

From: The Minister

Patsy McGlone MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw,
Stormont

Dear Patsy,

AQW 55017/22-27: INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 55017/22-27, in which you asked me to detail any plans to support for grassroots cycling clubs.

Sport NI has provided details of the organisations support for grassroots cycling clubs. As this response contains substantial detail, I have arranged for it to be made available in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

Sport NI has provided the following information regarding its support for grassroots cycling clubs:

Sport Systems Investment – Governing Bodies (SSI-GB)

Sport NI's investment in Cycling Ireland/Ulster Cycling supports the development of grassroots cycling in Northern Ireland by strengthening the capacity of clubs and creating opportunities for more people to participate and progress within the sport. In the last three years Sport NI has invested £297,486 into the Retention and Growth strand of SSI-GB to Cycling Ireland.

System Partners Investment – NGB Programme 2026/27

In 2026/27 Sport NI has awarded £124,360 to Cycling Ireland/Cycling Ulster to support the development of grassroots through our current Sport Partners Investment (SPI) programme for 2026/27. Our participation element investment supports:

- Club development and capacity, including dedicated regional development and administrative support, alongside practical support for clubs in areas such as volunteer and membership recruitment and retention, governance, safeguarding, finance, communications and sponsorship.
- Participation and entry-level opportunities, including Park Pedal, Community Bike Rides, Couch to 30k/50k, youth camps, balance bike and come-and-try sessions, providing accessible routes into cycling and onwards into club participation.

- Women and girls' initiatives, through targeted initiatives including taster sessions, women-only club rides, off-road programmes, community rides and other participation opportunities.
- Inclusion and disability provision, supporting clubs to develop opportunities for people with disabilities to begin and participate in cycling, alongside a wider focus on reaching people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Youth development, linking introductory cycling opportunities with schools and clubs and creating a pathway from fun, safe introductory activity through to membership and more regular club participation.
- Coach and volunteer development, including the planned delivery of at least 12 coaching courses during the year, helping clubs build the workforce required to provide safe, good-quality cycling opportunities.
- Safe delivery of grassroots cycling, through support for motor escort and accredited marshal training, helping clubs and organisers safely deliver cycling activities and events on public roads.
- Club infrastructure and systems, with a proportionate contribution towards membership and event-entry systems, coaching and safeguarding management, and club self-assessment tools.
- Progression opportunities, enabling developing riders to access events and training opportunities across Ireland and the UK, providing a pathway from grassroots and club participation into more committed levels of the sport.

Overall, the investment is intended to strengthen the club network and the people, programmes and systems that underpin grassroots cycling, while widening access to the sport and creating clearer pathways from initial participation into sustained club membership and progression.

Sport NI Investment into Cycling 2023/24 to 2025/26

In addition to the lottery funded Sports System Investment programme, further support has been provided to cycling through the lottery funded Renewable Energy Fund, as set out in the table below.

Fiscal Year	Organisation Name	Type	Programme	Project Description	Grant Amount
2023/24	Lisburn BMX Club	Capital	Renewable Energy Fund	Environmental Impact and Energy Audit of club premises.	£1,658
2023/24	Cycling Ireland	Revenue	Sports Systems Investment – Governing Bodies	Retention & Growth	£56,086
2024/25	Lisburn BMX Club	Capital	Renewable Energy Fund	Floodlight Upgrade	£30,000
2024/25	Lisburn BMX Club	Revenue	Creating Opportunities (Crowdfunder)	Lisburn BMX Club Developing for the future	£5,000
2024/25	Cycling Ireland	Revenue	Sports Systems Investment – Governing Bodies	Retention & Growth	£120,400
2025/26	Cycling Ireland	Revenue	Sports Systems Investment – Governing Bodies	Retention & Growth	£121,000
Total					£334,144