

Policy Update

June 2006

1. SPORT AND POLITICS

- 1.1 Parliamentary Contact
- 1.2 Private Security Industry Act

2. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

- 2.1 Drought Orders
- 2.2 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Consultations

3. FISCAL

- 3.1 Community Amateur Sports Clubs
- 3.2 Licensing Act 2003
- 3.3 National Lottery Bill
- 3.4 Finance and Governance Forum

4. HEALTH

- 4.1 Governmental Responsibility for Public Health
- 4.2 Small Change, Big Difference
- 4.3 CAFE Health Week / Outdoor Health Forum
- 4.4 Health Bill – accommodation and smoking
- 4.5 Sport and Health Events
- 4.6 National Coalition for Active Ageing

5. EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 5.1 Early Years Foundation Stage Consultation

6. ONGOING ITEMS

- 6.1 Commons Bill
- 6.2 Draft Marine Bill
- 6.3 Compensation Bill



1. SPORT AND POLITICS

1.1 Parliamentary Contact

On 8 May, CCPR Chairman Brigid Simmonds gave evidence to the ODPM Select Committee inquiry into the proposed Planning Gain Supplement. In particular Brigid highlighted examples of where section 106 agreements had benefited sport and recreation, and the need to ensure that any changes to the regime did not act as a deterrent to sporting developments.

At the May meeting of the Parliamentary sports caucus, CCPR Chief Executive Tim Lamb gave a presentation on the need to ensure a lasting legacy of grass-roots sporting participation as a result of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Subsequently Tim has met with Andy Reed MP to discuss means of improving the tax and fiscal situation of National Governing Bodies of Sport. Andy is Private Parliamentary Secretary to John Healey MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and is well placed to advise on these issues.

1.2 Private Security Industry Act 2001

CCPR met with officials from the Home Office, the Security Industry Authority and DCMS to discuss the implementation of the PSIA 2001 within the sports sector. The meeting preceded the second day of the Committee stage of the Violent Crime Reduction Bill (VCRB) in the House of Lords. At this stage, an amendment tabled by Lord Pendry which, if accepted, would have excluded venues covered by Safety at Sports Ground Act 1975 from the PSIA 2001 was debated. However, the amendment was withdrawn, in part because Lord Bassam, responding for the Government, made a series of constructive comments and confirmed an exclusion for sport could be achieved through secondary legislation (i.e. the PSIA could be amended through means other than the VCRB).

Scope: England and Wales

CCPR Objective: CCPR will continue to campaign with members and other organisations to secure a workable solution for sport.

Next Steps: CCPR will attend a follow-up meeting with the Home Office, Security Industry Authority and DCMS in early June to take forward the practical case for exclusion. Following this meeting, CCPR will produce a collective response to the ongoing Home Office consultation. For further information contact Ben Andersen-Tuffnell: bat@ccpr.org.uk

2. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

2.1 Drought Orders

A number of water companies within the South East and Southern region have been granted a Drought Order to restrict non-essential use of water. Once a Drought Order is granted there is normally a six week notice period before it takes effect and a seven day timeframe for objections to be lodged. Drought Orders give water suppliers the power to ban the watering of any natural or artificial surfaces used for sport and recreation; whether publicly or privately owned and the filling of privately owned swimming pools.

Sports clubs may be able to obtain alternative sources of water from their Water Boards. For example, Sutton and East Surrey, the first Water Board to be granted a Drought Order are offering untreated water that would be suitable for natural or artificial pitches from a borehole.

CCPR is in contact with DCMS and DEFRA over this issue and will inform members as new information arises.

Scope: South East and Southern England

Next Steps: CCPR recommends that NGBs with clubs in the South East and Southern region which may be affected by Drought Orders should contact their local Water Boards to discuss possible alternative sources of water. Should you have any queries please contact Charlotte Edward cedward@ccpr.org.uk

2.2 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Consultations

2.2.1 Review of England Forestry Strategy

This consultation seeks views on the future direction of Government policies for England's trees, woods and forests, to ensure they meet society's needs in the 21st century. The consultation includes a section on recreation and poses the question – 'do you agree that provision of high quality facilities for public recreation in publicly and privately owned woodland is a national priority?'

CCPR Objective: CCPR will work to ensure that the needs of sport and recreation that take place in woodlands are considered within the strategy.

