

Brian Davies OBE, Chief Executive
Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompsons, DBE, DL, Chair
Sport Wales

10 November 2025

Annual Scrutiny of Sport Wales

Dear Brian and Tanni,

We are grateful to Sport Wales for attending the Committee's meeting on 25 September 2025 for annual scrutiny. We would like to thank you for your time and for the evidence that you shared with the Committee. As we mentioned during the session, there are one or two further issues we wanted to raise with you, which we didn't have time to raise during the session, and these are dealt with below.

Sport as a preventative tool

We were surprised and disappointed to hear that the Welsh Government had not discussed the contribution that Sport Wales can make to Wales's new status as a Marmot Nation with you. The link between sport and the Marmot principle of ill health prevention is clear. We know that it is far cheaper to invest in prevention than it is to deal with the consequences of ill-health.

We believe that the Welsh Government should work with Sport Wales to increase the role of sport in ill-health prevention, to make good on the commitment the Welsh Government has made by declaring itself a Marmot Nation.

We will continue to pursue this with the Welsh Government, and I have copied this letter to the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership.

Evaluation of the new Sport Wales investment approach

We note in your 2023-24 Annual Report that you:

"...began a full evaluation of our 'data driven' investment approach which was implemented from 2020 onwards."

In Committee, you described the review of your investment model as an “ongoing piece of work”. You also explained that the change in investment model has “been a real transition”, with differing effects being seen on the funding of national governing bodies.

We think that, given this impact, the sector would benefit from the transparency provided by a published review into Sport Wales’s investment model.

The Committee will continue to pursue this with the Welsh Government.

Budget constraints

We noted your comments on the low level of funding for Sport Wales compared with other sports councils:

“The top-line figure to put us in a comparable state to the other home country sports councils would be about £20 million a year. To put us in line with the average for European countries, it would be £200 million.

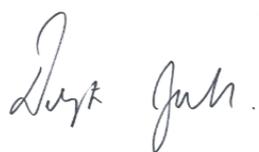
Previous analysis by Senedd Research (which we drew on in our [Impact of funding reductions on culture and sport](#) inquiry) showed that public funding of sport in Wales is among the lowest levels in Europe. We called for the Welsh Government to increase funding for culture and sport until they are comparable (in terms of spending per head) with those of similar nations.

We will raise this issue as part of our scrutiny of the Welsh Government draft budget in the coming weeks.

Thank you once again for your attendance at Committee and for your valuable insights.

As noted previously, I am copying this letter to the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.