28 March 2018

Dear Lewis,

Thank you for the Health and Sport Committee’s Report entitled ‘Sport for Everyone’.

The Scottish Government believes that there should be no barriers at all to participating in sport - everyone should be able to participate in and enjoy sport – whoever they are and whatever their background. The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework sets out our ambitions for a more active Scotland, and is underpinned by our commitment to equality. We want to ensure that people of all ages and from all communities across Scotland have the opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity.

In recognition of the importance of getting people active, the Scottish Government has protected the sportscotland budget to improve access for all and to continue to work with local authorities, sports governing bodies and other organisations deliver new and upgraded sporting facilities. Furthermore, we have committed to underwrite the reduction in National Lottery income up to £3.4m to provide stability to delivery partners and local communities.

This Government is committed to ensure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy an active lifestyle which is why our Programme for Government includes a pledge to make Scotland the first Daily Mile Nation. We are working with partners, including The Daily Mile Foundation, to ensure this initiative is available to everyone across all sectors.

We are clear about the importance of ensuring that the legacy of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games continues to provide people with opportunities to engage and lead activity, remove barriers to participation and also recognise achievements. In April 2018 when the 21st Commonwealth Games takes place in the Gold Coast, we’ll be able to show how the Games helped deliver lasting benefits across the whole of Scotland. Legacy is made possible by the excellent partnership working of a whole host of organisations – local and national, public, private and third sector – with all of Scotland’s local authorities helping to spread the benefit. To date at least 49 national and international events have been secured.
(with an estimated impact of £18.5 million), including the European Athletics Indoor Championships 2019 at the Emirates Arena, Glasgow. I will share a copy of the Legacy 2014 final evaluation with the Committee when it is published next month.

Enclosed is our response to the points raised in the report. Given the report covered a variety of topics the Scottish Government response is constructed in a way that should make the information easily digestable for the Committee. I would like to thank the Committee for holding an inquiry into sport and physical activity - a vital area for the health and wellbeing of our nation. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue in the future.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

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HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE REPORT ON SPORT FOR EVERYONE

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PARTICIPATION

1.1 We consider where possible and practicable sport and physical activity should be available in a wide variety of locations. This will provide people with choices in where to participate, hopefully resulting in there being at least one arena where they feel comfortable. An initial more relaxed environment could encourage participation which may lead to confidence to move on to "palaces of sport". In more rural areas we recognise this is less likely to be possible and recommend as much choice as possible be made available between differing standards and activity choices.

SG Position

- We agree that sport and physical activity should be available to all in a wide variety of locations. That is why we have an explicit outcome within the Active Scotland outcome framework which focuses on this to ensure our active infrastructure (people and places) support getting Scotland more active.
- To compliment this sportscotland will continue to provide strategic planning advice and support to local authorities to ensure that a more integrated approach is taken to the planning and development of sports facilities as well as providing financial support to develop high quality places for sport meeting the needs of local communities.
- Sportscotland will also continue to deliver a network of regional sports centres around the country with a mixture of facilities for community use and to enable elite athletes to train in Scotland – creating better pathways for more people to reach their sporting potential. This builds on sportscotland’s investment in numerous small scale community facilities which provide a relaxed environment to encourage participation.
- Finally, we shall build on the learning delivered through the Commonwealth Games Legacy activity by the Spirit of 2012, that is helping local communities and groups engage with those that are physically inactive by sharing learning and best practise.

Role Models

1.2.1 As with a variety of locations and venues being a positive to increase participation so will the availability of a wide spectrum of coaches and role models. We heard details of good work being undertaken by clubs and organisations to increase participation among women. We encourage others to learn from such positive programmes and expand and tailor them to increase participation by other groupings.

SG Position
• We agree that there is a wide range of positive activity taking places throughout Scotland supporting individuals including women.
• However, we wish to go further and that is why an advisory group on women and girls in sport has been established to ensure we do all that we can to improve the levels of participation and increase the prominence of role models at every level of sport.

1.2.2 We ask the Scottish Government to advise of the work it is doing to encourage role models in specific areas of sport and physical activity. For example those with the aim of increasing participation among specific groups such as females, people over 50, LGBT, ethnic minorities and other minority groups.

SG Position

• We provide sportscotland with a letter of strategic guidance to inform their delivery and this specifically highlights the need to improve activity for under-represented groups. This has led to sportscotland reviewing their activity and approach to ensure that all areas of our society benefit from being active.
• We also recognise the benefit of using both community grassroots and performance athlete role models to encourage participation in sport and physical activity. For example the utilisation of role models during Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week and through the Champion in Scotland programme.
• Beyond the support and leadership of sportscotland, we provide support for a number of programmes and initiatives aimed at specifically targeting under-represented groups such as Walking for Health Groups, the Scottish Cycling Breeze Programme, Walking Football and working closely with organisations such as LEAP Sports.

