

Policy Update

January 2008

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1. SPORT & POLITICS

1.1 Olympic lottery diversion debate

A debate took place this week in the House of Commons on the latest diversion of funds from the National Lottery to the 2012 Olympics. As they proposed when the revised budget was announced in March last year, ministers were seeking a further £675m from the lottery in addition to the 110m in the original budget to bolster the £9.3bn project. Although CCPR is disappointed on one level that the Government won the vote, we are encouraged that our campaigning has helped to secure several key concessions from ministers.

- **A promise that no further raids on the lottery will be made**

Secretary of State James Purnell pledged that: “there will be no further diversion from lottery good causes to fund the Olympics”, even if the Olympic budget increases again. This will be reassuring to members who currently enjoy Sport England and other lottery funding, especially since this new slice of funding comes on top of the original £410m diverted from lottery good causes.

- **A promise that the £750m to be raised from Olympic-specific lottery games will be capped**

Olympic lottery games will raise £750m to pay for the Games but there have been concerns that the high rate of ‘cannibalisation’ (the rate of people who choose to play these games rather than games which fund the other good causes) will reduce the good cause lottery pot. Olympic lottery games sales have also been higher than previously estimated leading to concerns that the Government would continue to sell Olympic lottery tickets even after the £750m target had been reached. James Purnell used the debate to confirm that the amount to be raised by these games will be capped at £750m.

- **A promise of more detailed Olympic budgets**

Olympics minister Tessa Jowell MP agreed to provide more regular and more detailed financial briefings to Parliament and to opposition spokespeople. This will improve scrutiny of the project’s budget and, we hope, ensure that the money which has been diverted away from good causes is spent as effectively as possible.

- **Gross profits tax on the lottery to be considered**

Camelot contend that shifting tax on the lottery from pre-payment of prizes to post-payment of prizes will generate an extra £45m per annum for good causes up to 2018/19, without denting the Treasury’s take. James Purnell used the debate to announce that he was asking the Treasury to examine the case for a gross profits tax.

The debate saw several mentions of CCPR and its campaigning, with both opposition lead spokespeople and the chairman of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee referring to the organisation’s work. Tory spokesman Jeremy Hunt quoted Tim Lamb; Lib Dem shadow secretary of state Don Foster said that he hoped CCPR’s proposals around enhancements to the CASC scheme, the reduction of licensing fees for clubs and the proceeds of dormant bank accounts would be carefully considered by the Government; and John Whittingdale referred to CCPR’s work with his committee and the strong case made in support of grassroots sport. In summing up, Tory sports spokesperson Hugh Robertson said that his party’s overriding concerns were the Olympics’ finances and the legacy – “particularly the mass participation sports legacy” – reflecting CCPR’s extensive campaigning around the Games.

You can read the full report visiting: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080115/debtext/80115-0006.htm#080115102000001>

1.2 New health cabinet committee created

The Prime Minister has created two new Cabinet Committees, one of which is on health. The committee will be made up of all relevant secretaries of state and its terms of reference are “to consider policy on health and wellbeing, including the prevention of ill-health, the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles and the reduction of health inequalities; and report as necessary to the Ministerial Committee on Domestic Affairs”.

1.3 Sportsotland to merge with Scottish Institute of Sport

Following the Scottish Government’s review of Sportsotland, Minister for Communities and Sport Stewart Maxwell announced plans for the organisation’s future on 9 January. Consultation with stakeholders, including governing bodies, local authorities and the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland ‘had indicated that the majority of stakeholders wanted to retain a national agency for sport in Scotland’. However, they also felt that there was scope to simplify the current sporting ‘landscape’, explained Minister Maxwell. The headquarters of the merged organisation will be at the new indoor arena at Glasgow and there will be no compulsory redundancies.

2. LONDON 2012

2.1 CCPR and Sport England give evidence to London Assembly on 2012 lottery diversion

On 4 December Andrew Hanson (CCPR) and Mike Diaper (Sport England) appeared with colleagues from Voluntary Arts Network and the other lottery distributors to outline the potential impact on London of the diversion of lottery funding to pay for the 2012 games. Assembly members were particularly keen to hear of clubs that were now at threat due to the diversion. Whilst it is not currently possible to identify such clubs, all respondents stated clearly that the diversion will result in less funds being available, and that, as a result, fewer projects will be funded in the future.

