



Department for
Communities
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An Roinn
Pobal

Department für
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Our ref: AQW 22493/22-27

Date: 24 March 2025

Deborah Erskine MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Deborah

**AQW 22493/22-27 – TO ASK THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES WHETHER HE
WILL REVIEW HOW LOCAL SPORTING BODIES SUPPORT FULLY INCLUSIVE
SPORTS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE**

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 22493/22-27, asking whether I will review how local sporting bodies support fully inclusive sports for disabled people

I have arranged for this information to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

Reference: AQW 22493/22-27

Question: To ask the Minister for Communities whether he will review how local sporting bodies support fully inclusive sports for disabled people

Actions taken by Sport NI

I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me of the following information:

“Sport NI support and fund local sporting bodies such as national governing bodies and Disability Sport NI (DSNI), through various sport development programmes. Programme requirements include for sports bodies to develop and implement a delivery plan for this funding, which will include actions to support fully inclusive sports for disabled people. Sport NI monitor the implementation of these plans over the course of programme delivery to ensure that funding is being allocated as agreed within the delivery plan and the impact this is having.

For example, in 2024/25 DSNI has received Lottery funding of £151,600 for developing the sport of Boccia and £182,700 for developing Wheelchair Basketball, as well as exchequer funding of £483,000. Furthermore, Sport NI has also invested £804,652 into disability sport across a range of sports governing bodies through our Sport Systems Investment in Governing Bodies programme under key themes of retention and growth, (£469,452) into 17 sports, and medals and more (£335,200) into 8 sports. Sport NI has also created ‘The Disability Engagement & Delivery plan, 2024-2026’, to help influence the sector to actively promote ‘Disability in Sport’. The Disability Engagement and Delivery plan is intended to support the wider sports sector to understand and recognise the issues for disabled people in sport, as well as collectively bringing about change.

Through the Disability Engagement & Delivery plan, Sport NI work closely with external groups and communities, which focuses on programming and activity across

four key pillars: Leadership, Visibility & Advocacy, Participation & Sporting Foundation. Sport NI are currently creating an EDI focused resource page for the Sport NI website that will include context and reference to this plan. This will also include communications and support to increase visibility of people with a disability in sport and inspire those with a disability to find their sport e.g. Active Living No Limits website.

Sport NI are also members and secretariate of the Active Living No Limits Forum. This group is a partnership of organisations with a remit for the ongoing development of opportunities for increased participation of people with a disability in sport and physical activity to support fully inclusive sports for disabled people. The group seeks to promote its agenda at a variety of forums and disseminate the outcomes, good practice and learning linked to Active Living Strategy and to provide an effective voice for disability inclusion within the sport sector”.

For any future queries relating to operational matters, you may wish to contact the Sport NI directly. Making direct contact with the ALB will ensure that you receive the information in the shortest possible timeframe and make best use of public resources.