Negative Early Years’ Experience

1.3.1 We acknowledge the importance of enjoyable experiences in early years with sport and physical activity, including at school. These experiences will hopefully encourage children to continue participation further in life. However, we believe more needs to be done to ensure the involvement of whole family groups. By focussing only on schools a whole spectrum of other opportunities are being missed.

SG Position

• We agree with the committee that developing a habit of being active from early years through to old age is important. We do not believe that there is only a focus on schools as we encourage activity through a focus on play, outdoor learning, and embedding good active habits outwith the school environment. There are a range of initiatives and approaches which involve the whole family, many delivered by sports clubs and Scottish Governing Bodies of sport as well as activity delivered through cross portfolio work such as Bikeability and encouraging families to visit the outdoors (which often involve being physically active).
1.3.2 Curriculum for Excellence includes as one of its core objectives the health and wellbeing of pupils, noting that physical education should inspire and challenge children and young people and enhance their quality of life. In line with the general policy not to be prescriptive about detail Curriculum for Excellence does not prescribe the minimum amounts and variety of PE or sport that should be available beyond a 2 hour minimum. We consider there could be opportunities to help tackle inequalities of access to PE and sport for young people. We would welcome the views of the Scottish Government as to how they consider providing pupils access to a range of sports could assist.

**SG Position**

- We believe that it is imperative young people are provided with the skills and confidence to be physically active and Physical Education is an important element to this. It provides the foundation for longer term participation in physical activities and sport and supports a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. The delivery of the Scottish Government’s commitment on 2 hours of PE in primary schools, and 2 periods in S1 to S4 is measured annually through the Healthy Living Survey.
- Beyond PE, we recognise that when children and young people are fit and healthy, they are more often able to concentrate, learn and do well in school. That is why the substantial investment and support of £50m in the Active Schools programme is so important as this not only supports young people to be more active, but enables this activity to be linked to local community clubs ensuring sustained support beyond the school environment.
- There are also increasingly examples of where schools are using sport and physical activity to support raising attainment in line with growing evidence of the direct correlation between physical activity and attainment with a number of schools using the Pupil Equity Fund.

1.3.3 We would also be grateful if the Scottish Government could advise what opportunities are provided to ensure all young people can participate in a sport.

**SG Position**

- As the Committee is aware, there are a wide range of opportunities for young people to participate in sport, provided by local authorities, schools, Scottish Governing Bodies of sport (SGBs), community sports hubs, clubs and other local organisations. We recognise the high quality opportunities being delivered by sportscotland, their partners and volunteers.
- The Committee’s interim report noted the success and positive impact of the Active Schools programme. sportscotland’s funding of this programme, through all 32 local authorities, ensures that every state school in Scotland is assigned an Active Schools co-ordinator. This programme is one of the Government’s key contributions to providing sports opportunities to young people. The latest Active Schools data covering academic year 2016/17 shows the continuing success and growth of the programme, with over 17,000 additional sessions compared to the previous year. 293,878 pupils engaged with the programme, making over 6.8million visits to Active Schools sessions, an increase of 4%. Our commitment to ensure access to sport for girls and
young women was reflected with 47% of visits now being made. In addition, analysis of the data undertaken by sportscotland shows that schools with the highest percentage of the school rolls coming from areas of high deprivation (20% most deprived SIMD data zones), have the largest percentage of pupils participating in Active Schools. The Active Schools programme is showing success in providing opportunities for young people across Scotland, whilst also engaging young people often identified as hard to engage in sport such as girls and those from areas of deprivation.

A Place for Elitism

1.4.1 Elitism in sport is essential, for driving inspiration and generating money, however we believe there has to be a different approach if a balance between the recreational and performance sides of participation is to be achieved.

SG Position

- It’s difficult to wholly agree with the premise ‘elitism in sport is essential’ but we absolutely recognise the crucial importance of supporting high performance sport and athletes
- The committee may wish to note that taking account of both local authority and sportscotland spend on sport, over 95% of funding is directed to recreational sport. Even at the national level, funding for performance sport is only a small element of sportscotland’s spend. Their 2016-17 annual report demonstrates that expenditure categorised as ‘performance’ accounted for only 15% of their overall expenditure. It is clear that the balance of public funding between recreational and performance sport is heavily weighted towards recreation.
- We recognise the need to ensure that the culture around participation sport focuses on open, friendly and inclusive opportunities. For example, the Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS) programme was introduced in 2007 by the Winning Scotland Foundation, and rolled out nationally in partnership with sportscotland from 2010. PCS builds on a successful American programme delivered by the Positive coaching Alliance. It is designed to create a positive environment for young people in sport, moving away from the ‘win at all costs’ mentality and focus instead on effort, respect and responsibility. Free PCS workshops are delivered by sportscotland tutors to coaches, teachers, parents and sport leaders. This culture-change programme has also been adopted for delivery to clubs by a number of governing bodies, including both the Scottish Football Association and Scottish Rugby Union.

