Dear Neil,

SPORT FOR EVERYONE PHASE 1 REPORT — RESPONSE FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

I am grateful to the Committee for its Sport for Everyone Phase 1 report, published on 8th May 2017.

I welcome the work the Committee has done on this important subject. Annex A to this letter sets out the consolidated responses from the Scottish Government and Sportscotland to the specific recommendations in the report.

We are all agreed that increasing participation in sport and physical activity throughout Scotland is essential to achieving the Scottish Government's vision of a Scotland where more people are more active, more often. I look forward to seeing the conclusions of the Committee's Phase 2 work.

AILEEN CAMPBELL
HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE
SPORT FOR EVERYONE PHASE 1 REPORT

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS/MAIN POINTS HIGHLIGHTED IN REPORT

Paragraph 31

The Session 4 Health and Sport Committee’s 2013 report into Community Sport concluded “Not everybody will want or even be able to join a Community Sport Hub and the Committee issues a plea on behalf of those clubs outside the hub system that they not be forgotten or lose out on funding or other support”.

Although this Committee is aware of the excellent work CSHs are carrying out this is still a sentiment we agree with. The Committee encourages the Scottish Government and sportscotland to see how they can work with and provide support to non-hub clubs and organisations.

Response to paragraph 31

We welcome the recognition from the Committee of the positive impact being made by Community Sport Hubs across Scotland. Community Sport Hubs are one of sportscotland’s key programmes and an important legacy from the 2014 Commonwealth Games, delivered in partnership with local authorities, leisure trusts, communities and clubs. As at 31 March 2017, there are now 179 such Hubs across Scotland, with a target of 200 Hubs by 2020. As Hubs are genuinely locally driven, each is unique, and develops its own vision and values in a clear and simple plan.

Sportscotland recognises the importance of all sports clubs, and believes sports clubs are an essential part of the sporting system and are part of the fabric of their local communities.

There are thousands of local sports clubs spread right across Scotland. Local authorities and their leisure trusts play an important role in supporting sports clubs within their communities, as do Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) of sport in supporting their member clubs. Sportscotland continues to encourage local authorities and governing bodies to prioritise support to clubs, and adds value and provides leadership to the support provided by these partners.

Sportscotland has always been clear that whilst it is a valuable programme which has made a significant impact, the Community Sport Hub model is not a panacea for all the challenges facing sports clubs. For that reason, Sportscotland has not only continued its support to clubs outside of the Community Sport Hubs model, but has strengthened this support including:
• Growing the number of SGB Regional Development staff in post, ensuring that there are more professional people working with local sport clubs to help them build their capacity and capability;
• Operating a Direct Club Investment funding programme to support clubs to sustainably grow their active membership, consequently increasing the opportunities they offer and the number of people taking part in club sport;
• Investing in club and community sport facilities, where the need and impact is greatest and the outcomes are clear;
• Developing club coaches through subsidies for coaching qualifications and delivery of coaching CPD opportunities;
• Continuing as a funding partner of the Awards for All programme, providing small grants to sports clubs and community sport providers; and
• Supporting clubs to become well organised, better connected, well promoted, and sustainable, with great people and places, through an on-line self-improvement tool, housed on sportscotland’s Help for Clubs site.

Paragraph 36

The Committee believes schools are an important pathway for increasing participation in physical activity, particularly where there is an emphasis on participation, enjoyment and physical activity for all. A large part of this value lies in the preventative dimension, setting up positive habits for a lifetime and the Committee believes the Active School programme has a positive impact on encouraging school children to take part in and enjoy sport. The Committee would ask the Scottish Government and sportscotland to maintain funding and promotion of the Active Schools programme.

Response to paragraph 36

We welcome the Committee’s recognition of the value of the Active Schools programme. sportscotland works in partnership with all 32 local authorities to invest in and support the Active Schools Network of managers and coordinators dedicated to developing and supporting the delivery of quality sporting opportunities for children and young people.

