



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**

To ALL MLA's

18 February 2013

**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure Motion**

At its meeting on 24 January 2013, the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure agreed to table a motion for debate in plenary on Grassroot and Elite Sports Facilities. The debate will take place on Monday 25 February 2013.

The terms of the motion are as follows:

*That this Assembly notes the target in the Sport Matters strategy to have a minimum of 10 new or upgraded facilities by 2014 that will support player and athlete development in Olympic and Paralympic sport; and calls on the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to consider prioritising funding towards grass root sports and elite facilities from within her existing budget, to ensure that our sports people competing in future Olympic and Commonwealth Games are not disadvantaged as a result of lack of investment.*

Given the accomplishments of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes during the 2012 London Games, and in advance of the Commonwealth Games in 2014, the Committee was keen to explore whether our sports people, (competing in sports outside of football, GAA and rugby), have access to the best conditions to ensure that they can compete successfully on a national and world stage.

To that end, the Committee contacted sports governing bodies for their assessment of the challenges that they face; and held a stakeholder forum on 22 November 2012 to discuss these issues in more detail. While individual sports faced their own unique challenges, it was apparent that there was also commonality across the sports in terms of what they needed to further develop and grow their sport both at grassroot and elite sport levels.

**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**

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The Committee has placed a number of supporting papers onto the Committee webpage for your information in advance of the debate. A copy of these papers has also been deposited in the Assembly Library.

I look forward to a meaningful and informative debate in the Assembly on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

**Miss Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**