1.4.2 We would be grateful if the Scottish Government could advise what work it and sportscotland are undertaking to ensure the best performers and elite athletes are being used to encourage others.

SG Position

- We understand the inspirational power of sporting role models, including our elite athletes. Sporting role models can play an important function in our
integrated approach to Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS). The Champions in Scotland programme, led by the Winning Scotland Foundation in partnership with the sportscotland Institute of Sport, Commonwealth Games Scotland and Winning Students, has received Scottish Government 2014 Legacy funding. This programme offers visits by athletes to schools and youth groups with the aim of supporting the development of Scotland’s young people through role models, whilst also providing development and support opportunities for Scotland’s athletes. sportscotland uses their relationships with athletes - through the support services and funding sportscotland provides - to keep the cost of the programme down, whilst balancing the many demands on an athlete’s time - competing, training, working and giving back to the community.

- We also use high profile athletes to train and inspire Young Ambassadors. Each year, two pupils from each secondary school in Scotland are chosen as Young Ambassadors to promote sport and motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in their schools, clubs and communities. There have been over 3,500 Young Ambassadors in Scotland since this programme started in 2012 and 650 new Young Ambassadors every year.

1.4.3 We would also like to understand what work is being done at a strategic level to ensure there is capacity to provide opportunities for participants at all levels. What work is being done to ensure there are enough coaches and facilities for all levels and that usage time on facilities and coaches is proportionally split.

SG Position

- Through sportscotland we provide expert strategic planning advice and support to both local authorities and SGBs, to ensure there is a strategic approach to the development of sports facilities. Where sportscotland invest in a facility, the application process involves assessing how the facility will be used and this may include conditions the ensure it meets the needs of participants at all levels.
- Ensuring that the coaching workforce (both voluntary and professional) for a sport is suitable is primarily the responsibility of the SGB for that sport, although sportscotland advice and support SGBs to assist them with workforce planning.
- sportscotland support 36 SGBs which includes the investment in the coaching network and coaching delivery programme. Sportscotland also directly subsidise coaches to undertake coaching qualifications to ensure that the strategic coaching needs identified by the SGB can be delivered. In 2016-17, sportscotland made awards to 3,313 UK Coaching Certificate candidates, with 2,175 of these being for Level 1 courses.

Key Ingredients for Success – Community Led

1.5.1 We noted the important role of Community Sport Hubs (CSHs) at Phase 1 and continue to believe they have an important role to play in increasing participation in sport and physical activity. CSHs and the Active Schools co-ordinators are existing
networks that can be used by other organisations and groups to provide support and guidance. They can provide the foundation on to which the key ingredients for success listed above can be applied.

SG Response

- We welcome the Committee’s recognition of the importance of the two programmes.

1.5.2 We heard about concerns raised around the reduction in lottery funded revenues much of which supports CSHs. We are pleased to hear the Scottish Government is taking this issue forward with the UK Government but are disappointed to hear they have received no response. We would encourage the Scottish Government to continue making robust attempts to discuss this vital issue with the UK Government.

SG Response

- In November 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and Cultural Affairs and the Minister for Public Health and Sport sent a joint letter to Karen Bradley MP on the subject of declining lottery income and the impact on the sport and culture sectors in Scotland. On 22 November, Karen Bradley MP sent a response to this letter noting that DCMS has set out a seven-point strategy for action by DCMS, the Gambling Commission, National Lottery distributors and Camelot to ensure good cause returns are maximised. We will continue to raise this issue further with the UK Government, including through discussion at the UK Sports Cabinet.
  - We would be happy to share this correspondence with the committee if that would be useful.

1.5.3 Whilst CSHs and existing networks are very important we are pleased to hear other work is being undertaken beyond these to engage a wide range of community organisations and groups. We firmly believe the main route to increasing participation in sport and physical activity is through community and grassroot influences and involvement. We consider the approaches and specific projects and programmes highlighted to us have the potential to be replicated across Scotland even though they may have originally been developed with particular issues, contexts, or situations in mind. Provided local needs and target groups are clearly identified, approaches and initiatives adjusted accordingly, existing approaches could be successfully replicated.

SG Response

- We agree that activation at a local level is extremely important and why we have invested activity through empowering communities and individuals through work such as the Community Sport Hubs and Active Schools.
- As mentioned earlier, we are also mindful of the need to share best practise, this is why the Spirit of 2012 have developed a toolkit to help local groups
support the inactive learning from others so this can be replicated throughout Scotland.

1.5.4 We believe Government at all levels has a key role to play, both as a provider of funding and investment, but also as a leader of policy and change. It is for national and local government to take a much more strategic approach to increasing participation in sport. We would be pleased to hear from the Scottish Government on the ways they encourage more local approaches.