In academic year 2015/16, young people made over 6.5 million visits (participant sessions) to Active Schools activity. Active Schools has worked with schools for over 10 years providing opportunities for children and young people to get involved, and stay involved, in sport.

sportscotland has Partnership Agreements in place with all 32 local authorities, which set out in principle funding for Active Schools for the period 2015-2019. Whilst, as with all sportscotland investments, this funding is finalised through an annual investment process, the level of funding for Active Schools has been protected and maintained. Active Schools is expected to make a significant contribution to a world class sporting system in Scotland going forward.
Paragraph 42

The Committee notes the influence local champions can have on removing barriers to participation in an area and the key role of individuals in the process. It is essential to a project's success that the chemistry between individuals and locals is right for success to happen.

Response to paragraph 42

The Scottish Government agrees with the Committee that local champions play a crucial role in removing barriers and increasing participation in sport and physical activity in their area. That is why a number of programmes supported by Legacy funding in 2016/17 have engaging local champions at their core. For example, Active East’s Legacy programme, Active Champions, enables young people to transform their lives. By taking a youth work/person centred approach, the programme targets young people who are experiencing disadvantage and supports them with a tailored package of training and personal development. This includes meaningful Active Champion placements across local youth and sport organisations, over 40 of which comprise Legacy programmes. The Scottish Government would encourage the Committee to visit Active East or any other Legacy programmes that promote local champions to hear first hand the difference they are making by encouraging people within the local community to participate in sport and physical activity.

sportscotland would also agree with the evidence provided by Glasgow Life that Community Sport Hubs can be a mechanism for ensuring that local sports clubs and community sport providers understand the needs of their communities. The Community Sport Hub model brings local leaders together and supports individuals within those clubs and community providers to become local champions, whether they have grown up in the area or moved into the area later in life. Through programmes such as Young Ambassadors and Young Hub Leaders sportscotland is supporting the development of the next generation of local champions throughout the country.

Paragraph 47

The Committee is very encouraged by programmes such as Young Leaders and is impressed by those involved not only gaining qualifications but also supporting and encouraging younger pupils to take part in sport and physical activity. The Committee believes young leaders increase the likelihood of local activities becoming sustainable and encourages the Scottish Government to support the roll-out of such volunteer programmes to all school across Scotland.

Response to paragraph 47

The Highland Young Leaders programme highlighted in the Committee’s report is delivered by the local Active Schools team. The programme is co-ordinated by a Leadership Officer, jointly funded by sportscotland and High Life Highland, and the Committee rightly notes the success this programme has achieved to date.
sportscotland is committed to developing young people as leaders in sport and this is an integral element of the Active Schools programme delivered in all 32 local authorities. The aims of the Active Schools programme include to ‘provide a lasting legacy of confident, knowledgeable and experienced young people who throughout their life in sport will strengthen the sporting system’. Each Active Schools team will develop young leaders in a way relevant to their context and communities. This local activity is complemented by national initiatives such as the Young Ambassadors programme which supports over 600 young people annually to promote sport, and to motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in their schools, clubs and local communities.

Paragraph 50

The Committee is disappointed to hear the support for volunteering at the Games has not been converted into increased ongoing volunteering and calls on the Scottish Government to see how it can ensure an increase in volunteering is achieved considering the positive outcomes for all involved. The Scottish Government may wish to look to the Young Leader programme and see how this benefit to volunteers can be replicated for all ages.

Response to paragraph 50

The Scottish Government recognise the enormous contribution our volunteers make to the lives of individuals and communities across Scotland as carers, providers, mentors, leaders and in many other roles. Volunteering is good for the volunteer too: building skills, enhancing employability and supporting mental well-being. At its best, volunteering in Scotland is already making a crucial contribution to building social capital, fostering trust, binding people together and making our communities better places to live and to work.

We want to continue to support people to volunteer and contribute on the issues that matter to them. This is crucial to our wider aim of creating a fairer, smarter, inclusive Scotland with genuine equality of opportunity for everyone.

Levels of volunteering have remained relatively stable over the last 5 years, with more than a quarter of all adults providing unpaid help to organisations or groups. In 2015, 27% of adults provided unpaid help to organisations or groups in the last 12 months.

