

Sport Wales National Centre

Canolfan Genedlaethol Chwaraeon Cymru

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Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications,
Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff,
CF99 1SN

26.05.2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2025 regarding the distribution of funding in Wales, and for providing the opportunity for me to outline the approach Sport Wales takes to ensuring an inclusive sporting sector through our discretionary funding.

As you know, the allocation of funding to Sport Wales from Welsh Government is at a level that provides significant challenge in terms of trying to satisfy everybody's expectations.

As part of the Sport Wales investment approach, we use a range of different data sets to objectively distribute funding for those partners where we hold national level data. This is known as the data-driven process. Where this is the case, we fund according to the participation levels and demands of a sport, which are then weighted by demographic data. This ensures we not only reflect the size and impact of a sport in Wales, but also how that sport is specifically supporting communities by race, gender, deprivation and disability. Full details of the data used, how it is weighted and the other elements of capability and accountability that make up the Sport Wales investment approach can be accessed [here](#).

For those partners where national level data is not available, which includes Wales Rugby League, funding is determined as part of a partnership form process. This is in part a reflection of historical funding levels, the size and scope of a national governing body, their standing within our governance and capability framework, delivery against previous outlined expectations and the organisations relationship with Sport Wales aligned to shared priorities. The partnership form is considered as part of an internal panel before final determination of the funding level.

It was agreed by the Sport Wales Board that funding for partners that are not part of the data driven process, such as Wales Rugby League, will remain and continue at the existing levels for the period 2023-2027 and we are continuing to explore the ways in which those partners that fall outside the data driven model are funded beyond 2027.

Funding to any partner is discretionary and we will engage with partners at the right time as these options are explored.

It should be noted that this investment reference above is directly for the National Governing Body of the sport, not the sport itself so to speak. Therefore, our offering extends beyond the funding available to Wales Rugby League as an entity, as we also directly support community clubs via a range of mechanisms. According to Wales Rugby League data, there are approximately 21 or so clubs in Wales and they are able to access our Be Active Wales Fund, with grants from £300 up to £50,000 available. Additionally, further support, up to a value of £25,000, can be accessed through our Energy Savings Grant and a matched fund level of up to £15,000 can be accessed through our A Place for Sport Fund. We are therefore continuing to ensure that rugby league clubs, and all not-for-profit community sport clubs, can apply to receive vital support for their members throughout the year, well beyond the specific investment in a National Governing Body. All details on our community funds are [here](#) should this be of benefit to clubs in committee members constituencies. Alternatively, our investments team can help on an individual basis, an offer which has previously been extended to Wales Rugby League.

Ultimately, Sport Wales's investment approach aims to ensure that the funding we allocate is distributed as equitably as possible, recognising, as mentioned earlier, the vast numbers of sports and partners we fund within a finite funding resource. We welcomed the recent Senedd Culture Committee's recommendation that funding for sport should be increased until it reaches a level aligned to other comparable nations. This is something the [Welsh Government has also accepted in principle](#). Should greater funding be made available then all our partner network, including Wales Rugby League, will benefit from that increase. We would, of course, welcome your continued support for this position.

Finally, in response to your ask that we publish all funding allocations to national governing bodies so that they are publicly available I can confirm that we will shortly display the final award values in the financial year to all National Governing Bodies on our website.

Thank you once again for your letter and for the interest and support you show to our sector in your role as Chair of the Senedd Committee.

Yours Sincerely,



Brian Davies OBE
Chief Executive
Sport Wales