



Policy Update, March 2011

Policy type:

UK

Publish date:

Mon, 28/03/2011 (All day)

SPORT & RECREATION IN PARLIAMENT

Red Card to Red Tape launched in Parliament

The Sport and Recreation Alliance launched *Red Card to Red Tape – How sports clubs want to break free from bureaucracy*, a report into the regulatory burden on sport and recreation clubs, at the House of Commons on 22 March. The Review, which was commissioned by the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, saw 1400 clubs respond to a survey, expert workshops and club visits conducted, and member submissions. This body of evidence helped create over 100 recommendations for government and the sport and recreation sector.

The Alliance will now use the findings of the report to support its campaigns for Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), local facilities and removing the red tape implemented to regulate profit-making businesses, but which affects non-profit sports organisations.

A full copy and executive summary of the Review, as well as information and photos of the event can be found at the [Red Card page of the Sport and Recreation Alliance website](#).

The 2011 Budget and sport

On 23 March the Chancellor made his annual Budget Statement in which he outlined his vision for stimulating growth and cutting regulation.

Most noticeable for the sporting sector, and CASCs in particular, are changes to **Gift Aid** as part of the Government's proposals to encourage charitable giving:

- Simplification of the administration of Gift Aid – which will migrate to online rather than written claims
- An increase in benefit limits for rewarding donors from £500 to £2,500
- Clubs able to claim sums of less than £5,000 without filling in Gift Aid declarations.

As part of the Chancellor's 'plan for growth' **corporation tax** will decrease by 2% this year and will continue to fall to 23% by 2014.

The Budget also lists the 43 **tax reliefs** which the Office of Tax Simplification requested for review. The Sport and Recreation Alliance lobbied the Treasury specifically on the tax reliefs for safety developments in sporting stadia which are under threat. This relief will now not be abolished straight away, but will be in the lowest priority of categories which will see consultation first, followed by inclusion in finance bills after 2012. The Alliance will continue to lobby against its abolition. For a full list of the 43 tax reliefs see the p. 66 of the [Budget 2011 Red Book](#).

The Chancellor also announced a shake-up of the **planning system**. Proposals include measures to streamline planning applications and ensure a fast-track process for major infrastructure applications. The Budget also introduces a new presumption in favour of sustainable development, making the default answer to development 'yes'. The Sport and Recreation Alliance will remain vigilant of the potential negative impact of these changes and will continue to lobby the Government to ensure that changes to the planning framework do not undermine access for recreational activity.

Other aspects of the Budget relevant to sport are as follows:

- On **fuel duty**, the Chancellor announced that the 4p rise in duty which was due to come into effect next month has been cancelled, and that a 1p cut in duty would take effect at 6pm on the evening of 23 March.
- The Government plans to consult shortly on proposals to address **water affordability**, with particular focus on areas with particularly high water bills, such as the South West.
- It was also announced that as part of the Government's de-regulation drive **dual discrimination** rules (set out in the Equality Act) will not be brought forward.
- Finally, the Chancellor confirmed that Lord Young's review of **health and safety** will be implemented.

[The Budget 2011 Red Book](#)

If you would like any more information please contact Head of Policy, [James MacDougall](#) or Parliamentary Liaison Officer, [Simon Butler](#).

MPs and Lords discuss anti-doping in sport

On 1 March the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sport welcomed representatives of UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) for a discussion on the importance of tackling doping in sport. UKAD's chief executive, Andy Parkinson, and chair, David Kenworthy, spoke, alongside UKAD Athlete Committee members Martin Corry MBE, Emily Freeman and Graham Edmunds.

At the meeting MPs and Peers were told that while banned substances are becoming more accessible and the rewards for success even greater, detection is becoming more difficult – and as such the problem is likely to get worse before it gets better. While drawing on information from external partner organisations will become increasingly

important in the fight against doping, efforts to educate athletes and test for substances remain central to the anti-doping strategy. APPG members heard that while the proportion of athletes found to be doping is small, rates of positive tests are not a reliable guide to the extent of the problem.

More information can be found on the [UK Anti-Doping website](#).

Next event

The next meeting of the APPG for Sport will consider how major sporting events can be used to advance women's participation in sport, and will be chaired by Baroness Grey-Thompson. The meeting will take place in the House of Commons on 17 May at 4pm.

If you would like more information, have suggestions about future activities or would like to support the work of the group please contact the secretariat to the Group, [Simon Butler](#).

You can also stay up-to-date by viewing the [APPG for Sport's webpage](#) and by following the group on Twitter @appgsport.