Next Steps: The Outdoor Pursuits meeting will have a brief presentation on the strategy by DEFRA at the meeting on the 24 May. The deadline for responding to the consultation is 9 August 2006. Should you have any queries please contact Charlotte Edward cedward@ccpr.org.uk

How you can help: CCPR urges members to feed into CCPR's response to the consultation. The consultation document is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/forestry-strategy/index.htm>

2.2.2 Outdoors for All? Draft Diversity Action Plan

The Diversity Action Plan will encourage young people, people with disabilities, those from inner cities and black and ethnic minority communities to visit and enjoy local green spaces and the English countryside.

The consultation (run by the Countryside Agency on behalf of DEFRA) seeks views on a draft action plan that aims, over a 10 year period, to increase the number of people from these groups making use of the outdoor recreational opportunities that exist in both rural and urban areas.

The draft action plan is based on the findings of research undertaken as part of the Diversity Review. This Review showed that when people from such groups experienced the outdoors, they were keen to return. The draft plan proposes new ways of working, both with the organisations providing outdoor recreation opportunities, and with the under-represented groups, so that the objective of increasing participation can be achieved.

Scope: England

Next Steps: To gain members views from both the Water Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits Division to inform CCPR's response. The deadline for responding to the consultation is 30 September. The consultation document is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/outdoorsdiversity/index.htm>

How you can help: CCPR urges members to feed into CCPR's response to the consultation. Please send any comments to Charlotte Edward cedward@ccpr.org.uk.

3. FISCAL

3.1 Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs)

There are now 3761 clubs registered as CASCs with an estimated total cash benefit of at least £12.5 million in rate relief, Corporation Tax savings and Gift Aid repayments. With 66 different sports taking advantage of the CASC scheme, cricket, bowls, lawn tennis and rugby union have the highest number of CASC registered clubs, with a total of 1993 (53% of the total registrations). Football, golf, mixed sports, sailing, shooting and rowing make up the rest of the top ten represented sports with a total of 1199 clubs.

CCPR continues to operate a helpline for clubs and works with DCMS, HMRC, Deloitte, Sport England and Bates, Wells and Braithwaite to administer the CASC scheme. Information on the CASCs scheme is available on the CCPR website www.ccpr.org.uk or by contacting Ben Andersen-Tuffnell: bat@ccpr.org.uk.

Scope: UK

CCPR Objective: CCPR will campaign for additional benefits to be added to the CASC scheme.

How can you help: Publicise the success and benefits of the scheme within your organisation and to clubs.

3.2 Licensing Act 2003

On 25 May CCPR presented its latest evidence to the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel to support its campaign for fairer fees for sports clubs. This included some excellent case studies of the impact on individual clubs. To receive a copy of the evidence please email bnicholas@ccpr.org.uk. CCPR is grateful for the excellent input from members on this issue and will continue to work closely with you to make the case for sport and recreation.

Scope: England and Wales

CCPR Objective: To achieve a fairer licensing fees regime for sports clubs

How can you help: If members are aware of specific case studies which highlight the impact of the Act please contact Ben Nicholas: bnicholas@ccpr.org.uk.

3.3 National Lottery Bill

The National Lottery Bill, which will legally establish the new lottery distributor the Big Lottery Fund, replacing the Community Fund, the New Opportunities Fund and the Millennium Commission, received its Third Reading in the House of Lords on 23 May 2006. A new amendment, welcomed by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, would require distributing bodies to make annual reports on their interpretation of the principle of additionality.

CCPR Objective: CCPR will continue to monitor the Bill and keep members informed of key developments.

Next steps: The Bill now returns to the Commons, where amendments will be considered.

Scope: England

3.4 Finance and Governance Forum

The inaugural meeting of the Finance and Governance Forum will take place on 1 June 2006. Attendees will receive a report from Deloitte on NGB VAT issues. The Forum, which will initially focus on finance issues before moving on to wider governance issues, has been jointly established by CCPR, Sport England and UK Sport.

CCPR Objective: Provide an effective forum for discussion of finance and governance issues.

How can you help: If your organisation is interested in attending the FGF please notify Ben Andersen-Tuffnell: bat@ccpr.org.uk. Members will need to have a sound financial grounding in order to benefit from participating.

4. HEALTH

4.1 Governmental responsibility for Public Health

Prime Minister Tony Blair has written to Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, outlining that Caroline Flint, the Minister for Public Health will report both to her and the Department for Health. In addition to this Caroline Flint will be required to work with both DCMS and the new Department for Communities and Local Government to develop a 'new and ambitious strategy to maximise sporting participation and fitness.'

Next Steps: The CCPR will monitor developments to assess the extent to which sport and recreation is fully integrated into public health strategy.

