

Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport submission of 19 July 2023

PE2018/E: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open

Thank you for your letter and request for further information regarding the above petition.

The Scottish Government understands that local sport and leisure facilities are vital in supporting the physical, mental and social health of the nation.

I can confirm that as a result of the UK Government's announcement in the spring budget of 2023 of a swimming pool fund the Scottish Government received Barnett consequential of £1.939m resource and £3.877m capital.

As noted in my previous response Barnett consequentials are accrued to the Scottish Government as a whole and it is for Scottish Ministers to decide how they should be allocated based on their priorities.

It is critical that we fully understand the overall position of sports and leisure facilities throughout Scotland in order to determine how the sector can best be supported therefore we are unable to put a timescale on decisions of support.

In the immediate future it is vital that all partners at a local level work together to explore all avenues and approaches to ensure that local clubs and communities have access to sport and leisure facilities.

MAREE TODD MSP