



Assembly Questions and Answers

AQW 18139/11-15

Mr Dominic Bradley (SDLP - Newry and Armagh) To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline her legacy strategy for the Olympic and Paralympic games.

07/01/2013

The strategic legacy benefits of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have been identified as sport, community engagement and the economy. In relation to sport, the legacy strategy will centre primarily on the delivery of my strategy for sport, Sport Matters. The success of the 2012 Games generally, the achievements of north of Ireland athletes and the inspiration of international competitors who trained here will all be used as a catalyst for driving forward Sport Matters' 3 key pillars of sporting legacy, namely improved Participation, Performance and Places for sport.

In relation to community engagement, the legacy strategy will focus on further enhancing the social cohesion and breaking down of barriers around disability that local 2012 related events helped to generate, and on ensuring that inclusivity remains at the heart of the planning and delivery of future local events.

In relation to the economic strategy all of our successful 'Games' contractors have boosted confidence in local business. DCAL will continue to work closely with partners to further enhance and develop the confidence, capacity and capability of our local businesses to compete on the world stage and in bidding for future global projects.

AQW 15929/11-15

Mr Gregory Campbell (DUP - East Londonderry) To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the success of athletes in a range of sports in the 2012 Olympics, what steps she intends to take to build on that success for other athletes through partnerships and other means.

22/10/2012

As part of the implementation of my strategy for sport, Sport Matters, I have been working to lay the foundations for a sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games which includes building on the success of athletes from a range of sports.

Sport Matters already recognises that genuine partnership working and joined up planning are essential to success and achieving excellence in performance amongst existing successful athletes and athletes in other sports. To that end, a Sport Matters Action Plan has been drawn up and published by Sport NI setting out key steps and actions to be taken over the next 4 years to build on the legacy of the 2012 games and help athletes in a range of sports to achieve success at European, Commonwealth, World and Olympic/Paralympic competition.

This action plan has already been agreed with sports organisations and a wide range of parties in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

AQO 2685/11-15

Mr Stephen Moutray (DUP - Upper Bann) To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to fund the sport of archery over the next three years, given the upsurge in interest since the London Olympics.

04/10/2012

Sport NI is responsible for the distribution of funding for sport in the north of Ireland. Sport NI is currently in discussion with the governing body of archery, the NI Archery Society (NIAS), regarding funding under the Performance Focus investment programme for 2013-2017. This process is still ongoing and no decision has yet been made. I am aware, however, that the NIAS claims that there has been 50% increase in interest in archery in the north of Ireland since the London Olympics through attendance at 'beginners' courses at archery clubs. This is most welcome and is a positive indication of the legacy of the Games which I would like to see replicated across all sports.



24 September 2012

2012 Olympics: Legacy

3. Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department will maximise the legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. (AQO 2487/11-15)

6. Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given the outstanding success of our Paralympians and Olympians, what steps her Department is taking to continue to build on the success of the London 2012 games. (AQO 2490/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will take questions 3 and 6 together.

In 2007, Ms Ní Chuilín's Department worked with stakeholders to produce the Northern Ireland Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 strategy to ensure that the North fully participated and delivered a lasting legacy from this truly global event.

The strategic legacy benefits were identified as community engagement, economy and sport. DCAL led and co-ordinated the delivery of the strategy for the games, with key partner organisations driving the respected areas of responsibility. Sport NI is responsible for the sporting legacy. Volunteer Now is responsible for the volunteering legacy. The Arts Council is responsible for the arts and cultural legacy, and Invest NI is responsible for the economic legacy.

DCAL will continue to build on these partnerships in order to ensure that local projects and initiatives inspired by the 2012 games can develop and further enhance future events such as the City of Culture and the World Police and Fire Games.

The success of our athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 will also serve as an important measure of sporting achievement, as defined in the DCAL sports strategy, Sport Matters. In addition, the success of the games generally, the achievement of our local athletes, the inspiration of international competitors who trained here and the 2012 Inspire Mark programme will all be used as a catalyst for driving forward Sport Matters' three key pillars of sporting legacy, namely improved participation, performance and places for sport.

Mr Nesbitt: I thank the Minister for his answer and recognise what he says about the UK City of Culture and the Police and Fire Games. I am sure he will accept that our youth live in an instant generation of Facebook and Twitter. Were any actions unveiled alongside the closing ceremonies to try to attract them into engagement?

Mr O'Dowd: I understand the Member's question and his point about the instant gratification of social media. I think that we are being unfair to our youth in many ways. I think that the Olympics and the Paralympics and especially the achievements of our local athletes will live on for many years. Many young people will be inspired by people such as Jason Smyth, Michael McKillop, Bethany Firth, Peter and Richard Chambers, James Brown, Eilish Byrne, Paddy Barnes and Michael Conlon. I hope that I have not missed anybody out.

Mr Campbell: Alan Campbell.

Mr O'Dowd: Alan Campbell. I apologise; I am just reading from this list. All those people have shown great strength and devotion to their sport. Unfortunately, I only watched it on the television, but anybody who was lucky enough to be in the stadium would have seen that those people are leaving a long-term legacy. Our youth deserve a little more credit. I have no doubt that many young people are engaged, or planning to engage, in sport because of the Olympics.

