



Policy Update, December 2010

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1. SPORT AND POLITICS

[1.1 School Sports Cuts](#)

Pressure has increased on the Government to reverse its decision to end the ringfencing of £162m for school sports partnerships by March 2011. The 450 school sports partnerships across the UK have helped to double the number of children involved in sport, volunteering and leadership in years 1-13 at school from 777,000 in 2007 to 1.57m in 2010.

Despite significant pressure from the Labour Party, the Government has reiterated that it will be left to head teachers to choose how to spend their budget. However, last week David Cameron announced that the current proposals will be reviewed, although it is still unclear what form that review will take.

[1.2 Olympic legacy – Places People Play](#)

The Minister for Sport has unveiled the “Places People Play” Olympic legacy programme for sport. The £135m initiative will be funded through the National Lottery reforms and delivered by Sport England.

Here are the outline plans:

Places

- Upgrading up to a thousand local sports clubs and facilities
- Investing in a number of iconic multi-sport facilities that set the standards for future facilities' development
- Protecting and improving hundreds of playing fields across the country, preserving high-quality spaces for local people to play and enjoy sport.

People

- Recruiting, training and deploying 40,000 sports leaders as the next generation of sports volunteers to organise and lead grassroots sporting activities.

Play

- Gold Challenge – an independent initiative that will motivate over 100,000 adults to test themselves in multiple Olympic and Paralympic sports, and in doing so raise millions of pounds for charity
- Sportivate – a nationwide campaign that will capture the excitement of sport, providing opportunities for teenagers and young adults to receive six weeks of coaching in the sport of their choice and guiding them into regular participation within their community.

What this means for sport

More funding streams will be open for sport from 2011. More information on the deadlines for applications in all the fields can be found on the [Sport England website](#).

1.3 New music licensing requirements for 2012

The Government's 2009 review of music licensing led to the end of exemptions for charitable organisations and community buildings for PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) music licensing. This change came into effect to bring UK law into line with international law in this area, but the implementation of the new fee structure has been delayed until 2012.

In November, the Government laid down the Statutory Instrument which will bring the new laws into effect. Nick Hurd, the Minister for Civil Society said "We have worked hard to ensure that charities, particularly small organisations and charity shops, get extra protection and that the impact of any changes is minimised". However, the Government's assertion that a deal has been done for the benefit of community organisations is a little premature. While talks between the community sectors and PPL are ongoing, they are far from concluded. The Sport and Recreation Alliance is an active participant in the negotiations in order to reduce the impact on sport.

[For the Intellectual Property Office's review of the new scheme, see its website.](#)

What next for sport and recreation

Nothing new - until 2012. In the meantime, the Sport and Recreation Alliance could really do with your help in showing us how this change would affect sport. If you want to join the campaign, contact [James MacDougall](#).

1.4 House of Lords debate on governance

In November, Lord Moynihan initiated a short House of Lords debate on strengthening the governance of sport and recreation in the United Kingdom to assist clubs, voluntary organisations and governing bodies. Peers championed the need for good governance in order to help NGBs to fend off interference from politicians and guarantee sport's autonomy.

How the Sport and Recreation Alliance can help with governance

1. Good Governance

This was a timely debate given calls in DCMS's business plan to review governance in sport and the Sport and Recreation Alliance's current work to launch a voluntary code of good governance for the sector. The draft code is not complicated nor prescriptive, but offers assistance to those sports looking to examine or improve their governance structures. This programme is due to be launched in 2011, but if you have any queries, contact [Joy Tottman](#).

2. Board Recruitment

In line with our work in governance, the Sport and Recreation Alliance is also providing tools to help your organisation. You can find [information on board recruitment resources on our website](#).

3. Resource bank

We are in the process of creating a 'resource bank' which will hold example policies and job descriptions. If you would like to help us with this project by donating example policies and job descriptions it would be much appreciated. Contact [Joy Tottman](#) for more information.

