
Sustainability Inquiry into Access to Inland Water in Wales

Supplementary Evidence from the
Sports Council for Wales

Dr Rachel Hughes, December 2009

Introduction

The Sports Council for Wales is the national agency with responsibility for the development of sport and physical recreation. Our job is to increase participation, to improve sporting performance, and to raise standards in sport and physical recreation. National governing bodies of sport are significant in enabling us to achieve these aims.

The Sports Council for Wales recognises 64 governing bodies of sport in Wales. It is important to note, that not all sports contribute equally to our aims of increasing participation and raising standards of performance and excellence. With limited resources available, we prioritise our funding to twenty sports.

The criteria for prioritisation reflect the potential for the development of our core aims, and includes assessing: participation levels; club membership figures; geographical spread of the sport (linked to the availability of facilities); competition structure (the opportunities to participate and compete at local, regional, national, and international level); and the ability to generate their own income.

Consideration is also given to: value for money; quality of the sport's plan/proposal; track record; sound financial base; and the sport's ability to deliver on at least one objective (performance/excellence and/or participation).

The twenty priority sports receive approximately 85% of the overall exchequer funding available.

In addition to receiving this core funding, sports are also able to apply to the Sports Council's lottery grant schemes: Community Chest and Development Grants (for a descriptor of these grant schemes and what they tend to fund, please refer to the *Glossary*).

The Sports Council for Wales also provides *in-kind support* for governing bodies of sport; this might entail the free use of the national centres (for meetings, gym, halls) as well as the use of the Sports Council's Sports Science Support services.

Sports Council for Wales' funding of Canoeing in Wales

The Sports Council recognises the Welsh Canoeing Association as the governing body representing canoeing in Wales. Canoeing is one of the Sports Council's priority sports. We fund the Welsh Canoeing Association only in terms of the sporting excellence/elite agenda (not participation or performance). Table 1 details the funding that the Welsh Canoeing Association has received from the Sports Council over the last four years.

Table 1

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009
Development Support (Exchequer)	£124,973	£156,467	£141,000	£141,000
Coach Cymru (Lottery)	£33,480	£33,550	£43,500	£43,500
Elite Cymru / Talent Support (Lottery)	£2,000	-	£2,500	£2,500
Total Funding for Performance and Excellence	£160,453	£190,017	£187,000	£187,000
In Kind support	£6,661	£8,675	£12,765	£12,675
Sportsmatch	-	£2,000	-	-
Lottery Funding (Community Chest/Development Grant/Capital)	£3,768	-	£34,005	£28,344

The breakdown of this funding (£187,000) for 2008/2009 is as follows:

Exchequer funding:

£32,000 National Governing Body international programme
 £72,000 National Governing Body staffing costs
 £35,000 Coaching and UKCC support

Lottery funding:

£48,000 Olympic discipline coaching support

Sports Council for Wales' funding of Angling in Wales

The Sports Council recognises the Federation of Welsh Angling as the governing body representing angling in Wales. Angling is *not* one of the Sports Council's priority sports. As such, we do not have the same disaggregation of funding as we do for canoeing.

For the period 2008/2009, the Federation of Welsh Angling received **£69,000** of exchequer funding from the Sports Council for Wales. This funding was given to support the operation costs of the Federation of Welsh Angling, to work towards the UKCC, and to deliver coach education.

Of the exchequer funding (£69,000), **£27,000 is ring-fenced** for the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers, the Welsh Salmon and Trout Association, and the Welsh Federation of Course Anglers to support the three disciplines' international performance programme.

In addition to exchequer funding, £2,250 of lottery funding was awarded to the Federation of Welsh Anglers through *Elite Cymru* to support two anglers who had met the specified criteria for *Elite Cymru*.

An additional £11,750 of lottery funding was also awarded through *Community Chest* grants; this funding was made directly to angling clubs in Wales.

Glossary

- Coach Cymru** Coach Cymru is a lottery funded scheme that supports the employment of National Governing Body Coaches at National or Regional level.
- Community Chest** Community Chest is a lottery-funded grants scheme that supports the local development of sport and physical recreation through the distribution of small grants via 22 local authority-based panels. Each panel is compiled of up to 12 members of the local community; this includes a minimum of 3 local authority representatives and the rest from the wider community, the majority of which represent the voluntary sector.
- Community Chest offers grants of up to £1,000 in any 12 month period for activities that encourage people to become more active, more often, and that raise the standards of existing activities.
- Development Grant** The Development Grant is lottery-funded and is available to fund projects that develop sport and physical activity in the community, for example: establishing new teams; coach education; equipment; floodlighting; developing training areas; purchase of land or rights to develop activity areas; start-up grants to support new (sport) enterprises. Development Grants are available between £1,001 and £25,000.
- Elite Cymru** Élite Cymru is a lottery funded programme aimed at providing the most highly promising athletes in Wales with the support they need to achieve their potential. It provides a wide range of services, including sports science support, medical back-up, career and education advice, coaching and access to training facilities. Competitors who meet minimum standards of performance as set by the Governing Body are eligible to apply for support.
- In-kind Support** This equates to where a Governing Body utilises the facilities of the Sports Council for Wales' two national centres (Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff and National Watersports Centre, Plas Menai); this might be gym usage, use of meeting rooms, accommodation, and/or hall space. It also takes account of any use of the Sports Council's Sport Science Support Services.

Talent Support	This has been set up to provide financial support to athletes identified by Welsh governing bodies as having the potential to meet the UK Pathway or Élite Cymru criteria for non-Olympic sports within a two year period. Financial support is provided to talented athletes for competition and training (in addition to that provided by the governing body), equipment and travel.
Sportsmatch	Sportsmatch Cymru is the Welsh Assembly Government's business sponsorship incentive scheme for sport and physical recreation in Wales. It is designed to encourage more business backing for sport and physical recreation by matching commercial sponsorship £ for £, thereby doubling the impact of sports sponsorship for both business and sport. Any properly constituted sports club/association or local authority, which is being sponsored by a commercial organisation, is eligible to apply.
UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC)	A recognised standard for coaching in the UK which provides an endorsement of sport specific coach education qualifications that are aligned to an agreed framework.