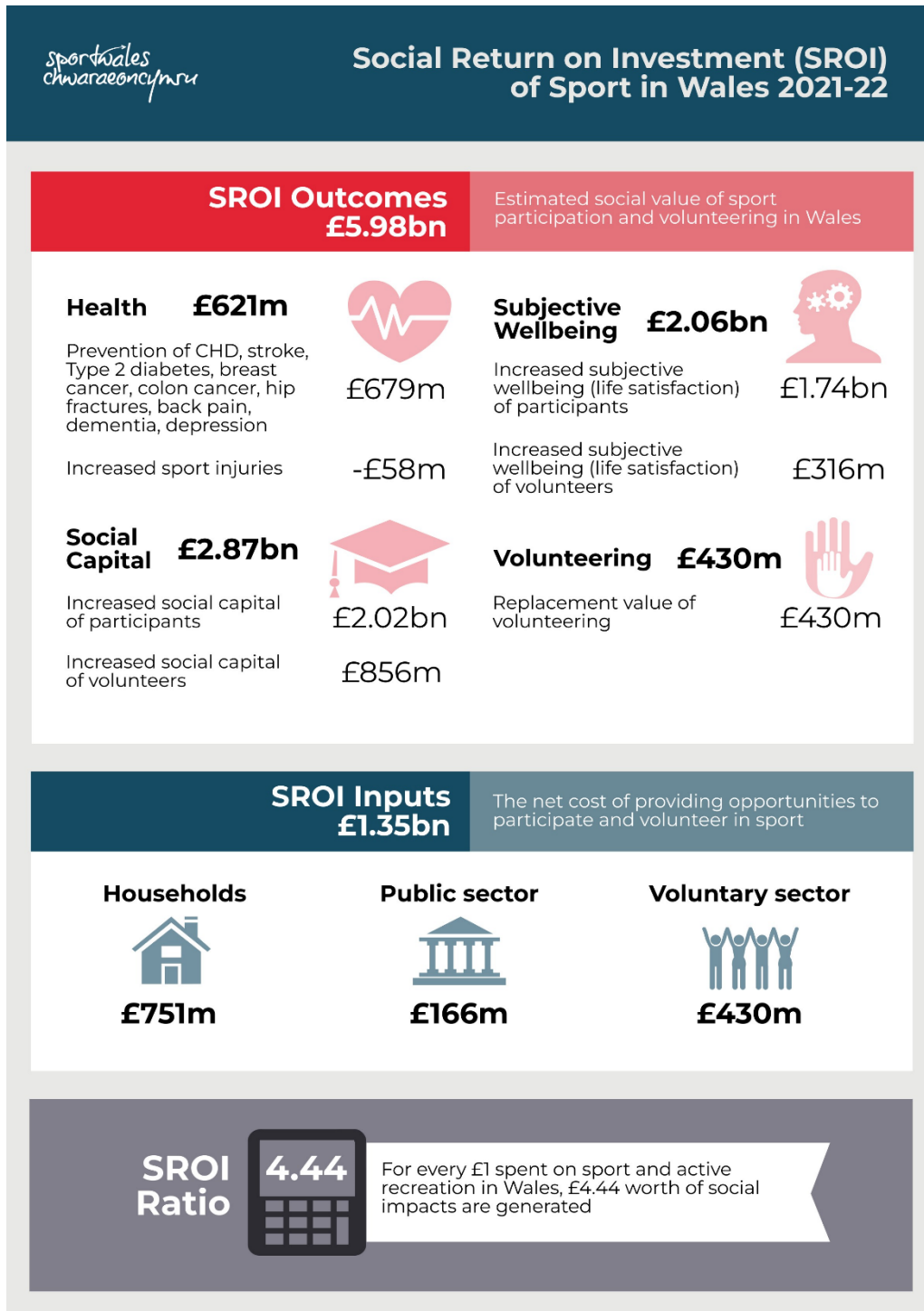
### Sport Wales Investment

As part of the session we were asked what data was used within the Sport Wales funding model. Our approach to investment was also referenced at several points throughout the conversation. As such we felt it correct to furnish the Committee with links to the resource we have previously published to ensure this is the most transparent investment approach possible. We are extremely proud of being completely open about the nature of the data we are using, why we have prioritised it, how it is used, and the sources it is drawn from.

Committee Members will find our approach to partner investment accessible [here](#), whilst the specific data that underpins the National Governing Body funding can be accessed [here](#). As always, should any Member of the Committee wish to have a discussion on this funding approach we would be happy to facilitate.

### Social Return on Investment

In response to the challenges faced by inflation and the cost of living we were very clear about the need for collaboration across different sectors. It is imperative that sport plays an important role in the future as part of a preventative approach to tackling some of the fundamental challenges faced by the National Health Service. This requires a shift in financial approach where sport is considered as part of the early stages of interventions and is part of a well-being approach to health spending. We have recently published the Social Return on Investment (SROI) study for sport in Wales, conducted by the world leading Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University. The figures are staggering and show the incredible annual contribution sport makes to health, and other areas, which further adds weight to the Government's aspiration that sport has the potential to be the most effective preventative health tool in the country. Details of the results are provided in the infographic below.



We will be seeking to work with colleagues across a wide range of policy areas, but specifically health as a priority, recognising both the financial pressures that can be creatively addressed in collaboration, as well as the fundamental impact of sport on delivery that we need to maximise for the people of Wales.

### Education

An area that was highlighted during our evidence session was the importance of education in developing inclusive sporting opportunities that lead to a lifelong enjoyment of sport. As noted, we ran several pilots across Wales, in conjunction with schools and local authority partners, and gained important insights into the way in which this approach can drive both sporting and educational outcomes. A review of the pilot is available [here](#).

Further to this, we also noted the significant resources that Sport Wales has developed with the education sector as part of our "CitBag" programme. This is an online learning hub to help give young people the skills, confidence, and sporting experiences for a lifelong enjoyment of sport. The resources are for teachers, parents, guardians, learners, volunteers and coaches alike. The resources have been very well received by the education sector to date and we would encourage Committee Members to share access to Citbag with constituents through this [link](#).

### Sport Partnerships

We also wanted to draw your attention to our ongoing roll out of Sport Partnerships. This shift to a regional delivery model is at the heart of much of what has been discussed above. We continue to work towards establishing the 5 Sport Partnership regions, with Actif North Wales having previously been established and the new Sport Partnership in West Wales soon to be fully operational. This approach is helping to create a transformational change in sport delivery. Sport Partnerships will help to ensure that multi-sector expertise is pulled together as a way of ensuring that sport supports a broad range of outcomes, whilst creating offers that are safe, inclusive, developmental and led by need.

We would welcome the Committee's continued support for this programme and look forward to updating you on progress over the coming year.

### Annual report

Finally, you may have seen our Annual Report has recently been laid before the Senedd. This captured all the work of the organisation across the past financial year. We are incredibly proud of the work that has been done by the organisation and the wider sport sector. You can look back at the detail [here](#) and we look forward to continuing the constructive approach to working with the Committee in future.

Yours Sincerely,



Brian Davies  
Prif Weithredwr  
Chwaraeon Cymru



Y Farwnes Grey-Thompson  
Cadeirydd  
Chwaraeon Cymru