



ANNEX B

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Our ref: AQW 27531/22-27
Date: 26 June 2025

Connie Egan MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Connie

**AQW 27531/22-27 –WORK BEING PROGRESSED TO TACKLE MISOGYNY AND
SEXISM IN SPORT AT ALL LEVELS**

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 27531/22-27, asking that I detail the work my Department is progressing to tackle misogyny and sexism in sport at all levels.

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

Yours sincerely

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

Ongoing work by Sport NI to tackle misogyny and sexism in sport at all levels as per AQW 27531/22-27

Sport NI Response

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

“Sport NI has a number of current programmes, initiatives and campaigns which tackle misogyny and sexism in sport. Some detail on this as follows:

- *Sport NI launched its **Be Seen Be Heard Belong campaign** on Monday 3 March 2025. At Sport NI we are committed to levelling the playing field and ensuring women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys in sport, both on and off the pitch. We want women and girls in sport to **be seen**, to **be heard** and to **belong** in sport. We want women to be valued and to be celebrated; we want them to be safe and not restricted due to their gender. We want to see more female players, coaches, officials and board members driving change within their sports.*

*Be Seen, Be Heard, Belong is a **positive message** and a **call to action** for women and girls. It is also a call to action for sports and other stakeholders to make sure that women and girls, are seen, heard and belong in sport. Through our women in sport action plan, we will be equipping sports with the right tools and knowledge to make this happen.*

- *The **Women in Sport Engagement and Delivery Plan** is now into its second year with a key focus on progressing various deliverables associated with the Be Seen Be Heard Belong campaign (Impact Players Leadership Conference funded places for 50 females in the sporting sector, Sported – Engage Her programme, Domestic Violence in Sport training for governing bodies, Unconscious Bias training).*

- Sport NI Interim CEO was a keynote speaker at **Belfast City Council Active Bystander Conference** in March 2025 – key messages related to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in NI.
- Sport NI was a stakeholder in the **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls strategic group** and continues to be involved in discussions.
- Sport NI contributes to the funding and delivery of the **Moving to Inclusion Framework** <https://movingtoinclusion.co.uk/>. This Framework is an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion hub for sports sector and an initiative supported by the Sports Councils, including Sport Northern Ireland. A framework to guide organisations on developing inclusive practice through self-reflection and continuous improvement. The aim is to embed equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) through incorporating action planning, implementation, and review into an organisation's everyday work. Moving to Inclusion is intended to drive meaningful change in practice, tackling inequalities, leading to sustainable improvements in the representation, diversity, and positive inclusive experiences for leaders, the wider workforce, and participants.
- **Sport NI Digital Learning Hub** has a dedicated page for Be Seen Be Heard Belong female specific e-learning. The following courses are available to the wider public:
 - Challenging Sexism in Sport
 - Engaging Teenage Girls in Sport
 - Menstrual Health for Sport
 - Promoting Period Dignity in Sport
 - Sporting Women in the Media
 - Supporting Female Performance in Sport and Fitness - Open University
 - Understanding Imposter Syndrome

RISE programme:

Sport NI delivered the RISE female leadership programme 24/25. This involved 20 female leaders including officials, coaches and administrators of sport. We provided innovative and tailored support, to nurture their leadership skills and develop their confidence. The 20 participants are genuinely committed to diversity and inclusion and with the learning from the programme they are able to use their leadership skills to implement change within their sports.

Current funding information includes:

- ***24/25 SSIGB programme*** = £1,811,413 spent on female posts.
- ***24/25 SSIGB programme*** = £2,880,360 spent on female-specific measures.
- ***SSI-NGB*** for 25-26 is a programme aimed at governing bodies who do not receive money through the larger SSI-GB programme with a focus on promoting EDI opportunities. There is a specific focus on submissions demonstrating the aim to promote, develop and deliver female sporting programmes.
- ***Community Planning Investment Programme*** = £109,591.80 going to female specific programmes (42.2% of all programmes are female-specific).
- ***Crowdfunder phase 1 24/25*** = £196,900 spent on female-inclusive programmes - 70% of programmes female inclusive 62 successful funded programmes 32% of programmes female specific.”

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