



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-(P) DET/4383/18

Dr Dai Lloyd AM  
Chair  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

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Dear Dai,

Thank you for your letter of 27 November regarding the results from the Sport Wales State of the Nation 2018 survey. The survey involved over **118,000** pupils and over **1,000** teachers, who completed a School Sport Survey provision questionnaire. This was an increase on the numbers taking part in 2015, remaining the largest UK survey of young people and sport. Surveys of this size help to inform future policy and Sport Wales are to be congratulated.

As you state, the overall participation figure is static at **48%** which is disappointing. However, given the **20%** increase over the last two survey cycles (it went up 13% in 2013 and a further 8% in 2015) to have sustained the current level is a positive marker as Sport Wales move into their new Sport Strategy. In order to drive forward the participation agenda my officials are working with Sport Wales to ensure that their new delivery and investment models are aimed at increasing these participation levels.

I was very pleased to see the increase in participation rates amongst traditionally under-represented groups, including those with a disability/impairment and certain ethnic groups (Asian/Asian-British have gone from 36% to 40%, while Arab/Other have increased by 7 percentage points from 39% to 46%). We now have no ethnic group below **40%** for the first time ever, which demonstrates that sporting opportunities are reaching all these parts of our communities.

The survey notes that female and older pupils take part less frequently in PE and Sport. PE is a statutory subject in the curriculum for learners, up to the age of 16, and the Programme of Study for PE requires schools to give **all learners** opportunities to participate in the four specified areas of learning which cover health, fitness and well-being, creative activities and competitiveness.

The Minister for Education is working with Pioneer schools and stakeholders, including Sport Wales, to develop a new curriculum for Wales, taking forward the recommendations of the *Successful Futures* report. One of the four key purposes of the new curriculum, which will incorporate a Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience, is that learners develop as **healthy, confident individuals** who take part in physical activity, and as such this is integral to the new curriculum. The new curriculum will be rolled out to all schools starting in September 2022 for primary schools and Year 7 pupils in secondary schools, with full roll-out to all pupils by 2026.

We acknowledge that more work needs to be done but we have made good progress over the last few years in terms of increasing rates of participation so to see sustained participation rates is positive. We will continue to target investment in socially deprived areas across Wales so young people irrespective of their social circumstances receive equality of opportunity and are able to take part in sport and physical activity.

Together with the Minister for Health and Social Services I have instituted a new Healthy and Active Fund which is a partnership between Welsh Government, Sport Wales and Public Health Wales involving investment of £5m over the next three years. This will focus on supporting projects which support active lifestyles, supporting community assets and also encourage interested partners working together and Sport Wales report that there has been strong interest shown by stakeholders and partners.

Sport Wales is also introducing a new model for Community Sport by establishing regional entities commencing with North Wales. Discussions are taking place with key partners and this approach will focus on working in collaboration to support our communities become hubs of activity.

Yours sincerely,



**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM**

**Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism - Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant,  
Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth**