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February 2008

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1. SPORT & POLITICS

1.1 New Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport appointed

Former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, James Purnell MP, has been appointed Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, following the resignation of Peter Hain MP from the Government. Mr Purnell is replaced by Andy Burnham MP, former Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Mr. Burnham is an acknowledged sports enthusiast, who formerly worked on the Football Task Force. Mr. Burnham is acquainted with CCPR and its work and CCPR will seek to strengthen this existing relationship. Yvette Cooper MP succeeds Mr. Burnham as Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

1.2 Conservatives launch National Lottery Independence Bill

The Conservatives have announced plans to reform the National Lottery, which they claim will restore its independence from Government and increase returns to sport, the arts, heritage and the voluntary and community sectors.

The plans outlined in the National Lottery Independence Bill, launched by David Cameron and Shadow Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, would return the lottery to the four original good causes, introduce a gross profits tax regime for the Lottery and cap the administration costs of lottery distributor bodies. The party projects that this package of measures could see returns of up to £182 million being ploughed back into grassroots sports, arts projects and the voluntary sector. This Bill would be a priority for a future Conservative government.

2. LONDON 2012

2.1 Government Olympic Executive publishes annual report

This annual report outlines progress against the Olympic objectives to date and states that the Government will publish its action plan to achieve a legacy of sporting participation this year. To access the report visit:

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/39358A28-98B7-42C0-A2EE-6D78E78905F3/0/dcmsoeannualreportjan08vs2update.pdf>.

Scope: UK

Next Steps: CCPR will continue to press DCMS with regard to plans for a legacy of sporting participation as a result of the 2012 Games.

2.2 Lords approve diversion of lottery funding to London 2012

Following the approval of this diversion in the Commons, the Lords took their turn to debate the issue on Wednesday 30 January. The motion was approved without a vote, but key assurances were again received from the Minister, Lord Davies, during the debate:

“First, there will be no further diversion from lottery good causes to fund the Olympics. We will not continue to collect funding from the planned Olympic Lottery game after the target of £750 million for that is reached.”

These further assurances are particularly welcome following the change of personnel in the Commons.

3. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

3.1 Proposed fees for points based migration

The Home Office announced proposed charges for the points based system of managed migration on 30 January. The tiered system will affect sportsmen and women entering the country to either play professionally or attend competitions and events (respectively in tiers 2 and 5 of the new scheme).

The new procedure will see sports organisations registering as sponsors to allow participants to enter the country to compete. This may be particularly detrimental in tier 5 for smaller organisations or events and participants that could be categorised as sports tourists. The costs associated are as follows:

Small business license (less than 50 employees)	£400
Medium business license	£1000
Certificate of sponsorship	£10
Tier 5 sport visa	£99

More information can be found at: <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/>.

CCPR maintains that sports tourists should be allowed to enter on a tourist visa and not through the points based system. The tourist visa will cost £65. As reported in the January update, the Border and Immigration Agency has released a consultation that could help address this situation, explicitly asking whether specific categories of sporting events should be included under a tourist visa. The consultation is open until 10 March 2008 and is available at: <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/consultations/visitorsconsultationpaper/>.

Scope: UK

What this means for sport and recreation: the consultation suggests that the Home Office is prepared to take a more practical view on smaller sporting events and encourage sports tourism, but positive action is needed by the sporting community to ensure that these views are heard within a consultation that has so many stakeholders.

What next: CCPR will respond to the consultation to emphasise the importance of international competitors and coaches to the sector. CCPR would also encourage its members to respond, and would welcome members' views, which should be sent to James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk).

4. COUNTRYSIDE & WATER

4.1 Increases to Adventure Activities Licence fee

Since the introduction of the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations (AALR) in 1996, providers of defined adventure activities to young people under the age of 18 have been required to hold a licence granted by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA).

A flat fee of £620 per licence has applied since June 2004 and the Health and Safety Executive is proposing to increase the license fee to £715 with effect from 1 October 2008. This increase aims to take account of inflation since June 2004 plus an additional amount to start the move toward full cost recovery. The HSE also proposed to review the fees scheme to inform further changes from 1 October 2009.

Please see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aala/fees.htm> for further details of the proposal.

The deadline for responses is **29 February 2008**.

4.2 DCSF - Ed Balls launches school trip guidance

On 5 February 2008 the Department for Children, Schools and Families released guidance for schools to make it easier for teachers to take pupils out of the classroom on school trips as part of the 'Staying Safe' Action Plan.

The plan is available at: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/stayingsafe/>. The new 'Staying Safe' action plan sets out how government intends to deliver the new Public Service Agreement on improving children and young people's safety. This is part of the Children's Plan, which was launched in December 2007. The Children's Plan is available from: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk>.

