
Equality and Sport Research 2020

Foreword

Purpose of the research

We commissioned this work to update, refresh and grow our equality evidence. We want to understand how work is progressing in this area across the sector and ask what can help us all take action to reduce inequalities.

This research also provides an evidence base for our new equality outcomes for 2021 to 2025.

Context

We commissioned Counsel Ltd to conduct our Equality and Sport 2020 research. Work began in March 2020, shortly before Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were implemented across Scotland. Conducting the research in this context proved very challenging. We thank the researchers as well as partners and staff who took part in this research. Their contribution has been invaluable.

Our Response

The research explores ways to help improve work within the sport sector in Scotland, to **advance equality, eliminate discrimination** and **foster good relations**. It has delivered a set of practical recommendations that can strengthen our approach.

Responding to the findings of this research, will help us ensure our commitment to “inclusion underpins everything we do” can be brought to life by staff and partners in the sporting system in Scotland. We recognise that more needs to be done to support the sector and we will use this evidence to develop new resources.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have not been felt equally across society. This has sharpened our focus on the needs and wellbeing of individuals and communities who are most excluded.

In April we will publish new equality outcomes for 2021 to 2025. This research provides an evidence base to inform the new outcomes.

We are committed to working with partners, communities and sports clubs to gain insight and make it easier for people to be physically active and take part in sport.



Stewart Harris

Chief Executive, **sportscotland**