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Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-RE-1669-17

Lawrence Conway
Interim Chair
Sport Wales
Sophia Gardens
Cardiff
CF11 9SW

16 May 2017

Dear Lawrence,

SPORT WALES REMIT LETTER 2017-18

I am writing to set out the Welsh Government's current remit for Sport Wales in 2017-18.

The priorities for the coming year are set in the context of a new Programme for Government, '*Taking Wales Forward*', and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ("the Act").

Taking Wales Forward sets the strategic agenda but our approach to this programme for government is deliberately different from our past approach. We know that to prepare for the challenges facing Wales, we must plan for the longer term and work collaboratively with others who can help to deliver our ambition for Wales. In this context the review of Sport Wales, to be completed in late May 2017, is likely to mean that a revised remit letter will be sent to you this summer. It is on this basis that we committed to developing and delivering four cross-cutting strategies, Ambitious and Learning, Healthy and Active, Prosperous and Secure, United and Connected.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

A key goal for this Government will be prosperity for all – a theme that captures our ambition to support individuals to do well. In doing so, we also need to do our best to ensure equality, but recognise the limits of the levers that we have. For the Healthy and Active strategy, this means defining our approach to improving health and well-being for all, which underpins our aspirations for education and employment and goes well beyond the NHS.

Through the strategies, we will focus on making a step change in the way we identify and address the stubborn societal issues that are complex and require a multi-partner approach. More of the same will not allow us to make the progress we want, so the strategies cannot be an amalgamation of existing activity. Success will ultimately be measured by what has changed for the people of Wales.

The Well-being objectives will inform the scope of the strategies, which will provide an opportunity to find fresh solutions to the challenges faced by Wales and will demonstrate that we are seizing the opportunity of the Well-being of Future Generations Act to think and work differently.

Sport Wales should continue to set well-being objectives which maximise its contribution to achieving the goals of the Act and in a way that satisfies the sustainable development principle.

Your Business Plan for 2017-18 should be aligned with the sustainable development principle (five ways of working) and the seven goals of the Act. The Plan should articulate very clearly how Sport Wales will ensure that everything it does, all that it facilitates or influences and the organisations it funds will have a beneficial impact on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

In developing your Business Plan for 2017-18, I would ask you to consider how Sport Wales will contribute to our Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward' and in particular to our specific commitments to achieving a Healthy and Active Wales. Your investments and activities should be clearly aligned to the national outcomes and measured in a way that provides a direct line of sight between strategy and impact and demonstrates value for money and a quantifiable return on investment.

I know you have been working with other members of the Physical Activity Measurement and Research Group to develop a system of national, future-proofed, indicators for physical activity that will support the implementation of a national strategy and act as a measurement of the Chief Medical Officers guidelines. I am also aware of your work over the past 12 months to consider Sport Wales' impact against the Act's wellbeing goals and your commitment to use that exercise to steer your investment decisions and guide your research and evaluation strategy.

I expect you to agree an outcome and performance indicators framework, as well as your research and evaluation strategy for the coming year with Sports Policy officials in the first quarter of the reporting period and for them to be reflected in your Business Plan for 2017-18. The recent exercise your officers and my officials conducted to identify the outcomes and performance indicators to be adopted for community sport is a good start but they will need to take account of the stated outcomes and actions in the Healthy and Active strategy. An addendum to this letter will follow to confirm those outcomes, the performance indicators, and the means through which they will be measured and how we will monitor progress.

Confirmation of your grant-in-aid for the 2017-18 financial year is at **Annex A**.

The investments you make must proactively address the health, equalities and tackling poverty agendas. In supporting the delivery of 'Taking Wales Forward', they should support young people from deprived areas and develop new opportunities for our poorest young people, people who are disabled and other under-represented groups. Investments should provide programmes that engage people within communities who do not undertake sport and physical activity or do so below the activity levels recommended by the CMO - and I would like you to explore how new partners and innovative routes to engagement can deliver a step change here, piloting new programmes where appropriate. Investments should also support the pathway for those already participating in sport and physical recreation, to encourage sustained regular participation and to identify and develop talent.