The 'Out and About' guidance will build on the widely-used, long-standing 'Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits' guidance; it will emphasise sensible risk management as advocated by the Health and Safety Executive and others. This is due to be published in May 2008.

Scope: England

4.3 Future water - Government's Water Strategy for England

Future Water sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, and some of the steps that need to be taken to achieve its vision. Part of the vision is that rivers, canals, lakes and seas will have improved for people and wildlife, with benefits for angling, boating and other recreational activities.

See: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/water/strategy/index.htm> for further details.

Scope: England

5. HEALTH

5.1 Cross-government strategy to tackle obesity launched

On 23 January 2008 Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health, launched 'Healthy Weight – Healthy Lives', the cross-government strategy to tackle obesity. It states *'the core of the problem is simple – we eat too much and undertake too little physical activity. The solution is more complex'*.

The strategy outlines a range of initiatives and investment in relation to nutrition, including compulsory cookery lessons in school. £140 million is also allocated to cycle training for children. Disappointingly however, no further concrete action or investment is cited in relation to sport and recreation. Instead the strategy promises to 'review our overall approach to physical activity, including the role of Sport England'. CCPR responded strongly calling for action on physical activity, rather than further delay.

Scope: England

What this means for sport and recreation: the outcomes of the Sport England review and the parallel review of physical activity will be central to future funding opportunities for many CCPR member organisations. CCPR has already provided input to the Sport England review, expressing the need to support all forms of sport and recreation.

Next steps: CCPR will seek opportunities to contribute to the review of physical activity, making the case for strong reference to sport and recreation as a means to build activity into daily life.

5.2 NICE issues guidance on obesity

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance aimed at promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage or support physical activity. It is the first ever national, evidence-based set of recommendations on how to improve the physical environment to encourage physical activity to improve health. The guidance states that planning applications for new developments should always prioritise the need for people to be physically active as a routine part of their daily life and that cyclists and walkers should be given priority when roads are developed or maintained.

Scope: UK

What this means for sport and recreation: NICE guidance must be taken into account by those procuring health care. In practice this means people working in strategic health authorities, Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts. With closer integration of health authorities and local authorities via local strategic partnerships, it is hoped that this guidance will also impact on planning authorities, so that physical activity has a higher profile in the decision-making process.

6. RESEARCH ROUND-UP

6.1 Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet 2006

The latest figures from the Health Survey for England have now been published. These include statistics on diet, obesity and physical activity among adults and children.

The figures show that overweight and obesity have increased in adults (16 years and above) in the last year. The percentage of adult men who were either overweight or obese in 2006 was 67.1 per cent, up from 64.7 per cent in 2005. For women, the percentage was down slightly, from 56.3 per cent in 2005 to 56.1 per cent in 2006. Across the entire adult population, 61.6 per cent were classified as either overweight or obese, up from 60.5 per cent in 2005.

Conversely, the percentage of adults meeting the physical activity recommendations (at least 30 minutes per day on at least five days a week of at least moderate intensity physical activity) increased from 31 per cent in 2004 to 34 per cent in 2006. Among men, it increased from 37 per cent to 40 per cent and among women, from 25 per cent to 28 per cent. However, the percentage of adults undertaking medium and low levels of physical activity declined in the same period.

The percentage of children (2-15 years) who are overweight or obese has dropped. Overall, 29.7 per cent of children were classified as overweight or obese in 2006 (28.7 per cent of girls and 30.6 per cent of boys), down from 32.6 per cent in 2005 (31.2 per cent of girls and 33.9 per cent of boys).

Physical activity in children has remained largely unchanged over the four year period between measurements. In 2006, as in 2002, 70 per cent of boys met the physical activity recommendations (60 minutes or more on all days of the week of at least moderate intensity) and 59 per cent of girls met the recommendations, compared with 61 per cent in 2002.

To access the survey findings, please visit: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles-related-surveys/health-survey-for-england>.

7. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Independent Safeguarding Authority

This consultation aims to determine the range of roles for which registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority will be required – including the extent of coverage within sport and recreation. The deadline for responses is 20 February and the consultation can be found at: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1516>. To view CCPR's draft response visit: <http://www.ccpr.org.uk/ourcampaigning/uk/consultationsandbriefings/>.

8. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Freedom of Information Act – Designation of Additional Public Authorities

CCPR's response to this Ministry of Justice consultation emphasised that national governing bodies of sport do not perform functions of a public nature, and should not therefore be made subject to the Act.

8.2 Bathing Water Directive

CCPR's response to this DEFRA consultation highlighted the need to secure improvements to the quality of recreational water as well as bathing water, and also to enable water users to make informed choices about participation where water quality is poor.

The CCPR is the voice for sport and recreation in the UK. If you do not wish to receive this service or would like to register other colleagues to receive this email, please register by signing up at: www.ccpr.org.uk.