There are a number of areas of growth which highlight areas of increased support for volunteering and participation. For instance:

- The Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, published in August 2016, shows that 35% of Scots had either volunteered at, or helped to set up, a local community organisation.
- ‘Young People and Volunteering in Scotland 2016’, research led by Volunteer Scotland, examines the nature and extent of volunteering participation and attitudes towards volunteering among young people (aged 11-18 years). The
research shows that the youth volunteering participation rate has grown to 52%, from 33% in 2009.

Some key elements of the sporting system have also seen a growth in volunteering since the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games:

- Active Schools has seen an almost 20% increase in volunteers from 2013-14 to 2015-16 academic year. There are now over 19,000 volunteers delivering sport and physical activity through Active Schools.
- Those Clydesiders who provided their permission (44,000) have been invited by Volunteer Scotland to join their My Volunteering Account service, helping them stay informed of future opportunities. Volunteer Scotland continue to work with key partners to offer the right opportunities, through the right channels, to the right volunteers.
- The Scottish Government is supporting Volunteer Scotland to improve this capability through their ‘Volunteer Match-Making Project’. This project is aimed at harnessing the enthusiasm of everyone who expressed an interest in volunteering during the Games, as well as those now inspired to get involved. Volunteer Scotland has hosted seminars aimed at event organisers and has developed specific training around managing event volunteers.
- The campaign to recruit volunteers for the European Championships 2018 has seen high levels of interest and is on track to meet diversity and inclusion targets.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with its agencies and partners to build on patterns of growth and address on-going challenges in volunteering participation rates. We will explore specific opportunities to grow participation rates in sport and physical activity volunteering, including considering the Young Leader programme.

Paragraph 55

The Committee is disappointed to hear on-going issues with accessing the school estate remain and that this resource is not being fully utilised. The Committee would be interested to hear what work the Scottish Government and Local Authorities have undertaken since the 2013 inquiry to widen access to this valuable resource and see details of a timetable of action planned to open up the school estate.

Response to paragraph 55

We note and share the Committee’s disappointment. Scottish Government officials meet with local authority representatives responsible for managing the school estate on a regular basis through its school building programme and on their School Estate Management Plans. Access to schools facilities for sports and community groups is often discussed and although the sportscotland 2013 audit of the schools estate reported widespread access there is absolutely more to be done around cost and contractual issues.
The Scottish Government, in collaboration with the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) and the Scottish Heads of Property Services (SHoPS), will look into this matter in more detail throughout remainder of year to scope what further opportunities exists to make best use of this important public resource and utilise these facilities to their maximum potential.

It would be helpful if the Committee could share any evidence etc it has collated surrounding these issues so that we can take action as appropriate with the ADES and SHoPS networks.

The **sportscotland** School Estate Audit (2013) concluded that:

- There are a wide range of facilities for sport within the school estate and a wide range of sports take place in these facilities.
- The vast majority of the school estate is available for public use both in term-time and during school holidays.
- A majority of indoor space in secondary schools is used by the community but there is scope to increase the usage of available space across the entire estate.

Since 2013, **sportscotland**'s research on access to the school estate has helped improve application and understanding of the school estate. In Glasgow, East Lothian and Perth & Kinross, the research has been used to identify local need, improve planning and programming of local sport, better understand local provision, and better utilise data. This audit will be reviewed to determine whether there have been any changes to the findings since 2013.

**sportscotland**'s facilities team has, where possible, influenced the design of new school projects and the upgrade of existing school facilities, locally and nationally, to provide accessible places which better meet the needs of schools and communities. Guidance and support is available to local authorities to make better use of their school estates.

Whilst access to the school estate remains the responsibility of local authorities, **sportscotland** is committed to working with local partners to influence and support the planning and programming of local facilities to maximise the use of the school and wider facilities estate for community sport.

