

Dear Councillor Simon Glyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 March 2022, detailing the proposal from Gwynedd Council in relation to Women's sport in Wales, I hope you find this response useful.

Sport Wales is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and physical activity. We support the delivery of strategic priorities through the Vision for Sport in Wales and the Sport Wales Strategy. Although we act as an advisor to Government and the sport sector – it is important to stress, we are not a regulatory body and as such cannot enforce the adoption of specific policies and procedures. We work alongside all our partners, and wider stakeholders to enable sport in Wales to thrive.

As an insight led organisation, we understand that there are barriers that all women and girls face, when engaging with sport. We recognise that the trends within Wales, mirror that of global insight. We understand women and girls participate in sport on average, less than men and boys, and face barriers related to confidence, access, and gender specific provision. It is for these reasons, and others related to ensure sporting is equitable, that we have purposefully changed the way in which we invest in sport in the last 24 months.

We use a transparent, data driven investment approach which specifically considers the impact that our partners will have with their investment, across all protected characteristics. We weight robust data sets to determine funding to those receiving public money, to ensure they are offering opportunities that are accessible and equitable. For women and girls, this means our investment approach rewards partners best placed to impact on improving diversity in sport, including in relation to gender equality. You can read more about our approach [here](#).

You highlight two points in your letter, that relate to our work at Sport Wales:

- **Ensuring women are represented on sports boards at all levels.**

We set gender parity targets for all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport, which we directly invest in. We monitor this as part of our essential criteria in line with our capability framework, for all NGB partners.

- **Ensuring that there are suitable facilities for women's sports, especially for football and rugby.**

We are part of the All-Wales Sport Collaboration Group, which is also comprised of the Welsh Rugby Union, Football Association of Wales, and Hockey Wales. Through this, we look the strategic placement of artificial pitches across Wales. By working closely together, the group seek to understand the landscape and need for such facilities in

different parts of Wales, based on need and demand. Those who feel that their area may benefit from an artificial pitch are again encouraged to engage with the appropriate local authority, national governing body, and community. It is also the case that we fund community clubs and organisations through our Be Active Wales Fund and Crowdfunder collaboration, and tackling inequalities is a significant factor in our decision-making process. As part of the application approach- we specifically ask about the way any investment will support opportunities for women and girls.

We are also currently undertaking a review of our strategic approach to capital investments, and the impact on supporting provision for demographical groups that are underrepresented - including women and girls, will factor highly in this work.

Ensuring everyone has equitable access to sport is fundamental to us at Sport Wales. We continue to place equality, diversity, and inclusion as a core priority within our business plan and are continually reflecting the need for sport to evolve in line with the needs of the people of Wales. This includes new approaches to investment, the development of new partnerships and reviewing our data and insight collection.

Finally, I am pleased to share that this year we are partnering with the Sport and Recreation Alliance to bring the International Working Group (IWG) of Women in Sport to the United Kingdom. You can find information on the working group [here](#). We are delighted to support this global initiative and are optimistic about the growth in women's sport it will develop locally. We have set four core objectives for our partnership and will look to develop these in the four-year period that the IWG is with us in the UK.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us. If you would like to meet representatives from Sport Wales to discuss this further, I would be happy to arrange with the most appropriate team member.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Davies

Acting Chief Executive Officer Sport Wales