SG Response

- We agree with the committee that it is important that all elements of the sector work together to deliver the change needed to get Scotland Active. That is why representative bodies such as SPORTA (Social Enterprises within Culture and Leisure) and VoCAL (Voice of Culture and Leisure) as well as CoSLA are members of our National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical active. This group is the strategic body charged with delivering an Active Scotland.
- Beyond the strategic activity, local bodies such as SALSC (Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils) provide an important role in shaping and informing local delivery to support participation in sport.
- Furthermore, sportscotland provide a leadership and facilitation role to Local Authorities in developing local strategic plans for sport and physical activity working closely with local community planning partners to develop and deliver integrated plans, informed by local and national data, and contributing to wider local community outcomes, social outcomes and the outcomes for sport and physical activity.
- This process has resulted in a broader ownership of the sporting system and increased understanding of how it contributes to wider community plan and national outcomes, ensuring better delivery of services and use of shared resources.

Statutory Support

1.6.1 Given the prominent role of local government in delivering sports services, and the increased charges at a local level to participate, can the Scottish Government please advise the extent to which the impact of pressures on local government budgets is affecting local participation rates?

SG Response

- We recognise the important role played by local authorities in the delivery of sport and physical activity. This is why we did not accept the Barclay Report recommendation that charity relief for council arm’s-length external organisations (ALEOs) be removed. By allowing all existing ALEOs to retain relief we were able to save the sector around £45 m per year.
- Despite continued cuts to the overall budget from the UK Government, Scottish Government have continued to treat local government fairly. Scottish Government recognise local authorities as our key partners in delivering the
vital services that the people of Scotland expect and deserve. The 2018-19 Local Government settlement continues to protect day to day spending for local services in cash terms, and delivers an increase in capital spending of £89.9 million. Taken together with the additional spending power that comes with the flexibility to increase Council Tax by up to 3 per cent (worth around £77 million next year) the total 2018-19 funding settlement (revenue and capital) delivers an increase in the overall resources to support services of over £171 million or 1.6 per cent

1.6.2 Sports participation is influenced by a wide range of government activities and bodies. We would be grateful if the Scottish Government would advise what the challenges are in delivering a coherent, effective and joined up approach and how it aims to tackle these. It would also be helpful to know who is overseeing all of this and driving forward a coherent, effective and joined up strategy.

**SG Response**

- The Scottish Government is currently working closely with a wide range of stakeholders to develop an Active Scotland Delivery Plan to support the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. The Plan is aligned to the forthcoming World Health Organisation Global Physical Activity Action Plan.
- Our National Strategic Group consists of representatives from Scottish Government, Local Authorities, sportscotland, Education Scotland, NHS Health Scotland, SSA, Scottish Natural Heritage and the University of Edinburgh. The Scottish Government is currently working closely with a wide range of stakeholders to develop an Active Scotland Delivery Plan to support the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. The Plan is aligned to the forthcoming World Health Organisation Global Physical Activity Action Plan. Our National Strategic Group consists of representatives from Scottish Government, Local Authorities, sportscotland, Education Scotland, NHS Health Scotland, SSA, Scottish Natural Heritage and the University of Edinburgh

1.6.3 We are aware local government provides a large proportion of the funding for community and grassroots sport. However, sportscotland is responsibility for creating a framework for grassroots and community sport as well as schools. Can the Scottish Government advise the extent to which sportscotland is linking with local authorities to deliver the Framework and how this is being monitored?

**SG Response**

- sportscotland is committed to working with all local authorities, associated trusts and community planning partners to strengthen the local infrastructure for sport and contribute to a world class sporting system for everyone in Scotland. Each local authority has a named sportscotland Partnership Manager who is the central point of contact for the local authority and other local partners, providing expertise and advice to ensure that national priorities and strategies, influence local planning and operation. sportscotland has multi-year Partnership Agreements and annual Investment Agreements in
place with all 32 local authorities, outlining levels of investment and long-
terms outcomes. In addition, annual targets are agreed for each area of
investment as part of sportscotland’s role in local planning.
- sportscotland support local planning for sport and provide on-going support to
in the delivery of sport and physical activity. sportscotland reports this activity
to Government as part of its annual report.
- sportscotland have supported the development of strategies and strategic
planning frameworks with seven local authority partners. Work is in hand with
four other local authorities using a strategic planning frameworks to support
this.

Measures of Success – Socioeconomic Background

1.7.1 In its response to our Interim report the Scottish Government advised it has
been working with sportscotland to build on data collection for its programmes and
that sportscotland now collect consistent information on club members and school
participants. We welcome this and understand this is no easy task and will take time
to collect robust data, however we believe it is imperative it happens as quickly as
possible so a greater understanding of participation is available. We ask the Scottish
Government to show us how effective their collecting and sharing of information on
participation and use of sports facilities has been

SG Response

- sportscotland is collecting additional information on participants for their clubs
and communities programmes. This is part of research to evidence their
contribution to the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (ASOF) and covers
physical activity levels and other data including postcodes and equalities data.
This survey will be run again in 2018/19 and then every two years.
- For Active Schools, sportscotland gather data through their annual monitoring
on how many of the children who attend activities are from the top two deciles
of the index of multiple deprivation – so will know how many of the children
that engage with Active Schools live in the 20% most deprived areas of
Scotland. They are starting with local authorities that are able to access and
provide this information easily and will support the remaining local authorities
to collect this in subsequent years.
- In addition, the current research on sportscotland’s contribution to ASOF will
provide data on the physical activity levels of children who take part in Active
Schools. This additional data will deepen our understanding of who
participates in sport and what barriers to participation exist.

