

PE1811/A

Scottish Government submission of 14 September 2020

Thank you for providing the Scottish Government with the opportunity to provide an advance comment on Petition PE1811. I am replying as a Policy Official in Active Scotland which is part of the Health and Social Care Directorate.

In terms of the points in question, Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport (SGBs) are independent organisations and I am aware that they each operate their own complaints procedure and this is the mechanism for members to raise and resolve complaints.

All SGBs who receive public funding via **sportscotland** are required to have open and transparent policies and procedures in place to ensure that all members of the SGB and associated clubs are treated fairly and equally. **sportscotland** has robust accountability measures in place with each SGB. This includes regular meetings, formal annual reporting, and a schedule for strategic reviews to consider the long-term strategy of the sport and in-principle investment. These processes examine both delivery against the specific areas of investment and the overall governance and operation of the organisation.

sportscotland contracts auditors to undertake external Development Audits of SGBs in which they invest. These examine governance, financial, risk management, planning and reporting, human resource management, policies, communication and ICT.

As a Government, we recognise that there are some sports who don't have a governing body recognised by **sportscotland** and therefore their athletes, coaches and staff etc need to raise grievances directly to the UK wide national or international global bodies.

Although we feel our SGBs have robust procedures in place to ensure everyone is treated equally and issues can be addressed, we would be happy to look at any recommendations, which the Committee identify during the petition process.