SPORT & RECREATION POLICY

U-turn on forestry policy

A frantic few weeks of lobbying resulted in a back-track by the Government on its decision to sell and lease out thousands of hectares of publicly-owned forest. The proposed sale of 15% of the Public Forest Estate has been postponed, the consultation on the future of the estate has been cancelled and the parts of the Public Bodies Bill in relation to the Forestry Commission will be removed. The Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Caroline Spelman MP, will be establishing an independent panel to consider forestry policy.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance is disappointed that the panel will have only one of its members represented. The Ramblers will do an excellent job of representing the interests of walkers, but forests are used by a far broader range of sport and recreational pursuits. The Alliance has contacted the Secretary of State to express its concern.

For more information please contact Policy Officer, [Martin Key](#).

Government Tourism Strategy launched

Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched its [Tourism Strategy](#) which seeks to capture overseas income by hosting major sporting events over the next decade. The report acknowledges that major events are a double-edged sword because they can result in people leaving the country when events take place. Therefore a £100m marketing campaign will be implemented to promote other parts of the UK.

During the consultation phase of the strategy the Sport and Recreation Alliance provided a submission to the Secretary of State for DCMS, highlighting the popularity of recreational activities amongst UK residents and overseas visitors, and this data is recognised in the strategy.

Government campaign to stamp out homophobia and transphobia in sport

The FA, the LTA, the ECB, the RFL and the RFU joined the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) in becoming the first signatories of the Charter for Action, which aims to make sport a welcoming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. For more information, visit the [action plan](#) or, to support the campaign, you can visit the [Facebook page](#).

Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities programme

A wide range of community sports clubs will be given help to build or upgrade their facilities using money confiscated under proceeds of crime legislation.

A £1.65m facilities fund for grassroots clubs and groups is to be set up by the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities programme, which uses money taken from criminal activity to fund community projects across Scotland.

The fund, which will be managed by sportscotland, will allow governing bodies, clubs and local communities to bid for financial support to develop facilities.

For more information on the [Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities programme see the Government's website](#).

Government launches its Public Health Responsibility Deal

The Department of Health launched its Responsibility Deal for health on 14 March. Working-groups to develop the programme exist for alcohol, food, health at work and behavioural change, and the Sport and Recreation Alliance sits on the physical activity group.

The Deal sees a huge variety of organisations pledging their support to improve the programme in the five different fields. The physical activity section is still in development, but the Alliance has signed up to the principles of the Deal and included an individual pledge to help raise the profile of Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs). What this means for sport and recreation is that while proposals for public health continue to empower local authorities to make their own decisions, it is vital that access to facilities at a local level remains. The Alliance will continue to emphasise to the Department the importance of sport and recreation and ensure that not only the principle of an active society is supported, but that there is the opportunity and facilities to do this at a local level.

What you can do

If your organisation would like to support the pledges associated with the programme,

or would like to find out more about interacting with the Department of Health, please contact [James MacDougall](#). For more information on the Deal, please see the [Department for Health's website](#).

Bribery Act under review

The Government is currently conducting a review of the Bribery Act, which was originally due to come into force in April 2011. The Sport and Recreation Alliance wrote to the Justice Secretary, Ken Clarke MP, outlining the potentially damaging consequences that the Act could have for sport and recreation in the UK. The Alliance's primary concern is that certain corporate hospitality arrangements at sports events may fall foul of the legislation. Since then, however, reports have indicated that companies and sponsors will be able to continue to offer standard hospitality to clients at sporting events without being in breach of the legislation.

What this means for sport and recreation

In light of these positive developments, the Sport and Recreation Alliance remains confident that corporate hospitality arrangements at sports events will be able to continue in their current form. Only 'lavish' hospitality events that are deemed to be excessively luxurious could fall foul of the Act, but the Government intends to publish guidance in due course that will clarify in more detail what will be acceptable under the legislation. If this is the case, the important revenue streams generated by hospitality for sport will remain intact.

What you can do

If you would like further information on the potential implications of the Bribery Act, please contact our UK & EU Regulatory Officer, [David Foster](#). The Sport and Recreation Alliance is also in the process of compiling a tool-kit that will provide NGBs with further information and advice on this issue.

CONSULTATIONS

Equality Office backs youth sports events as non-discriminatory

The Equalities Office has recently launched a consultation on banning discrimination on the grounds of age. The consultation supports exemptions for sport where the capabilities of the particular age-group would put them at a disadvantage compared to people of another age-group. For example, this would allow under-21s' football competitions and veterans' tennis competitions to continue. Naturally, the Sport and Recreation Alliance will respond to the consultation supporting this exemption. More details can be found on the [Equalities Office website](#).