1.7.2 We understand many programmes are run by volunteers and some may feel
they are not in a position to collect data or are concerned that by asking too many
questions of participants they could be creating a barrier in itself. However, data
such as socioeconomic background is imperative to begin to remove inequality
barriers to access. We ask for guidance from the Scottish Government on what
minimum data (such as postcode of participants) they consider it would be useful to
begin collecting.
SG Response

- We understand the importance of evidencing the impact of activity and that is why we have been supporting delivery organisations and Scottish Governing Bodies of sport to explore how they can better collect data and evidence their work. Whilst it is a matter for each organisation to determine the most appropriate approach for their own needs, this has borne some early success with Scottish Athletics recently publishing how the full range of their activity contributes towards the Active Scotland Outcome framework.
- Organisations such as Scottish Athletics are mindful of the need to collect data in a manner that is sympathetic to the needs of participants and volunteers to ensure this doesn’t become a barrier.
- The committee may be interested to know that sportscotland already collect postcode information through the self-completion online surveys as part of their research into their contribution to ASOF. This removes the administration burden from clubs and volunteers as the data will be collected and analysed centrally.

1.7.3 In relation to the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework we have the following questions:

- Can the Scottish Government please advise what the monitoring process is and how effectively this is at capturing movement from inactivity to activity?
- We believe the Framework should include a specific target to increase participation in areas of higher deprivation:
- Can the Scottish Government advise what plans it has to add such a measure?

SG Response

- There are a range of national surveys which inform progress against the Active Scotland Outcome Framework. This enables us to demonstrate progress and is used as a tool by the National Strategic Group for Physical Activity and Sport. Detailed information on our progress can be found at: http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/Outcomes-Framework/Dashboard
- This is updated regularly as and when the national surveys are published to ensure this data is live and relevant.

1.7.4 We support the Scottish Government directing sportscotland to increase participation in areas of deprivation. We would like to hear how sportscotland will measure success in this area and the extent to which such measures are being rolled out.

SG Response

- As outlined earlier, sportscotland are collecting and reporting data against the Active Scotland Outcome framework and as part of the regular
sponsorship arrangements, information on progress against the Strategic guidance letter is also provided.

- Individual activity is also reported. For example the Active Schools data will be collected on participants living in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland through annual reporting – for 2017/18 this will start with local authorities that are able to access and provide this information easily. sportscotland will support the remaining local authorities to collect this data in subsequent years.

CMO Guidelines

1.8.1 We agree the importance of the CMO guidelines in providing guidance on levels of healthy activity. However, we believe there must also be other information collated to give a wider picture of activity. People becoming more active is always a positive and it would be useful to also know these levels.

SG Response

- We agree with the committee that in order to understand how effective we are at getting Scotland more Active, it is important that we measure and report on a wider range of indicators than simply how many people are meeting the CMO guidance. That is why the Active Scotland Outcome Framework has a wide range of indicators against all six of the outcomes, so we can understand and this is reported via a dashboard which is updated regularly.
- This can be found at: [http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/Outcomes-Framework/Dashboard](http://www.gov.scot/About/Performance/scotPerforms/partnerstories/Outcomes-Framework/Dashboard)

1.8.2 In response to our Interim report, the Scottish Government advised the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity evidence sub-group was reviewing the national indicators that underpin the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. We would be grateful if the Scottish Government would provide an update on this work, together with implementation dates and detail on proposed monitoring arrangements.

SG Response

- The review of indicators has been completed and is being implemented. This now forms part of the dashboard referenced earlier and progress will be monitored by the National Strategic Group on Physical Activity and Sport.

Physical activity as a preventative measure

1.9.1 Small increases to physical activity or sport levels can make a big difference to a person’s health and wellbeing. The CMO guidelines are helpful but we must recognise that to some they seem wholly unachievable. Support to overcome some
of the fears and barriers to participation can only be positive. A small start can lead to increasing participation and over time hopefully lead to meeting the recommended guidelines. We are pleased to learn there are programmes working to help those with long-term health conditions participate.

1.9.2 We would be grateful if the Scottish Government would advise how are such successful programmes being extended to all and what support it is provided for this.

SG Response

- We agree with the committee that in order to support those that are inactive, it is essential that individuals are supported recognising that each will have their own barriers to participation.
- That is why we have supported a range of projects and activities to support this issue through a specific strand of Legacy funding delivered through the Spirit of 2012.
- As well as supporting individuals within communities, this has provided a wealth of material and intelligence of what works and this has been developed into a toolkit which is being shared to help others get the inactive, active.
- The committee may also be interested to know that through the Care Commission we are supporting a Care About Physical Activity (CAPA) project which is supporting older people in a care setting become more active. This work is currently being evaluated and will report later in the year.