2.2 London 2012 education programme unveiled

LOCOG has launched its London 2012 education programme, which is available for delivery by schools, colleges and higher education institutions. The programme focuses on Olympic values - friendship, respect and excellence; and the Paralympic values - determination, courage, inspiration and equality.

Key themes include enterprise, healthy lifestyles and sustainability. London 2012 sustainability partner EDF Energy will offer grants to encourage schools to undertake more sustainability initiatives.

For further information visit: <http://www.london2012.com/news/media-releases/2007-12/london-2012-outlines-plans-for-education-programme.php>

Scope: UK.

2.3 Mayor of London's five legacy commitments

The Mayor of London has published the five legacy commitments that he is making to Londoners and by which he believes the ultimate success of London 2012 will be judged. The five legacy commitments are: to increase opportunities for Londoners to become involved in sport; to ensure Londoners benefit from new jobs, business and volunteering opportunities; to transform the heart of East London; to deliver a sustainable Games and develop sustainable communities; and to showcase London as a diverse, inclusive, creative and welcoming city. The commitments are accompanied by a progress report on what is being achieved which the Mayor proposes to update for Londoners each year.

To access the five legacy commitments, visit: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/olympics/docs/5-legacy-commitments.pdf>.

3. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

3.1 Home Office consultation on short-term visitors

The Home Office announced last year its plans for a tiered points based system for managed migration which 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. In such circumstances it could be beneficial if participants entered on a tourist visa.

The Border and Immigration Agency has released a new 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 fraternity 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 its members. CCPR would also encourage its members to respond, and would welcome members' views, which should be sent to James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk).

3.2 Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill

The Government introduced the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill into the House of Lords on 7 November. The Bill takes forward the Government's plans to reinvest money from unclaimed assets in dormant bank accounts in the wider community, with a focus on 'youth services'.

Scope: UK.

Next steps: the Bill has completed its Committee Stage in the House of Lords and will receive its Report stage on 29 January 2008.

4. COUNTRYSIDE & WATER

4.1 DEFRA consultation on recreational sea angling strategy

This consultation seeks views on a framework for the development and enhancement of sea angling. The strategy aims to demonstrate how fisheries management can take better account of angling in the way that policies are developed and implemented.

CCPR will be liaising closely with the National Federation of Sea Anglers to coordinate a response.

Scope: England

Next steps: the consultation is now open and closes on 31 March 2008. For further information visit: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/sea-angling/index.htm>.

4.2 DCLG: planning policy statement 4

The new planning policy statement on planning for sustainable economic development sets out how planning bodies should, in the wider context of delivering sustainable development, positively plan for sustainable economic growth and respond to the challenges of the global economy in their plan policies and planning decisions.

CCPR will be responding on behalf of members and comments are welcomed.

Scope: UK

Next steps: the consultation is now open and closes on 17 March 2008. For further info visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/consultationeconomicdevelopment>

5. FISCAL & FINANCE

5.1 Timetable for Charity Commission guidance on public benefit

The Charity Commission will publish revised guidance for all charities on the principles of public benefit in January 2008 and will consult on supplementary guidance for fee-charging charities during February 2008. The public benefit provisions in the Charities Act 2006 will then come into force in late March 2008 and charities will be required to report on public benefit as part of their annual reports to the Commission from March 2009.

Scope: England and Wales.

What this means for sport and recreation: a significant minority of sports organisations, including national governing bodies and clubs, are charities. Many of these charge fees for membership or participation. Once the public benefit provisions in the Act come into force, their trustees will have a duty to consider the Commission's guidance on public benefit and whether their charity meets the public benefit requirement. The Commission will take a risk-based approach to assessing the public benefit of existing charities, and state that 'the public benefit requirement is not something any charity should fear'.

Next steps: if your organisation is a charity you can get further information about public benefit and the Charities Act 2006 at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

6. HEALTH

6.1 Department of Health: review of funding of third sector organisations

The Department of Health currently offers a range of funding opportunities to voluntary organisations. The best known is 'section 64', which a number of CCPR members have successfully accessed to deliver physical activity programmes. DH is reviewing these various funding programmes with a view to taking a more strategic approach. The consultation is open until 20 March 2008 and is available at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/index.htm>

Scope: England.