[1.5 DCMS business plan - sport, tourism and giving](#)

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) refreshed its business plan in November, outlining its plans in the field of sport for the coming years. These included delivery of the Olympics, creating a sporting legacy and supporting major sporting events. DCMS is also set to encourage philanthropy and giving, so sport should look to encourage the use of Gift Aid and the Sport and Recreation Alliance will continue to promote Gift Aid on junior subscriptions. Meanwhile, DCMS is also looking to publish a tourism strategy which could be very important in relation to access issues, particularly for outdoor pursuits.

[DCMS's full business plan](#).

What this means for sport and recreation

The sector needs to make sure its interests are reflected across the full range of DCMS's work. Sport being explicitly acknowledged in the tourism programme could really help in the fight for access to the countryside, for example. The Sport and Recreation Alliance will feed its views to the Minister on the tourism report. If you have any comments on how the tourism strategy should account for sport, contact [Martin Key](#).

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

[2.1 Community Infrastructure Levy announcement](#)

Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark announced that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be introduced but with reforms to ensure neighbourhoods share the advantages of development by receiving a proportion of the funds councils raise from developers. These will be passed directly to the local neighbourhood so community groups can spend the money locally on the facilities they want. The Sport and Recreation Alliance is concerned that there is no exemption from payments to CIL for

community amateur sports clubs and will work to ensure that local authorities set affordable discretionary rates.

For more information or to share your thoughts, contact [Martin Key](#).

2.2 New immigration fees

Following Parliamentary approval, new immigration fees were introduced from 22 November for those applying to study, visit, work or stay in the United Kingdom.

Fee increases were minimal for sport. In Tier 5 those coming to the UK to play sport on a temporary contract will see no change in fees, unless they apply when already in the UK. Tier 2 (permanent residence for professional sports people) has seen some small increases. These fees apply only to those taking up residence in the UK. For those participating in events a sports visitor visa is required instead.

[A full table of immigration fees is set out on the UK Border Agency website.](#)

2.3 Regulatory burden review

Hugh Robertson commissioned the Sport and Recreation Alliance to conduct a review of the red tape which holds sport back. We are reporting the findings to Nick Clegg in February 2011 and over the last couple of months we have gathered lots of data to shape our findings.

The online survey closed with 1400 responses, and we have already held five of our six themed expert workshops to dig down into the main issues.

Some findings so far:

- Half (50%) of all respondents to the online survey said that sport is subject to too much regulation and this is having a negative impact on sports clubs and their volunteers
- On average, the clubs we heard back from rely on 23 volunteers to run and operate
- The top three burdens for clubs are around coaching qualifications, funding processes and health and safety legislation
- The CASC scheme is regarded largely positively by clubs, but needs refining so it is less restrictive
- In many instances a lack of easily available, simple to understand information is worsening regulatory burdens

For more information or to get your views heard, contact [Syann Cox](#).

3 ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

3.1 White Paper on public health

A new White Paper on public health - [Healthy Lives, Healthy People](#) - sets out the Government's proposal to put local government and local communities at the heart of

improving health and well-being. This will be supported by a proposed 'public health outcomes framework' and a 'health premium', which will incentivise improvements. One of the five 'domains' of the framework will be 'health improvement' which seeks to promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles. The promotion of physical activity features prominently in the paper which includes support for the Olympic-style school sports competition, £135m lottery funding in a mass participation and community sport legacy programme, protecting open space and use of the Public Health Responsibility Deal to which the Sport and Recreation Alliance is already contributing.

If you would like to contribute to the consultation or have any comments on sport and recreation's role in promoting public health, please contact [Martin Key](#).

[3.2 Proposals for changes to planning application fees in England](#)

This [consultation proposes changes to the planning application fees regime](#) which would decentralise responsibility for setting fees to local planning authorities. Research shows that some authorities do not recoup their costs while others recoup far more. Some applications do not currently incur a fee (e.g. tree preservation orders) while applications made by non-profit making clubs affecting playing fields incur a flat-rate fee of £335.

What this means for sport and recreation

The proposals may result in planning application fee increases in some areas which would have an adverse effect on community clubs seeking to develop new facilities. But a flexible system would also present opportunities for authorities to charge a discretionary rate to community clubs. We will explore ways of achieving this.

