

Draft Budget Scrutiny 2014-2015 sportscotland

The seven questions do not have a direct relevance to **sportscotland** but we would be grateful if the committee could consider this generic response in its deliberations.

Sportscotland is satisfied with the level of funding that we have received from the Scottish Government and we are pleased to say that the level of Lottery funding is very positive as well due to the recent increases in shares to the good causes and the resources we have seen return to us following the staging of the Olympics in London in 2012. **Sportscotland's** budget for 2013-2014 will include £31 million in lottery funding in addition to the £35 million grant-in-aid that we will receive from the Scottish Government. We will invest these funds in the development of a World Class System for Sport through our Corporate Plan 2011-2015 priorities around schools, clubs and performance. In this context it is important to stress that we do not work alone in developing this system at every level of sport. Everything we do in developing sport in Scotland is made effective through our partnership with local government and its investment. That is where we see two things happening at the moment. We see lots of commitment and ambition, which is slightly tempered by the pressures around budgets but we are working very carefully and clearly with our partners to try to maximise the total resources we have for sport. Good investment decisions to fund the right things in the right places are vital and there is no "right" to investment in Scotland but it is also important to acknowledge that it can take a long time for results to be achieved on the back of sustainable investment and the Active Schools Programme is a particular case in point. The Active Schools Network has been in place now for almost 10 years and **sportscotland** invested £14m in 2012-2013 in partnership with local authorities who also invest time and money into the programme. Active Schools data is telling us that In the 2012/13 academic year, over **19,000 deliverers (85% of whom are voluntary/over 16,000 Volunteers)**, provided **270,000 Activity Sessions** in a range of over **100 different sports/activities**. Pupils made **5.1 million visits (participant sessions)** to these sessions across the year. There were **18,000 links** between schools and sports clubs, helping pupils to participate in sport outwith their school.

Indicator	Increase from 2011/12
5.1 million Participant Sessions	+13%
270,000 Activity Sessions	+15%
19,000 Distinct Deliverers	+22%
16,000 Voluntary Deliverers	+24%
18,000 School/Club links	+26%

The **sportscotland** institute of sport is another example of sustainable investment (15 years and £6m invested in 2012/13) making a difference with the institute now producing world class services to our athletes that are making a significant difference to their performance.

I am sure there will be some submissions to the committee that will make the case for preventative spend into sport due to the ongoing debate around the impact of inactivity on the health service. We would not wish to counter that type of submission from any source but it is important to acknowledge the difference between the development of a World Class System for Sport and encouraging people to take exercise purely for health and fitness reasons. Sport does, of course, play a role in the delivery of physical activity, exercise, active living, play and dance but it is not the responsibility of sport to deliver all of the solutions for inactivity. The recent Scottish Household Survey results indicated that participation levels for sport remained fairly static but the frequency of participants already taking part in sport had increased.

In summary **sportscotland** would like the committee to stress the importance of local authority investment in sport as part of its scrutiny and deliberations of the Scottish Budget and encourage the level of sustainable investment that has brought success in the specific examples outlined above in relation to the Active Schools network and the **sportscotland** institute of sport (we do of course have other examples including facility development and are looking at club development). In this regard the committee, if it has not already done so, might wish to invite views from VOCAL and COSLA on local authority continued investment in sport. I understand that VOCAL is working with the consultancy EKOS to revisit its 2011 report 'Culture and Leisure Services in Local Government which highlights, at policy level, how government has sought to protect spending in key areas such as health, while other areas of public service are seeking to make varying levels of budget savings. The position of culture and leisure services within this environment is undoubtedly challenging. There is little in the way of statutory protection for culture and leisure spending, and the level of strategic priority attached to these areas varies considerably across the local authority sector.