

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Stewart Harris
Chief Executive
sportscotland
Doges
Templeton on the Green
62 Templeton Street
Glasgow
G40 1DA

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Dear Stewart

STRATEGIC GUIDANCE LETTER FOR SPORTSCOTLAND 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21

I wrote to you in August 2016 following my appointment as Minister for Public Health and Sport, setting out my ministerial priorities and how I wished **sportscotland** to consider how to further build on its contribution to the Government's key priorities on growing our economy, tackling inequality and protecting public services, and its role in the delivery of the manifesto commitments around sport and physical activity.

I am aware of the progress **sportscotland** has made in a number of these priority areas since that letter was issued, in particular on Community Sports Hubs, your partnership with SAMH on the development of their Mental Health Charter for Physical Activity and Sport, and recent work to improve the evidence of **sportscotland's** impact against the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (ASOF).

As you begin to work towards the development of a new Corporate Plan from 2019, I believe that continuing with these ministerial priorities will provide clarity for **sportscotland** and your partners to ensure that these are embedded throughout the development of your Corporate Plan, building on the success delivered so far. This letter therefore restates and maintains the previous Ministerial priorities (with minor changes) for a further 3 years (until 2021), to the end of this Parliamentary term, to provide you clarity on the strategic policy framework in which to develop your Corporate Plan.

The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (ASOF) continues to be the key policy framework for delivering a more active Scotland. I believe that **sportscotland** has an important role to play in both delivering and supporting the ambitions set out within this - across all its elements - by drawing on your resources, influence and leadership. The systemic approach for sport that has been developed is an important one and provides a strong platform from which we can ensure that more disadvantaged groups feel the benefit. I consider that your leadership and influence in addressing inequalities in sports and physical activity participation will be of considerable importance.

Sport in all its forms has a role to play and I would like you to expand your reach to the inactive and underrepresented in sport and physical activity, including teenage girls and older people through more innovative and creative community based approaches. This should include engaging with the third sector, youth groups and other community organisations as well as building on your relationships with local authorities and community planning partnerships. I believe this is entirely compatible with your corporate plan in addressing inequality and involving communities and in community settings. I particularly want **sportscotland** to ensure it places considerable emphasis on working with communities in both planning and delivering activities and investment, and in empowering communities to take forward and achieve the ambitions they have for their own area.

The specific manifesto commitments around sport and physical activity continue to emphasise our focus on addressing inequality and championing equalities, and widening engagement with communities. As you are aware of particular relevance to **sportscotland** are those around community involvement and support in decisions about investment in community sport facilities; increasing the number of Community Sports Hubs to 200 by 2020, with greater targeting to areas of deprivation; supporting sports governing bodies efforts to end LGBTI discrimination, and delivering a network of regional sports centres around the country with a mixture of facilities for both community and performance use to create better pathways for more people to reach their sporting potential.

I also envisage that **sportscotland** will work collaboratively to progress our ambitions around increasing the participation, engagement, and promotion of women in sport and physical activity; in continuing to support the delivery of two hours of quality PE for children at school; supporting the “Daily Mile” beyond the school setting; and promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity on mental health. I am keen to ensure that the National Strategic Group for Sport and Physical Activity provides a further impetus in progressing these. **sportscotland** will also continue to have an important role in supporting EventScotland and delivery agencies to help make sure major events are successful, including the 2018 European Championship and the 2019 Solheim Cup to help build on the legacy of the Commonwealth Games.

I will look to our annual review meetings for evidence of how **sportscotland** ensure these ministerial priorities are being delivered, as well as how you are delivering against the ASOF.

I look forward to working with you to achieve our shared vision of a Scotland where more people are more active, more often.



AILEEN CAMPBELL