What you can do

The Alliance would be very happy to receive quotes or endorsements for its response to the consultation, outlining the importance of being able to run age-specific sporting events.

Should you wish to respond individually please follow the link below. Please note that the deadline to respond is **25 May 2011**.

[Equalities Act 2010 - Age Consultation 2011](#)

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact [James MacDougall](#) or our Compliance Officer, [Joy Tottman](#).

Department for Health reviews its policies

The Department of Health is currently consulting on plans to reform public health in England. Under the Government's proposals money for public health would be ring-fenced and allocated to local authorities, who would work with local partners to achieve a set of stated outcomes. There are three ongoing consultations, all closing on **31 March**:

- 1) [Healthy Lives, Healthy People White Paper](#). Including proposals for a national public health body and local public health boards.
- 2) [National Outcomes Framework](#). Identifying a series of 'indicators' for health improvement.
- 3) [Funding and Commissioning Routes](#). Including a proposal for a ring-fenced public health budget for local authorities.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance will respond to all three consultations, emphasising the contribution of sport and recreation to positive public health outcomes and discussing how GPs can more effectively promote sport and recreation.

What you can do

It is crucial that sport and recreation has a strong voice in these consultations. If you have case studies of how your activity has helped the health agenda and would like them included in our responses, please send them to the Alliance. Its view is that it is important to campaign for physical activity to be a key 'indicator', for money to be ring-fenced for physical activity at a local level and that all sport and recreation - and not just walking and cycling - is involved.

If you can respond to the consultations, it would be very helpful. If you need any help or would like any advice on which aspects of the consultations to focus on, please contact [Simon Butler](#).

Charity Commission to review sport as a charitable aim

The Charity Commission is currently running a consultation on the advancement of amateur sport as a charitable aim. The objective of the consultation is to clarify in more detail the definition of the 'advancement of sport' as set out in the Charities Act 2006. Currently the definition is '*sports or games which promote health by involving physical or mental skill or exertion*'. The consultation will reconsider this definition in relation to issues such as what level of mental skill or exertion is necessary to

promote health, and the meaning of ‘amateur’ in the context of payment of players (including grant funding and sponsorship).

What this means for sport and recreation

The Charity Commission is looking to hear from sports organisations that are registered - or are seeking to be registered - as charities, national governing bodies, County Sports Partnerships, grant-making bodies and other interested organisations. The consultation will provide all interested parties with the opportunity to make their voices heard.

What you can do

If you would like further information on this consultation or wish to submit a comment from your organisation, please contact [David Foster](#). Please note the consultation will run until **31 May 2011**.

Localism Bill - Community Right to Challenge

A community right to challenge is a key tenant of the Localism Bill which is currently going through Parliament. The proposals will allow community groups to challenge to take over the running of local services. The challenge effectively starts a procurement process which is open to the market. The consultation seeks views on which services should be subject to challenge and what support is required to enable community organisations to take over services.

What this means for sport and recreation

These recommendations could have a big impact on clubs who use local authority facilities as it will give them the right to challenge how a facility is run. The current proposal does not give details as to how the right to challenge will ensure more services are run by local communities. It is vital that local authorities consider the value of a community-run facility during the procurement process to ensure that communities are not priced out of the market.

The consultation and background information is available from the [DCLG's website](#). Please note, the deadline for responses is **3 May 2011**. Please contact [Martin Key](#) if you have any questions about the Localism Bill.

Localism Bill - Community Right to Buy

A community right to buy is also a key part of the Localism Bill. The Bill proposes to require local authorities to create a list of assets of community value which, in the event of a sale, the community will be given extra time to prepare a bid to take them over. A more accurate name for the proposal would be ‘Community Right to *Bid*’ because inclusion on the list only gives the first bid to the community - ultimately the landowner can sell to whomever it wishes. The consultation seeks views on several aspects of the proposal including the definition of ‘community value’, the procedure for listing, the length of protection and the right to compensation.

What this means for sport and recreation

These recommendations could have a major impact on clubs. Asset-owning clubs may find their property included on the list if it is proposed by the local council. Non-asset-owning clubs could nominate a facility they consider has community value and in the event of a sale would be given extra time to put a bid together.

The consultation and background information is available from the [DCLG's website](#). Deadline for responses is **3 May 2011**. Please contact [Martin Key](#) if you have any questions about the Localism Bill.