What this means for sport and recreation: The consultation suggests that DH will take a more strategic and structured approach to its funded partners. This could mean fewer partners receiving funding, but an improved process for those that do.

What next: CCPR will respond to the consultation to emphasise the ability of CCPR members to deliver increased physical activity. CCPR would also encourage members to respond, and would welcome members' views, which should be sent to Andrew Hanson (ahanson@ccpr.org.uk).

6.2 Cross-government strategy to tackle obesity

On 18 December 2007, Minister for Public Health Dawn Primarolo MP stated that: 'the cross-Government strategy to tackle obesity will be published mid to late January 2008'. The development of the strategy has been informed by discussions with several government departments, including: Children, Schools and Family; Culture, Media and Sport; Communities and Local Government; Transport; Food, Environment and Rural Affairs; and the Cabinet Office.

Scope: England.

What this means for sport and recreation: the publication of this strategy is vitally important as it will clarify the extent to which the Government recognises the role of sport and recreation in tackling obesity. Following the announcement of Sport England's revised focus on club-based sport, it is to be hoped that this strategy will pave the way for the Department of Health to more fully support the role of sport and recreation in increasing levels of physical activity.

7. RESEARCH ROUND-UP

7.1 Taking part survey: final estimates from year two

The second year estimates from the Taking Part Survey have now been published. These measure progress against Public Service Agreement target 3, the aim of which is, by 2008, to increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16 and above from each of the priority groups. (For sport, priority groups are defined as black and minority ethnic groups, those with a limiting disability, lower socio-economic groups and women.) The sports component of the target has two elements: to increase participation in at least one active sport in the previous four weeks among priority groups by 3 per cent; and to increase participation in moderate intensity sport for at least 30 minutes on at least three days during the previous week among priority groups by 3 per cent.

The only statistically significant difference between the end of year one and the end of year two was a decrease in the percentage of women taking part in active sport. There were no other statistically significant differences. This means the Government is currently failing to reach the targets set for increasing sports participation among priority groups and, with regard to women, participation is actually declining. The final estimates will be available in December 2008, with interim results in June 2008. To view the full report, visit: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/takingpart_estyr2.htm

Scope: England.

7.2 The economic importance of sport in England

The latest in a series of reports on the economic importance of sport in England has been published by Sport England. Carried out by the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University, the report assesses the economic value of sport across England and by region, providing comparisons over time from 1985 onwards.

Sport-related economic activity increased from £3.4 billion in 1985 to £15.5 billion in 2005, a real-term increase of 124 per cent. In comparison, the English economy grew by around 67 per cent in the same period, demonstrating that the sport economy has far outstripped the English economy as a whole. Sport-related employment in England was estimated at around 434,000 in 2005, accounting for 1.8 per cent of all employment in England. In the five years between 2000 and 2005, employment in sport increased by 19 per cent.

To view the full report and the report for each English region, visit: http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/mapping_the_landscape/sport_and_the_economy/sport_and_economy_2005.htm.

Scope: England.

7.3 Olympic legacy research

Commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, BMRB carried out extensive research across the UK to gauge public opinion about the Government's five legacy promises: to make the UK a world class sporting nation; to transform the heart of East London; to inspire a new generation of young people to take part in local volunteering, cultural and physical activity; to make the Olympic Park a blueprint for sustainable living; and to demonstrate that the UK is a creative, inclusive and welcoming place to live in, visit and for business.

BMRB undertook a representative survey of the general public in the UK, focusing specifically on whether or not people care about the aims, whether or not they think that they are realistic, and whether or not they believe any progress has been made towards achieving them so far. To view the full report, click here: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2007/olympiclegacy_researchreport.htm.

Scope: UK.

8. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

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> 2007. To view CCPR's draft response visit:

<http://www.ccpr.org.uk/ourcampaigning/uk/consultationsandbriefings/>).

9. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

Effective Consultation

In December 2008 the Government published its response to "Effective Consultation" - the recent review of government consultation policy, which CCPR contributed to. Following the consultation, the Government will revise its code of practice on consultation. To see the response, please visit: www.consultations.gov.uk.

If you do not wish to receive this service or would like to register other colleagues to receive this email, please inform info@ccpr.org.uk.