Community and Volunteers

2.1.1 A more strategic approach needs to be applied across the board to the recruitment and retention of volunteers. We note, and welcome, the explicit commitment to volunteers in the programme for government. We would be grateful if the Scottish Government could advise details about this commitment together with the timescales for implementation and detail of how it will be measured and evaluated.

SG Response

- We have been working with colleagues from across the Scottish Government and with a wide range of strategic and delivery stakeholders to explore mechanisms for realising this ambition. We have committed to developing an evidence based framework for volunteering to ensure we are all heading in the same direction and working towards a set of collectively agreed outcomes.
- The aim of the framework is to:
  - Set out clearly in one place a coherent and compelling narrative for volunteering.
  - Define the key outcomes desired for volunteering in Scotland.
Identify key data and evidence that will inform, indicate and drive performance at a national and local level.

- This work will be progressed throughout 2018. Funding has been provided to Young Scot and Project Scotland to develop a National Youth Volunteering Design Team, to ensure that young volunteers are actively involved in shaping this work.
- An external reference group, comprising representatives from strategic and delivery partners, will meet regularly to oversee progress and ensure wide engagement in the development of the framework.
- Evidence and analysis is a key component of this work. An evidence and analysis network, chaired by SG Analysts, has been established and will continue to oversee the evidence and analysis strand of the programme.

2.1.2 In its response to our Interim report the Scottish Government noted a number of areas of growth which highlight areas of increased support for volunteering and participation. We would be grateful if the Scottish Government would advise on its plans to "build on growth and how it is addressing the ongoing challenges in participation rates" referred to in their response.

SG Response

- The work to develop the outcomes framework is integral to building our understanding of key data and evidence to enable us to make optimal investments and interventions to build participation and sustain volunteering engagement across all of our communities.
- We will also ensure learning from our existing investments and funds is harnessed and fed into the framework development. This includes, for example, the £3.8 million investment into the Volunteering Support Fund between 2017/18 and 2020/2021.
- This Fund is targeted at small and medium third sector organisations and seeks to support the recruitment of volunteers, particularly those who are facing disadvantage, and to improve how volunteers are supported in their role. Details of the new Fund manager and how to apply to the fund will be available in April 2018.

Building Capacity

2.2.1 We commend sportscotland on having an approach to developing the sports workforce but we are unclear what the "impact measures" actually are designed to deliver, what the intended outcomes are and how these will be measured. We would be grateful for further information on the "impact measures" including how they are used for the benefit of the volunteer workforce. We would also be interested to hear from the Scottish Government what targets have been set for sportscotland in relation to each of the measures.

SG Response

- sportscotland’s impact measures are an important element of their corporate plan. The impact measures outline sportscotland’s contribution to the sporting system, against the key outcomes and enablers that make
up the system. These impact measures are not exhaustive of everything sportscotland does, but they indicate the depth and focus of their work and where they want to make a visible difference. sportscotland’s performance measurement framework details the performance indicators for each impact measure which evidence the impact sportscotland have made. The impact measures shape both sportscotland’s own operational business plans and the strategic guidance that they provide to partners. Full documentation is available on the sportscotland website: https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/

- sportscotland’s written evidence to the Committee included detail of some of their business plan programmes and activities that ensure that the impact measures are having a real and meaningful benefit to sports volunteers. This is further reported in the sportscotland annual review 2016-17, which reports the following progress on the performance indicators that underpin the impact measures relevant to volunteering, including:
  - Year-on-year increases in numbers of Active Schools deliverers, coaches in supports clubs, and coaches affiliated to SGBs.
  - 36 SGBs receiving coaching investment and support, two more than the previous year, with a total coaching investment of £1.84m, up 2% on the previous year.
  - 3,313 coaches receiving financial awards to subsidise UK Coaching Certificates (UKCC), with 98% of these being at level 1 or 2.
  - 45% of the UKCC candidates receiving financial awards coaches were female and there was an improvement in the gender balance of supported coaches (up to 40% female), whilst the percentage of supported coaches with a physical or mental health disability also increased to 13%.
  - 1,745 young people participated in young leader opportunities.

2.2.2 We would be grateful if the Scottish Government would advise of any research undertaken on its behalf in relation to the capacity of clubs and the support it provides to help clubs increase capacity.

SG Response

- sportscotland have commissioned evaluations on a number of elements of the sporting system, including club sport. This evaluation includes online and telephone interviews with club leaders. Whilst it is not focused specifically on the capacity of clubs, it does provide a framework to ensure the challenges facing clubs can be built into discussions with the relevant SGB for future investment decisions. But this also helps sportscotland understand what is limiting capacity (e.g. access to facilities, recruitment of volunteers, etc.) and this is used to improve the activities of sportscotland and its partners.
  - This approach compliments the £5.9m annual investment sportscotland provide to SGBs to develop staff, clubs and volunteers.