Sport in the National Curriculum evaluated by Department for Education

The Department of Education has recently launched a consultation on the primary and secondary National Curriculum in England. The consultation seeks opinions and evidence about the National Curriculum and hopes to start a debate about what is taught in schools. The Government proposes that physical education remains a core subject at all four key-stages and has asked for views on what should be included in a shorter, less prescriptive Programme of Study.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance will advocate that sport should be an integral part of the curriculum and that the UK should aim to exceed its European neighbours in terms of quantity and quality of provision.

What you can do

While we do not feel there is a need for all our members to respond to the consultation, we would be very happy to receive your quotes or endorsements for our response, outlining the importance of teaching sport in schools.

Many of our members with direct links to school sport may well like to submit their own response, and more information about how to respond can be found on the [Department for Education's website](#). Please note, the deadline to respond is **14 April 2011**.

COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

Alliance backs plans to increase giving in sport

The Cabinet Office recently closed its consultation on the Giving Green Paper. The objective of the consultation was to gather information from stakeholders on how the Government can foster a better environment to promote and encourage giving – be it money, assets, time or skills – as part of its Big Society programme. The Sport and Recreation Alliance's submission highlighted the integral role that giving (particularly volunteering and donations) plays in the organisation of grassroots and community sport and recreation in the UK. Our submission supported the Government's willingness to create a more favourable environment for giving, called for greater support for JustGiving, the wider application of Gift Aid (on junior subscriptions and on in-kind giving) and rejuvenated thinking on philanthropic giving.

[The Sport and Recreation Alliance's submission on the Giving Green Paper consultation](#)

OUTDOOR PURSUITS/ WATER RECREATION

Enjoying Water Project

The Environment Agency has launched its strategic priorities for the South East and London. The [2010 Enjoying Water project](#) has identified nine priorities with 50 actions for London and the South East.

For more information please contact [Russell Robson](#) at the Environment Agency.

RESEARCH

Alliance launches its 2011 Sports Club Survey

The Sport and Recreation Alliance is focusing its research efforts on the 2011 Sports Club Survey (conducted every two years). The Alliance uses the data from this research on a daily basis to cite facts and figures about our sports clubs – quality data helps make decision-makers listen.

The more clubs who complete this survey, the more authoritative the sector's voice will be, and the more money the Alliance can try to save sports clubs. The survey launched on 8 March and will run until the end of May. There have already been over 650 responses, but we need your help to get more (our target this year is 3000!).

What you can do

Please promote the survey to as many of your clubs as possible. You can find material for doing so and further information about the survey on the [Sports Club Survey webpage](#). For more information please contact Research and Evidence Officer, [Syann Cox](#).

[Sport and Recreation Alliance's 2011 Sports Club Survey](#)

Free research event on volunteering and sport

The Sports Volunteer Research Network (SVRN) is hosting a free symposium, which offers a mix of theoretical and practical insights into a number of presentations on research regarding volunteering and sport. Presentations include a case study of the Amateur Swimming Association's review of their governance and monitoring organisational performance, and an exploration of the challenges faced when growing sport through clubs. The event will take place on 7 April between 10am – 3:30pm. For more information, or to register for a place, please email [Spencer Harris](#).

OTHER NEWS

EU shakes up free-to-air sports viewing

In February, the European General Court (EGC) ruled that UK football fans can continue to watch the World Cup and the European Championships on free-to-air television. FIFA and UEFA had challenged a decision allowing the UK government to designate these events free-to-watch by including them in its so called 'protected list' of sporting events. The governing bodies argued that showing all games on free-to-air television - other than those involving the home nations, the semi-finals and the finals – restricted their ability to sell television rights and distorted competition. FIFA and UEFA now have two months to appeal against the ruling.

What this means for sport and recreation

While this decision can be seen as a triumph for consumers and fans, it is not such good news for sports rights holders. With all matches in these two tournaments protected, both professional and grassroots sport will miss out on the extra revenues that can be generated by selling rights to pay-TV broadcasters.

If you would like further information about the ruling by the EGC, please contact [David Foster](#).

Betting's move offshore sounds alarm bells for integrity

In February the Alliance hosted the Sports Betting Group's seminar on the threats to sport's integrity from suspicious betting. The Group will now assess the state of play amongst NGBs in a brief questionnaire which will be circulated shortly.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that Betfair has moved its betting services to Gibraltar. This means they are no longer under the authority of the Gambling Commission and do not have to report suspicious betting to NGBs. While Betfair has a good relationship with NGBs and has promised to continue to report suspicious betting, the principle is a worrying one and the Sport and Recreation Alliance will continue to liaise with DCMS and the Gambling Commission to see what can be done to ensure integrity for sport.

How we can help you

For more information on how we can help you with rules surrounding integrity, education for athletes or intelligence and detection, please contact [David Foster](#).

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