

Dawn Bowden MP/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref ER
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/00192/22
Councillor Simon Glyn

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19 April 2022

Dear Councillor Simon Glyn

Thank you for your letter of 25 March in which you describe the proposal unanimously adopted by Gwynedd Council for achieving greater equality for women in all aspects of sport in Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to breaking down barriers and promoting gender equality in Wales, including in sport; our Programme for Government wants to see inequality broken down in all its forms. Accordingly, we are considering Legislation to address pay gaps based on other factors and not just gender, such as sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability and other forms of discrimination. We will ensure that public bodies and bodies in receipt of public money tackle pay gaps and set targets for Gender Budgeting. We are also working with National Sport Governing Bodies on the No Excuse campaign to raise awareness of stalking, harassment, violence and abuse of women. The aim is to help women feel that it is safe for them to participate in the sports and that they have the right to participate in them and to benefit from the advantages of living an active life.

Sport Wales is the Welsh Government's principal adviser and main spending partner on sports issues and I see that Brian Davies, the Chief Executive, has received a copy of your letter. Sport Wales has been informed that gender equality targets have been set for each National Sport Governing Body invested in, to ensure that women are represented on the sports boards at all levels. Sport Wales monitors this as part of its criteria in accordance with its capacity framework.

In ensuring that there are suitable facilities for women's sport, it is recognised that facilities are usually shared by all genders. Having said that, Sport Wales is part of the All Wales Sports Collaboration Group, which also includes the Welsh Rugby Union, the Football Association of Wales and Hockey Wales. Through the group, the strategic location of artificial pitches in Wales will be looked at, to try to understand the situation and the need for such facilities in different areas in Wales, on the basis of need and demand.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

An area that feels that it could benefit from an artificial pitch should ask the local authority, national management body and community concerned. Sport Wales also funds community clubs and organisations through the Active Wales Fund and through Crowdfunder. Tackling inequality is central to that decision-making process. As part of the application process, specific evidence will be sought on how the investment will address opportunities for women and girls. It is clear that demand is growing; it was good to see earlier this year, at the start of the women's rugby season, a positive number applying, with the WRU registering over 5,000 girls, the largest number ever. This happened after offering the first professional contracts to female rugby players in Wales, a move that I would like to see extended to all sports in Wales.

In terms of equal gender representation on screen, the Welsh Government recognises the importance of the media in public perception and raising awareness of sport and role models in the world of sports. I meet regularly with public service broadcasters in Wales where discussing how to achieve equality in the broadcasting sector is a matter of priority. Our Memorandum of Understanding with BBC Cymru Wales and S4C includes joint commitments to develop a more diverse and inclusive on-screen and off-screen sector. By continuing discussions, we encourage a wider range of voices including within sports programmes and my officials meet regularly with Ofcom where we discuss how to support diversity and inclusion.

Through our work with the Working Group on Public Interest Journalism Wales, we are seeking to ensure a more inclusive journalism sector. That backs initiatives to increase opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds who are more likely to represent a range of characteristics, and reflect them positively, both in terms of content and contribution, including gender.

It is important that these topics remain central to our discussions and work. Personally, I am fully committed to doing all that I can to ensure equality of opportunity and that everyone across Wales has the same opportunities to take part in sport.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', written in a cursive style.

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