Student Volunteers
2.3.1 We are aware the Active School programme and nearly every other sport programme relies on a volunteer workforce. This workforce cannot always be met from parent volunteers and we would recommend to all they seek to build closer relations with universities to increase student volunteers. This would be beneficial to both, providing more volunteers and provide students with opportunities to increase employability skills.

SG Response

- We agree with the Committee that developing a diverse volunteer workforce is important to a sustainable sporting infrastructure. Young volunteers play an important role in this, including both students and secondary pupils.
- Many further and higher education facilities already have strong relationships with local authorities and other sports providers. This is reflected in the make-up of the Active Schools workforce. In academic year 2016/17, of the 23,201 individuals who delivered Active Schools sessions, there were 1,759 students and 5,578 secondary pupils.
- The number of students delivering in the programme has increased over 10% since pre-Glasgow 2014 levels (academic year 2013-14). Whilst the availability of students will vary depending on local context, students delivered Active Schools sessions in 31 of the 32 local authorities last year and local authorities.

2.3.2 We would welcome hearing from the Scottish Government about the support available to organisations and students designed to encourage volunteering and support to facilitate such skill sharing programmes.

SG Response

- The Scottish Government provide support through the Saltire Awards, the Scottish Government’s youth volunteering award for 12-25 year old. The awards aim to strengthen the links between volunteering and schools and increase opportunities for young people to volunteer locally
- Young Scot are funded by the Scottish Government to work collaboratively with many organisations, such as Police Scotland, sportScotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Creative Scotland and YouthLink to create and promote volunteering opportunities for young people.

School Estate

2.4.1 One of the ongoing issues around accessing the school estate relates to the contracts in place when the schools were built. Can the Scottish Government advise any changes they have been able to make to alleviate this or free up increased access to the school estate?

2.4.2 The Scottish Government’s response to our Interim report advised they, in collaboration with the Association of Directors for Education in Scotland and the Scottish Heads of Property Services, would look into this aspect in more detail
throughout the remainder of the year. We would welcome an update on progress in this regard.

**SG Response**

- We are aware of issues regarding access and cost to sporting facilities within PPP schools and sportscotland are working with local communities, clubs and groups to understand the issues and facilitate a solution if required.
- Whilst many local authorities do not believe the structural formal of the contractual arrangement is the main issue, sportscotland have been working to support rescheduling of activity and the bringing together of local groups to broker an agreement over the scheduling of activity.
- Furthermore, the extension of the CSH with at least half of these in a school setting is further helping to improve the access for individuals and local community groups.

**SG Response**

- Following our response in October, we wrote, in January, to the Chair of the Scottish Heads of Property Services network and the Chair of the ADES Resources network to ask that they raise this matter with their members.
- This was undertaken at their respective meetings in February to ensure this issue was highlighted as an area of concern.

2.4.3 We are aware that approaches taken by schools and local authorities to access the school estate vary greatly. Can the Scottish Government advise its role in encouraging local authorities and schools to adopt a more flexible approach to using the school estate and what work has been undertaken? We would also like to hear of any work undertaken to encourage the sharing of best practice in this area, including around the area of janitorial time. We would also be grateful for details of how access to schools is being measured.

**SG Response**

- There is a significant focus on access to the school estate through the joint SG/COSLA school estate strategy and particularly its guiding principles. In particular, principle 9 – schools which best serve their communities.
- This ensures that schools are accessible outwith school hours and available to let for a wide range of community needs particularly sports etc.
- As outlined above the roll out of Community Sports Hubs with at least half being in schools further enhances our commitment to increase the opportunity for community to be active by using the extensive facilities contained within the school estate.
Commonwealth Games Legacy

2.5.1 In our Interim report we concluded: "Overall the Committee sees no current evidence of an active legacy from the 2014 Games". We would welcome the views of the Scottish Government as to whether it considers active legacy can still be achieved and detail of any work designed to achieve that.