4.2 Small Change, Big Difference

CCPR Chair, Brigid Simmonds attended the launch of the Government campaign "small change, Big Difference" at 10 Downing Street on 25 April. The campaign seeks to encourage people to make small increases in their daily activity to aid health improvements and combat weight gain.

CCPR provided case studies and examples from our membership for the campaign and will maintain contact via the Obesity Social Marketing Campaign and contacts within the Department of Health.

4.3 CABE Health Week / Outdoor Health Forum

CABE (the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) hosted its 'Health Week' from the 15 to 19 May. Included within the discussions were a number of seminars focussing on health, physical activity and the environment. To read more about the week and the conclusions reached please visit <http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=1242>

A meeting of the Outdoor Health Forum was chaired by CCPR and a seminar on green spaces brought together experts from sport, health and local authorities to discuss how better use and design of parks and green spaces could encourage physical activity.

Next steps: CCPR is a member of the Outdoor Health Forum and will look for future opportunities to work with CABE in the future.

4.4 Health Bill – accommodation and smoking

Within the Health Bill hotels will be able to designate a proportion of their rooms as ‘smoking rooms’, enabling guests to smoke in them should they wish. Although there is currently no reference to private clubs (including sports clubs) that provide accommodation within the Bill it is expected that they will be afforded the same freedom. This will not prevent sports clubs from having total smoking ban within accommodation should they wish.

Next steps: CCPR will continue to monitor the Bill and its implications for sport and recreation.

4.5 Sport & Health Events

The Sport and Health Conference in the West Midlands has been rearranged for 6th June. It will be held at Worcester County Cricket Club (which is located in Worcester town centre).

Next Steps: should you or your organisation wish to attend the meeting please contact KH Associates Ltd: email k.a.houghton@btinternet.com or telephone 07859 016 612.

The Men’s Health Forum is holding a conference on the mental health of men and boys on the 14 June. The conference is jointly sponsored by the FA and will have a workshop on the benefits of physical activity to men’s health.

For more information please contact Matthew Maycock, on 0781 3873356, matthew.maycock@menshealthforum.org.uk

4.6 National Coalition for Active Ageing

A delegation from the NCAA, including CCPR met with officials from DCMS on the 23 May to discuss the Department’s policies towards physical activity and older people.

The DCMS is perceived by some to favour policies aimed at children and young adults and NCAA representatives requested that greater focus be given to older people and physical activity in the future. NCAA also hopes to work with DCMS to challenge stereotypes of older people and help the DCMS to achieve its physical activity participation targets.

Next steps: It was agreed that a representative from DCMS will be invited to a future NCAA Forum meeting and that representatives from both organisations will meet again in the future to discuss this matter further.

5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

5.1 Early Years Foundation Stage Consultation

This Department for Education and Skills consultation sets out a framework for childcare providers, covering all aspects of a child's development. The physical development section suggests that 'practitioners must support children in developing an understanding of the importance of healthy choices in relation to food', but it does not make a similar statement about supporting children to develop an understanding of physical activity. The CCPR believes that this is a missed opportunity, as learning about the importance of physical activity, and of course enjoying physical activity will help to instil a lifelong habit of healthy physical activity.

Next steps: The consultation closes on Friday 28 July 2006.

How you can help: The CCPR urges members to email the consultation manager (EYFS.CONSULTATION@dfes.gsi.gov.uk) with a simple message stating that:

'With regard to the physical development requirements: we believe that practitioners must support children in developing an understanding of the importance of physical activity to their well-being and health, and should also support children to develop an enjoyment of physical activity. This is absolutely crucial to helping young people develop a physical activity habit that will contribute to their ongoing good health, and physical competence throughout life'

6. ONGOING ITEMS

Ongoing items are those issues on which CCPR continues to work, but which have seen no substantial change recently. For fuller information please see the policy update listed at the end of each item.

6.1 Commons Bill

The Commons Bill continues through the Parliamentary process. CCPR is supporting and working with the Open Spaces Society to ensure that the Bill is beneficial to access and recreation interests. May 2006

6.1 Draft Marine Bill

CCPR will respond to the draft Marine Bill consultation aiming to ensure that the needs of sport and recreation are considered within it and that any future implementation of the Bill will not negatively impact on sport and recreation activities that take place on the waterways and coastal areas. May 2006

6.1 Compensation Bill

This Bill will require judges to take into account the nature of an activity when considering duty of care, which is a positive step for sport and recreation activities. The Compensation Bill completed its Grand Committee Stage in the House of Lords on 25 January and will now go to Report Stage (date yet to be announced). May 2006.