I look to Sport Wales to continue to lead and support the sector in improving governance and leadership and to be an exemplar organisation by applying all the principles of good governance in all its policies, activities and behaviours. I expect to see actions in your Business Plan for 2017-18 that ensure the means by which Sport Wales' performance is measured includes the views of your stakeholders and partners. In the interests of transparency and accountability I also want you to publish your partner investment principles, criteria, scoring process and funding awards on your website.

You should continue your work to develop a new approach to community sport and physical recreation. I also want you to commission an external review of your school sport programmes, 5x60 and Dragon Multi Skills and Sport, and both Free Swimming schemes to report to me by autumn 2017. I want to know whether they have achieved their stated outcomes for children and young people when first introduced or since they have been revised and whether they can achieve a greater impact on sport and physical activity participation levels. I expect my officials to be part of the discussion to agree the tender specification for the reviews and to approve them before they are issued.

I would also like to see a greater priority attached to how Sport Wales influences the provision and management of sports facilities across Wales and helps the sector to access grant funding from various sources and supports, where it can, the Community Asset Transfer process.

Elite Sport remains a key focus of Sport Wales' activities and rightly so. I expect to see in the framework to be agreed with my officials, and in your Business Plan for 2017-18, some related outcomes and performance measures to confirm the progress and objectives articulated by the new Elite Sport Strategy. I look forward to seeing the outcome of your work in the area of elite system building and the links to the wider NGB sporting pathway to ensure that no talented young person should go unsupported and as much of our talent as possible is captured, directed and developed. I was pleased to agree an additional investment to support Gemau Cymru 2017.

I look forward to receiving further details in the coming months on how the event makes a valid and sustainable contribution to performance sport in Wales and how it will generate commercial income or sponsorship to support its future. A separate grant agreement will confirm the additional funding in 2017-18 to support the event costs for Gemau Cymru in 2017.

I am aware of Sport Wales' commitment to increase the commercial income it generates, to supplement the public investment from Welsh Government and the National Lottery. The two National Centres, at Sophia Gardens and Plas Menai, continue to operate with a public investment subsidy and I am keen to learn of your longer-term vision for both centres. It is important that National Governing Bodies of Sport are also encouraged to be less reliant on public funds and to secure investment from other sources and I welcome the collaboration between Sport Wales and the Welsh Sports Association in pursuing that objective.

The Welsh Government wants to see the Welsh language used more extensively and for the numbers who speak it to reach one million by 2050. The sport sector has a significant part to play in supporting this goal so I would ask you to re-double your efforts in this area. Sport Wales is a designated body in the new Welsh Language Standards legislation. I know you have already responded positively to the Standards and I hope you will continue to be an advocate and to facilitate and support the organisations you fund to embracing the Government's priority to embed the Welsh Language in the everyday life of the nation.

Finally, as we continue our programme of themed years to support our Tourism industry, I would ask you to continue to work closely with my officials and with other sports bodies to support our 2017 'Year of Legends' and 2018 'Year of the Sea' programmes.

Yours,
Rebecca

Rebecca Evans AC/AM

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Minister for Social Services and Public Health

GRANT IN AID FUNDING

The Welsh Government will provide Sport Wales with Grant in Aid funding of £22.515m for 2017-18. The budget is set out in detail below and includes continued provision for delivering the Free Swimming initiative and an increase in Capital to support the ongoing accommodation refurbishment of the National Centres.

Grant in Aid Budget Allocation

	Plans 2017-18 (£000s)
Revenue (near cash)	
Running Costs	1,327
Free Swimming	3,750
Current Expenditure	19,936
Current Receipts	-3,700
Total Revenue (near cash)	21,313
Capital	
Capital Expenditure	423
Total capital	423
Non-Cash	
Depreciation	779
Total non cash	779
TOTAL GIA	22,515

The total grant-in-aid represents the maximum provision and is resource based. I expect Sport Wales to adhere to these budget line figures as far as possible and to report any projected changes as soon as possible through the quarterly monitoring meetings. Payment of grant-in-aid continues to be on condition of compliance with the contents of the Framework Document.

Sport Wales' performance will be measured by its progress against the strategic priorities within this Remit Letter, and the agreed outcomes, activities, indicators and measures in its business plan.

The arrangements for monitoring Sport Wales' performance and progress will continue in the form of regular meetings at official level and our meetings. I would like you to provide a report on your performance in 2016-17 in advance of our summer meeting and a report on your 2017-18 half year performance in advance of our autumn meeting.