[3.3 Independent review of IP and growth & DCMS review of intellectual property](#)

This government review aims to identify barriers to growth within the intellectual property framework, which consists of the rules and regulations covering how intellectual property is created, used and protected.

For full details of the review see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#). The review should report in April 2011 and will cover:

- Barriers to new internet-based business models, including the costs of obtaining permissions from existing rights-holders
- The cost and complexity of enforcing intellectual property rights within the UK and internationally
- The interaction between IP and competition frameworks
- The cost and complexity to SMEs of accessing services to help them protect and exploit their IP.

The public consultation document will be released in December and will close in March 2011.

Meanwhile, the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee is also running an inquiry into intellectual property rights. This study will cover the implementation of the Digital Economy Act. In particular:

- Whether the new framework has captured the right balance between supporting creative work online and the rights of subscribers and ISPs
- Whether the notification process is fair and proportionate
- The extent to which the associated costs might hinder the operation of the Act
- At what point, if at all, consideration should be given to introducing the additional technical measures allowed for under the Act.

The deadline for this consultation is 5 January 2011.

How this affects sport

All sports should have their intellectual property recognised so that governing bodies can safeguard their sport and ensure its name and product are not unfairly utilised. Sport has a huge value to the economy, with analysis from the Leisure Industries Research Centre (2006) indicating that sport-related economic activity in England exceeds £13bn per year and supports 400,000 jobs (1.8% of total employment). When we consider intellectual property rights, sport must be considered and its products safeguarded.

How can you help

Send your thoughts on intellectual property to [James MacDougall](#) at the Sport and Recreation Alliance or look out for the Alliance's calls for information in the coming weeks.

[3.4 National parks](#)

Defra is [consulting on the governance of National Park Authorities](#), in particular how they can build stronger links with local people on issues like planning. The existing statutory purposes of national parks will remain unchanged but there is recognition of the differing needs of individual Authorities. The consultation seeks views in relation to the size, composition and membership of NPAs and how effectiveness and accountability can be improved.

What this means for sport and recreation

The localism agenda will give more power to all local authorities in relation to planning now that the regional levels have been removed. The decision to allow the development of the vast majority of new sports facilities will rest on the members of the planning authority. This means that sport must make its presence known at a local level. For more information contact [Martin Key](#).

4 COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

[4.1 Vetting and barring](#)

The Sport and Recreation Alliance completed its response on vetting and barring which can be found on our new website.

[The Sport and Recreation Alliance's response to the review on vetting and barring](#)

The review of vetting and barring is on-going and the Sport and Recreation Alliance discussed sport's concerns with Sunita Mason who is the Government's Independent Advisor for Criminality Information Management. The Alliance will continue to campaign for a sensible system that protects the public, reduces bureaucracy on individuals and sports organisations and reduces cost.

[4.2 Natural environment](#)

Thank you to all members who contributed to the response of Defra's Natural Environment discussion paper. The paper highlights the vital role that sport and recreation plays in the natural environment, including its contribution to the rural economy, education, conservation and other projects that benefit wider society. The Sport and Recreation Alliance will seek to work with Defra to get the best possible outcome for sport when the White Paper is published in April 2011.

5 RESEARCH

[5.1 2011 Sports Club Survey](#)

We are gearing up for the 2011 Sports Club Survey which will look at the financial health of sports clubs and which this time around offers NGBs a chance to add in three questions of their choice (at no cost) to find out additional information from their clubs. The survey will be short and simple to complete and administered online, but we need your help to reach as many of your clubs as possible. Every sport with over 30 responses from clubs will get a sport-specific report produced and governing bodies will get the answers to their three sport-specific questions.

If you would like to ask three of your own questions to your clubs as part of our survey, please email [Syann Cox](#) to register your interest and support.

We will be piloting the survey in January/February of next year, and going live at the end of March with a view to presenting the results in September 2011.

What we can do for you:

It will cost national governing bodies nothing to take part but if you can get 30 clubs to participate in the survey, we will produce a custom analysis of your sport with Sportswise

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