

Policy Update

November 2008

1. SPORT & POLITICS

- 1.1 Parliament debates 2012 legacy and sports funding

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

- 2.1 Select Committee takes evidence on the Licensing Act 2003
- 2.2 Introduction of the points-based system for managed migration

3. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

- 3.1 Classification of water bodies
- 3.2 MPs debate inland waterways

4. COMMUNITIES

- 4.1 Community Infrastructure Levy
- 4.2 Sustainable Communities Act 2007

5. RESEARCH

- 5.1 School Sport Survey 2007 - 2008

6. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 Society lotteries
- 6.2 Music licensing fees



1. SPORT AND POLITICS

1.1 Parliament debates 2012 legacy and sports funding

Sport has remained firmly on the political agenda during the new Parliamentary session, with debates being called to discuss the potential legacy of the London 2012 games, and the future of sports funding in the UK.

CCPR has provided briefings to all the major Westminster parties emphasising the need for ambitious and well-funded legacy plans in order to increase participation as a result of the 2012 games.

CCPR also highlighted the need to focus on community sport and recreation to ensure that there are opportunities for all. Encouragingly, Lord Glentoran, Conservative Olympics spokesperson, committed his party to enabling sports clubs to claim gift aid on junior subscriptions.

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Select Committee takes evidence on the Licensing Act 2003

CCPR chair Brigid Simmonds, was invited to give evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee regarding the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on sports clubs. Brigid reminded MPs that the costs imposed on clubs by the Act were disproportionate to the scale of club operations and, when added to other regulatory burdens, threatened the very viability of clubs.

What next

The Government has yet to respond to the Independent Licensing Fee review panel report, which included reference to CCPR's proposal for reducing the cost of the Act to sports clubs.

2.2 Introduction of the points-based system for managed migration

Changes to the immigration system through the implementation of both the points-based system for managed migration and new sport visitor visas are to be implemented on 27 November.

Organisations will have to register as a sponsor if they wish to bring non-European Economic Area migrants into the UK to work permanently. Meanwhile the new sport visitor visa will come into effect for those visiting the UK to participate in competitions.

What next

If you have any queries, or are hosting an international event in the near future, contact James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk) for more details.

3. COUNTRYSIDE & WATER

3.1 Classification of water bodies

DEFRA's consultation on directions to the Environment Agency on classification of water bodies is the final stage in a process of developing the environmental quality standards and other criteria recommended for use in classification in the first river basin planning cycle. This is part of the process of implementing the Water Framework Directive.

Further details can be found here:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wfd-classification-direction/index.htm>

Scope

England and Wales

What this means for sport and recreation

Many recreational users appreciate the value of clean and biodiverse water ways. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) seeks to improve the quality of water by measuring against numerous standards for assessing its ecological quality. It is far more comprehensive than current standards.

What next

The consultation closes on 19 December 2008 and will help define the Environment Agency's approach to implementing the WFD.

3.2 MPs debate inland waterways

On 28 October, a well-attended debate confirmed the Government's commitment to inland waterways. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Huw Irranca-Davies reconfirmed the Government's commitment to restoring the canal network, but maintaining the current network will be the main objective.

The Minister stated that he fully supported the restoration of the canal network but emphasised that waterways must maximise public benefit while also delivering an affordable and sustainable network.

The Government's priorities were: keeping the existing network in good order; moving it towards greater self-sufficiency and delivering a range of additional public benefits, Mr Irranca-Davies explained. He added that the priority of maintaining the current network must be paramount.

4. COMMUNITIES

4.1 Community Infrastructure Levy

The Planning Bill currently progressing through the Lords introduces at Part 10 the Community Infrastructure Levy, which would require any organisation that obtains planning permission to develop land to pay a fee based on the land's value. These proposals could create a situation where a sports club which develops facilities to make an enhancement to local infrastructure provision will essentially be taxed for these enhancements.

The Government has brought forward an amendment to the Bill which would exempt certain charities, and, in response to questions from Lord Greaves and the Earl of Caithness, has undertaken to review the position of sports clubs.

Scope

England and Wales

What this means for sport and recreation

This extra cost may be prohibitive to clubs and deter them from developing facilities that would be of benefit to the community. CCPR is therefore making the case for exemption for all developments which are:

- undertaken by a Community Amateur Sports Club
- undertaken by an NGB or not-for-profit organisation at a site which has some community sporting use
- funded using Government or lottery money (where matched funding with industry applies, the exemption should still remain, otherwise sport's ability and motivation to obtain matched funding would be drastically reduced).

What next

CCPR will continue to make the case for the exclusion of sport and recreation developments from the CIL.

4.2 Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Through this unusual Act of Parliament, the Government has invited local authorities to bring forward proposals to improve local neighbourhoods for their residents. The Act provides a channel for local people to ask central government, via their local authority, to take action to improve their economic, social or environmental well-being.

What Next

Local authorities have until 31 July 2009 to put forward proposals. All proposals should be sent to the LGA which has been appointed as the "selector" under the terms of the Act. Sports clubs that believe action could be taken to improve their situation should contact the local authority office leading this process to discuss how they might become involved.

5. RESEARCH

5.1 School Sport Survey 2007 – 2008

This year's survey reports that 90% of pupils within school sport partnerships participate in at least two hours high quality physical education and school sport per week. Participation levels in primary (96%) and special (93%) schools are higher than secondary schools (83%).

Whilst the figures are encouraging overall, it is clear that drop-off remains a difficult issue with just 71% and 66% participating in years 10 and 11. The number of club links has increased from a baseline of 5 in 2003/4 to 7.6 in 2007/8. CCPR will continue to make the case for greater support of community sports clubs to ensure that they have the capacity to provide effective links.

6. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

6.1 DCMS plans increase in society lottery jackpots

CCPR supported this proposal which, if implemented, will see the maximum jackpot for individual society lottery draws increased from £200,000 to £400,000 and the maximum amount raised from each draw increased from £2m to £4m.

6.2 Music licensing fees – consultation on exemption

CCPR's response to this consultation emphasised that, as they currently stood, all the options under consideration would be detrimental to grass-roots sport and recreation. CCPR has called for all sports clubs which do not use music for income generation purposes to be exempt.

If you do not wish to receive this service or would like to register other colleagues to receive this email, please let us know by registering at www.ccpr.org.uk/sign-up