**Paragraph 65**

*The Committee notes varying data showing a mixed picture on active legacy outcomes. Overall the Committee sees no current evidence of an active legacy from the 2014 Games. However, the Committee also notes it has seen no evidence that any previous major sporting event has resulted in an active legacy.*

**Response to paragraph 65**

Legacy ambitions were central to the bid for the 2014 Games with a focus on boosting sports and participation in physical activity. With any major sporting event,
the hope is that long after the spectators have enjoyed the competition, they will continue to be inspired to get involved in sport and physical activity. While Scotland's ambition to get more people physically active was boosted by staging the 2014 Games, importantly the Games provided a platform to establish Active Legacy programmes aimed at bringing about lasting change to encourage people across Scotland to be physically active.

A number of large scale Legacy programmes have now been established for this purpose, including 179 Community Sport Hubs and the £10m Legacy Active Places Fund, managed by sportscotland to provide funding to local projects with the aim of helping communities to be more active. Over 180 projects were awarded funding across Scotland for a range of facilities including skateparks, gym facilities and tennis courts, all driven by local plans and community groups. The £1m Sustainable Sport for Communities Fund managed by Robertson Trust and Social Investment Scotland has supported the sustainability and capacity of aspiring and existing social enterprises to deliver sport and physical activity.

In financial year 2016-17, the Active Legacy Funding Round 1 supported five Active Legacy Partners (Street Soccer Scotland, Young Scot Rewards, Clyde Gateway Sport & Physical Activity Programmes, Spirit of 2012 and Creative Scotland) to develop new and existing activity programmes.

In particular, Spirit of 2012 was granted an additional £200k from the Scottish Government to ensure that the learning on what works and doesn't work in making the inactive active is continually shared across Scotland, and the UK.

The Active Legacy Funding Round 2 in 2016/17 supported six Active Legacy Partners to deliver a wide range of benefits across Scotland: Street Fit Scotland, Common Purpose, Scottish Sports Futures, Trust Rugby International, Shetland Islands Council Youth Legacy Ambassadors and Winning Scotland Foundation Champions in Scotland.

This funding is helping to realise the Scottish Government's ambitions to encourage people in Scotland to become more physically active by removing barriers and making sport more accessible, using the legacy of the 2014 Games. There is excellent work going on thanks to our Active Legacy Partners, and through this funding we will continue to reap the benefits already being delivered across Scotland. We would encourage the Committee to continue to engage with these organisations which are focussed on delivering real lasting benefits to local communities using the 2014 Commonwealth Games as a catalyst.

**Paragraph 72**

*The Committee understands the current financial constraints but believes collated evidence showing the outcomes of sport and physical activity projects and strategies should be an integral component of all activity. Data that can show positive outcomes across various portfolios is hugely important and has implications on determining future funding. The Committee encourages the Scottish Government and local authorities to ensure projects*
are established with appropriate means of assessment. We would welcome the views of the Scottish Government in response to Dr Clark’s comments above.

Response to paragraph 72

A population level change in physical activity levels is only achievable through the positive and proactive contribution of a wide range of partners working together, as envisaged through the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework and the supporting governance structure provided by the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity (NSG). The approach to data collection and evaluation at the strategy level should be designed to reflect this multisectoral approach.

The NSG evidence sub-group is involved in ongoing work to review the national indicators that underpin the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. This involves adding in some qualitative indicators and reflecting the breadth of the work around physical activity.

Paragraph 73

The Committee also believes sportscotland, and others who provide sport and physical activity services, should be collecting data on participants socioeconomic background and whether they were previously inactive. Only by doing so can we see how barriers can be removed and participation increased for people who are inactive and people from deprived areas.

Response to paragraph 73

The Scottish Government has been working with sportscotland to build on its data collection of its programmes. sportscotland now collect consistent information on club members and school participants across its key programmes and is planning to extend this data collection to provide more insight into the equality characteristics and physical activity levels of the people affected by its programmes. While sportscotland have strong ambitions, we recognise this is no easy task, and it will take time to collect robust data.

It is also worth noting that sport services often rely on community volunteers in schools and clubs to deliver activity. In many cases, it is these volunteers who perform data collection about the participants they work with. There is already a significant amount of information collected on many programmes and, to avoid disincentivising volunteers, a balance needs to be struck between gathering the information required, and the administrative burden this adds to what are often small volunteer run organisations.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
June 2017