

Duncan McNeil MSP
Convener of the Health and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

20 March 2013

RESPONSE TO REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SPORT

Thank you for your letter of 30 January providing the opportunity to respond to the recommendations of the Health and Sport Committee following publication, on 16 January, of the Committee's report into support for community sport. Comments on each of the Committee's recommendations are included in the enclosure to this letter which complement our full contribution to the committee inquiry and our involvement in the evidence gathering session on 4 September 2012.

In addition to our responses to the recommendations I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight to the committee that **sportscotland** is committed to developing and supporting a world class sporting system at all levels. This is a phrase that is often associated with high performance, but not so much at a community, club or school level. By taking this holistic view of sport and explicitly including all levels it allows for shared ambitions with partners in Scottish governing bodies and local authorities.

As the national agency for sport we have already made significant progress and reported on the five changes that people who participate in sport, or who want to participate in sport, will see as a result of our focus on developing and supporting a world-class system. Our annual review, available on our website, is structured around these five changes, and outlines the progress made towards them in year one of our corporate plan, which covers the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. These changes are in the areas of people, places, progression, getting involved and profile.

We are also in the process of prioritising a direct club investment programme that will work through Regional Sports Partnerships to invest in identified clubs over a 2-4 year period for larger scale development that will support a club's aspiration to becoming world class.

The programme is focused on strengthening club sport by delivering on two key outcomes:

- Growth in club membership and/or;
- Growth in clubs which provide the correct environment to develop athletes to performance levels.

We want to support clubs to sustainably grow the active membership of their club, consequently increasing the number of people taking part in club sport.

Should the committee wish to discuss further the progress made in developing the world-class system or any of **sportscotland's** responses to its recommendations I would be happy to do so.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Harris
Chief Executive