SG Response

- The Scottish Government does not agree that there has not been a legacy from the XX Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow in 2014.
- We are about to publish independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the legacy of the Commonwealth Games and we shall share this with the committee as we believe this will demonstrate the extent of the legacy that has been achieved.
- In relation to the active element of our approach to delivering a legacy, there are numerous examples of how this has been achieved. For example we have:
  - delivered 181 Community Sports Hubs across 31 local authorities, with 54% of planned hubs based in schools and are on track to deliver 200 by 2020.
  - At the end of 2016-17 there were 1,248 sports clubs involved with CSHs, with 149,803 active sport club members, and 14,632 people delivering sport and physical activity in hubs.
  - Increased the proportion of children meeting the CMO guidance from 73% to 76% in 2016/17.
  - Invested £10m into 196 projects through the Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund, which has supported local communities to improve the physical activity infrastructure, encouraging more people to be active or participate in sport and take pride in their local community. This has included playgrounds, skateparks, 3G pitches, changing facilities and other amenities.
  - Increased the number of high profile sporting events to Scotland with a total of 57 events of UK or International standing at Glasgow 2014 venues and a further 8 events in Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth sports but outwith Commonwealth venues.
  - Increased Glasgow 2014 SGB membership from 2013-14 to 2016-17 by 10%. In particular Netball Scotland, Scottish Gymnastics, Scottish Hockey and Scottish Squash have experienced significant long-term increases to their membership base. For example, attendances at Glasgow Life’s gymnastics pathways programmes have risen from 86,206 in 2015/16 to 114,423 in 2016/17, representing an increase of 32%.
  - Provided support to coaches with between 2008-09 to 2016-17, 25,265 people achieving UK Coaching Certificate qualifications at Level 1, 7,306 at Level 2 and 397 at Level 3.
  - Increasing Scotland’s profile on the international sporting stage with 81 Scottish athletes selected for Team GB and ParalympicsGB, and 27 Scottish athletes winning 30 medals, Scotland made a significant contribution to Team GB and
ParalympicsGB finishing second in the medal tables at the Rio 2016 Olympics and Paralympic.

2.5.2 We welcome the active places fund noted by the Minister for Public Health and Sport. Can the Scottish Government advise a breakdown of where the funding was provided together with any assessment of impact and benefit accruing.

SG Response

- The Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund offered capital funding of between £10,000 and £100,000 to help support communities to deliver projects which create or improve places in local communities where people can go to be active. Over 180 projects have been successfully delivered from the Fund across 31 Local Authority areas, including skate parks, outdoor and adventure facilities, multi-use paths and tennis court upgrades. Each applicant was required to demonstrate the impact their project would have on sport and physical activity participation, and this will be monitored, evaluated and reported periodically.

- The programme was an open fund, with applications made by community groups, sports clubs, third sector organisations and local authorities. In total, offers of awards of over £10 million were made against applications received. A small number of applicants did not progress with their projects after offers of award were made. The total value of awards against completed projects is £9,411,807.

- Whilst there is significant variation in spend across authorities, it is important to note that this is driven by a range of factors, including size of authority, distribution of applications received, and the potential impact of the proposals received from applicants to the Active Places Fund.

- Each applicant was required to demonstrate the impact their project would have on sport and physical activity participation, and this will be monitored, evaluated and reported periodically. The first round of evaluation of impact is due to take place in 2018, collecting data from all projects that have been open for two years. This allows for the lag between an award being made, construction and opening of the facility, as well as ensuring data is not artificially skewed by an initial spike in usage of new or improved facilities.

Other Issues

Barclay review of non-domestic rates

3.1 We ask the Scottish Government in finalising their implementation of the Barclay review to take full cognisance of impacts on participation and access to physical activity generally.

SG Response
• Our full response to the Barclay review of non-domestic rates was set out in an implementation plan published on 14 December 2017, duly informed by wide stakeholder engagement. We have not accepted the recommendation to end charity relief for council arm’s-length external organisations (ALEOs), but will offset further relief benefit to councils to mitigate against future ALEO expansion.

• We have accepted the recommendation for sports club relief to be reviewed to ensure it supports affordable community-based facilities, and will further engage sector stakeholders to inform how best to specify any change. In particular, we will ensure that local community facilities continue to be duly supported, meaning there will be no change for the vast majority of current recipients of sports club relief.

Jog Scotland

3.2 We are unclear why funding was removed prior to research being undertaken into the programmes impact. We would be grateful if the Scottish Government would provide the results of the research into the impact of the jogscotland programme and confirm how on-going funding is to be secured.

SG Response

• Over the last 12 months both sportscotland and the Scottish Government have been supporting Scottish Athletics to better evidence the impact of their work, including the Jog Scotland programme. This has allowed Scottish Athletics to demonstrate the wider impact of their work and forge partnerships with the likes of SAMH to ensure the sustainability of the programme going forward. The report from Scottish Athletics can be found online http://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/A-Sport-for-Change.pdf

Progress to Date

3.3 We would be grateful if the Scottish Government could advise what its plans are going forward to deliver increases in participation rates and what lessons it has learned over the past decade.

SG Response

• The Scottish Government is currently working closely with a wide range of stakeholders to develop an Active Scotland Delivery Plan to support the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework and will be published in the summer.

• This Plan builds on learning and evidence from what has worked and is aligned to the forthcoming World Health Organisation Global Physical Activity Action Plan.
3.4 We would also be grateful if the Scottish Government could advise how it ensures new strategies consider the effect they may have on other areas of work and avoid taking narrow siloed approaches.

SG Response

- The National Strategic Group on Physical Activity and Sport includes members from a wide range of sectors. The Minister for Public Health and Sport also meets regularly with her Ministerial colleagues to ensure a co-ordinated approach.