



UK Sport Consultation on the Future Funding of High Performance Sport

13 August 2018

To all GBWR Members, Partners, Friends and Families

Many of you will have heard me speak about the UK Sport consultation on the future funding of elite sport and I know that many of you have responded to the online survey. For those of you who have yet to do so I urge you to go online and complete it before the closing date of 19 August.

The concern for many is that the survey on future funding for Olympic and Paralympic sport appears to illustrate that there is little appetite for change. At the London 2012 Games, UK Sport invested the public's Lottery money into 70% of Olympic and Paralympic sports. At Rio 2016 this figure reduced to 64% and in Tokyo 2020, the investment is likely to be in the region of just 48%. With less lottery investment predicted post 2020, UK Sport's policy is fast becoming an exclusive club with fewer and fewer members allowed in.

Should the current policy continue, it is very difficult to see how we will be able to continue to maintain a competitive GB Wheelchair Rugby team. As you will be more than aware we are doing everything possible to raise sufficient funds through sponsorship and fundraising to ensure we have a team which is competitive going into the Paralympic Games in 2020. I want to thank those of you who have been part of that fundraising effort as without it the team would just not stand a chance. As it is, with your help and the help of supporters such as LMAX Exchange, the Lloyd's of London insurance community, Hogan Lovells, the Peter Harrison Centre and the charities 'BOOST' and 'Get Kids Going!', we have been able to maintain a reasonable GB training and competitive programme over the last two years. Incredibly with a minimum performance programme the team has succeeded in achieving its best World Championship position since 2006. There is enormous potential in this young team and we will continue to work hard to raise the funds for the training and competition programmes we need in 2019 and 2020. It is, however, very difficult to see how our current level of fundraising can be sustained in the long term and towards the 2024 Paris games.

Around 18 months ago, a group of Olympic and Paralympic sports came together around the concept that Every Sport Matters. We were part of that group which strongly believe that the existing approach to National Lottery funding of Britain's Olympic and Paralympic sports has created a two-class system that runs counter to Olympic ideals. It supports the development of an investment system whereby every Olympic and Paralympic sport would receive 'baseline funding' – this would protect the high-performance system in the UK. Sports would then receive individual investment beyond this based on their medal potential.

You are all passionate about wheelchair rugby and I know you are as proud as I am when you see our athletes perform well. Their influence in inspiring others to take part in the sport is huge and as a result of watching their performances there are others who dream of representing their country one day. I want to keep that Paralympic dream alive for all of them and so I am calling on you all to have your say – <https://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix/1/p1865845301.aspx>.

Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Limited

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Don't wait – access the link now. On this page is also a copy of the submission we as a sport have made to UK Sport and you are welcome to use any of the points made in this document when you complete the questionnaire.

Kind Regards

David Pond
Chief Executive

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