

Policy Update

March 2007

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1. SPORT & POLITICS

1.1 MPs turn out in force for CCPR's Parliamentary Sporting Surgery

26 MPs attended CCPR's first Parliamentary Sporting Surgery hosted by Andy Reed MP, on 14 March 2007. The event enabled MPs from across the UK to share the concerns of their sporting constituents and receive advice from CCPR colleagues on how to address these issues. MPs also chatted with Mark Ramprakash about the importance of grass-roots sports clubs, and also his more recent experiences of the world of movement and dance. The event enabled CCPR to showcase activities across the breadth of its membership, showing that there is an activity suitable for every constituency.

Scope

UK

CCPR objective

To provide MPs with an overview of CCPR's activity, and to offer advice on issues affecting their sporting constituents.

Next steps

CCPR will continue to work with MPs of all parties to achieve greater political support for sport and recreation.

1.2 Parliamentarians support sport's integrity campaign

Colleagues at CCPR have now met with a number of MPs and peers to discuss sport's campaign to achieve a regulatory regime that prioritises the integrity of sport, and to secure a fair return to sport from the betting companies which profit from it. All those Parliamentarians with whom CCPR met have indicated their support for this campaign.

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Licensing Act 2003: CCPR promised meeting

Following the publication of the Report of the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel, CCPR Chairman Brigid Simmonds requested a meeting with Shaun Woodward MP, the Minister responsible for licensing. The Minister has now confirmed in writing that he would be willing to meet to discuss further CCPR's proposals for reducing the cost of the Licensing Act 2003 to sports clubs.

Scope

England and Wales

CCPR objective

To ensure the Government fulfils its promise to develop a licensing fee structure that 'will be welcomed by sport'.

Next steps

To progress discussions on reducing the cost of the Licensing Act 2003 to sports clubs with Shaun Woodward MP, Minister responsible for licensing.

2.2 Review of sports ground safety legislation

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is reviewing current legislation for ensuring safety at sports grounds. The Department is not proposing specific changes, but wishes to assure itself that the current system is working well. To view the consultation questions visit: www.ccpr.org.uk, select policy from the left hand menu and click on 'CCPR briefings and consultation responses'. Responses are required by 13 April 2007.

Scope

England

Next steps

CCPR will respond to the consultation and would welcome members' views to inform its response. Please send your thoughts to Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk) by 2 April 2007.

3. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

3.1 Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee seeks new members

The AAIAC, which is supported by both CCPR and SkillsActive, is representative of a wide range of stakeholders from the UK adventure activities sector. It works with the industry to identify, develop and disseminate good practice, and to advise Governments and agencies accordingly. The AAIAC aims to refresh its membership annually and is now seeking nominations for new members from across the sector. Information packs are available from Duncan Carter (dcarter@ccpr.org.uk)

Scope

UK

Next steps

If your organisation is involved in adventurous activities please consider nominating an appropriate individual to the AAIAC.

3.2 Draft Climate Change Bill

DEFRA is seeking comments on its Draft Climate Change Bill. The Bill will introduce a long-term framework for the UK reduction in carbon dioxide emissions and outline steps to be taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change. This consultation document discusses the context and rationale behind the Climate Change Bill and sets out the main reasons why the UK Government considers legislation in this area is required. The closing date for responses is 12 June 2007 and the documents can be accessed at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/climatechange-bill/index.htm>

Scope

UK

Next steps

CCPR intends to respond to the consultation, and would welcome members' views in doing so. Please email your thoughts to Duncan Carter (dcarter@ccpr.org.uk)

3.3 'A Sea of Change' Consultation on a Marine Bill White Paper

A Sea of Change, a Marine Bill White Paper, was published on 15 March 2007. DEFRA is seeking views on the proposals set out in the White Paper and input to the supporting regulatory impact assessment. Five key issues are covered: planning in the marine area; licensing activities in the marine area; marine nature conservation; modernising marine fisheries management; and a new marine management organisation. The deadline for responses is 8 June 2007 and the documents can be accessed at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marinebill-whitepaper07/index.htm>

Scope

UK-wide, but with deference to the powers devolved to the Scottish Executive, Welsh and Northern Ireland Assemblies.