Mr A Maginness: I agree with the Minister that it was a wonderful occasion for our sportspersons, whether Olympians or Paralympians. My constituency was particularly blessed with Michael McKillop and Paddy Barnes. Has the Minister any plans to develop a boxing strategy arising out of the wonderful success of our boxers in the games?

Mr O'Dowd: The DCAL Minister announced a strategy to provide further funding to the boxing fraternity. She has a great personal interest in boxing. There is a plan in place. The Department is currently surveying boxing clubs right across the North to see what equipment and materials are required. That will be reported back to the Minister, who will then put a funding strategy in place.

Boxing is a great diversion for boys and girls to bring them in off the streets and show them a different way. It is a very fulfilling sport. Although it may be one on one in the ring, there is a great team atmosphere around a boxing club.

Mr Campbell: Looking forward to the next Olympic Games, obviously that will be part of the legacy. Everyone is aware of the difficult choice that Rory McIlroy will have to make in respect of golf, and we will support him, whatever that choice. However, does the Minister agree, and will he ask his friend the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, that the same opportunity that is afforded to the likes of Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and others to play for team GB and Northern Ireland, or team Ireland, should also be afforded in the Olympic Games to boxers so that they are not compelled to fight for team Ireland when they could fight for team GB and NI if they wish?

Mr O'Dowd: We should not bring our political rancour into the sporting world. If one thing has been shown over the Olympics, regardless of what team anyone from here played for or joined, the whole community got behind them in support. No matter what flag they wrapped around their

shoulders at the end of the event, I noted that all sections of the community were elated that somebody from here was achieving on the world stage.

Mr Ó hOisín: What impact will the funding that went into the Olympics have on other projects in the years to come?

Mr O'Dowd: A number of points have to be taken into account in terms of National Lottery policy and legislation, which, as you know, is a reserved matter. At the outset of the Olympic Games bid, the Government consistently said, for instance, that Lottery proceedings would form part of the funding. There are four Lottery distributors, namely Sport NI, the Arts Council, the Big Lottery Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The estimated local contribution is around £40 million. It should also be noted that the National Lottery will be entitled to a share of the proceedings from the sale of land and property at the Olympic Park. I have no doubt that the DCAL Minister will continue to lobby for further funding from sources such as the National Lottery and the Olympic legacy to ensure that our current batch of athletes, and our athletes of the future, are well equipped.

Mr Allister: One issue that arose in the context of the legacy of the boxing successes was discussion about sectarianism in the sport, particularly in light of the report from the Sandy Row amateur boxing club. Why have departmental officials not yet met the club to discuss those issues, and what steps does the Department intend to take to deal with those personal experiences of sectarianism?

Mr O'Dowd: Sectarianism has no place in any walk of life, whether in sport or elsewhere in our society. I am not sure whether or not DCAL officials have met members of the club. I am not sure whether that request is in, but I am sure that DCAL officials will contact the Member in due course and brief him on that matter. I am not in a position to answer his question in detail.

AQW 13753/11-15

Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP - Strangford) To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the success of athletes from Northern Ireland in the Olympics and Paralympics, whether a strategy is being, or has been, developed to support and encourage participation in minority sports.

03/09/2012

Neither my Department nor Sport NI recognises the term "minority sports". DCAL has, however, in association with Sport NI, already developed a strategy to support and encourage participation in sport as a whole across the north of Ireland. Sport Matters, the Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019, recognises the diverse nature, size and needs of different sports and sets out Government's commitment to promote sport in general and to support the governing bodies of all recognised sports. I am continuing to consider options in this regard.

AQW 4645/11-15

Mr Colum Eastwood (SDLP - Foyle) To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 4388/11-15 and given the fact that the Sport Matters Capital and Equipment Awards Programme will not be available until at least 2015, what advice she can give to sporting organisations who need funding for capital and equipment above the value of £10,000 in the interim period.

16/11/2011

Sport NI is the body responsible for the development of sport in the north of Ireland. I would advise that sporting organisations seeking funding for capital and equipment above the value of £10,000 should contact Sport NI, who may be able to provide advice.

AQW 171/11-15

Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down) To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the level of financial support she intends to make available to those organisations that provided business cases for the Elite Facilities Programme funding.

24/05/2011

The assessment of the Outline Business Cases for the Elite Facilities Programme (now known as the Major Facilities and Infrastructure Programme) broadly coincided with the announcement by the Executive of the draft Budget 2011-2015 and the fact that no capital funding had been made available for any of the applications under this Programme.

I am, of course, conscious of the level of commitment and work put in by organisations and individuals in developing their projects and in bringing all of the bids to the Outline Business Case stage.

However, in line with general and accepted practice for applications for capital funding to my Department and indeed to many other organisations within Government, expenses incurred in making a bid to the Programme were taken "at risk". It was made clear to applicants at various stages throughout the process that this was the case. Under such circumstances there is no financial support available for those organisations that provided business cases for the Elite Facilities Programme.