Next steps

CCPR intends to respond to the consultation, and would welcome members' views in doing so. Please send your thoughts to Duncan Carter (dcarter@ccpr.org.uk)

4. FISCAL

4.1 Community Amateur Sports Clubs

www.cascinfo.co.uk, a website dedicated to the promotion of the CASC scheme, provides NGBs and clubs with up-to-date, accessible information about the scheme to help more clubs register as CASCs and reap the significant financial benefits. CCPR continue to operate a helpline for clubs and work with DCMS, HMRC, Deloitte, runningsports, Sport England and Bates, Wells and Braithwaite to administer the CASC scheme.

Figures provided by Deloitte show there are now 4,172 clubs registered as CASCs with an estimated total cash benefit of at least £17.4 million in rate relief, corporation tax savings and Gift Aid repayments. The sports of cricket, bowls, lawn tennis, rugby union and football continue to grow and make up 61% of the total registrations.

Scope UK

CCPR objective

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

How can you help

Help promote the site and the CASC scheme by linking to www.cascinfo.co.uk from your own website and by passing this information on to other organisations which could benefit from registration. Please also publicise the success and benefits of the scheme within your organisation and to clubs.

4.2 Minimum Wage rises

The Government has announced that the minimum wage is to increase by 17p an hour to £5.52. The new rate for adults will come into force in October. Statutory rates for 18-21 year-olds will rise by 15p to £4.60 an hour while 16 and 17 year-olds will have their rate increased by 10p to £3.40.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.lowpay.gov.uk>

5. HEALTH

5.1 Smokefree venues

Members are reminded that as of July 2007 smoking will be banned at all 'fully or substantially enclosed' venues. All club-houses will be deemed fully enclosed and most sports stadia substantially enclosed.

CCPR objective

To support member organisations in complying with the regulations.

Next steps

Member organisations will need to consider whether their premises fall within the definition of 'enclosed'. If they do so, they will need to take appropriate steps to implement a smoking ban. For further information visit www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

6. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

6.1 New standards for sports administration and governance

Members will be only too aware that running a sport is a complex business. Sports administrators need to develop and maintain rules, regulations, and competitive structures whilst also promoting ethics, equity and welfare. SkillsActive has worked with colleagues from across sport to develop a set of National Occupational Standards covering the varied responsibilities involved in sports governance and administration, and is now seeking further views on these. Copies of the draft Standards are available from nicola.temple@skillsactive.com.

Scope

UK

How you can help

If you are a senior manager or Board member in a sporting organisation please request a copy of the draft standards and send your thoughts on these to nicola.temple@skillsactive.com. The deadline for responses is 13 April 2007.

6.2 Activity Providers to be exempted from OFSTED registration?

This Department for Education and Skills consultation seeks to define more clearly childcare which is primarily activity based provision and sets out proposed criteria for exempting this provision from the requirement to be registered by Ofsted. The consultation, which closes on 23 April 2007, can be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1444>

Scope

England

What this means for you

This consultation will be of particular importance to organisations offering activity based after-school clubs and holiday clubs.

Next steps

Please visit the consultation site and respond. CCPR would also welcome members' views to inform its own response. Please send these to Andrew Hanson (ahanson@ccpr.org.uk).

7. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Proposed traffic regulation orders for National Parks

DEFRA is proposing to enable National Park Authorities to regulate traffic on Public Rights of Way and roads with a predominantly unsealed surface. Closing date 20 April 2007. To respond visit:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/npa-trafficregs/consultation.pdf>

7.2 Commission for the Future of Volunteering

The Commission for the Future of Volunteering continues to seek input from sport as it seeks to establish a long-term vision for volunteering. For further information visit:

<http://www.volcomm.org.uk/getinvolved/>, and submit your responses by 25 May 2007.

8. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

CCPR has responded to the consultations below, and will take further action on these issues as the opportunity arises. To view CCPR's responses visit www.ccpr.org.uk and click on policy on the left hand menu.

8.1 London Low Emissions Zone

CCPR has requested that Transport for London give greater consideration of the needs of voluntary sector sport and recreation when implementing the zone.

8.2 Gambling advertisements

CCPR has highlighted the lack of evidence that replica kit bearing the logos of gambling companies leads to under-age gambling, and has asserted that responsible decision-making with regard to sponsorship should rest with national governing bodies and clubs, rather than Government.

If you do not wish to receive this service, please inform info@ccpr.org.uk.