



27 May 2016

Dear Colleagues

An update on our strategy and from the sector:

Towards an Active Nation - Reaction

It has been a good week of responses to our strategy *Towards an Active Nation* which we launched last week. As well as the conversations my colleagues and I have had with you individually, we were also given the opportunity to talk to the Sport and Recreation Alliance's Sport Summit and Development Directors Knowledge Sharing Forum on Wednesday. Thank you for all your contributions and questions.

One of the key questions we've been asked over the past few days is the release date of the NGB Investment Guide. My original aspiration, before the publication of our strategy and written in these messages, was 31 May, but the guide will now be with you in June. I hope you'll agree it's more important to get it right than rush to publication, which is what we are working hard to do right now.

I understand we were also asked a specific question about the volunteering strategy at the Development Directors Forum. It's worth noting that the approach to volunteering in the future will be different, following the lead of *Sporting Future* and placing the volunteer themselves at the heart of the work. This needs some careful thought and insight, so it will be completed by the end of the year. We are currently speaking to partners inside and outside sport in order to shape the content.

We will continue to try to answer your other questions if you keep them coming, and the frequent ones I will summarise and answer in future editions of this note. In the meantime a polite plea – there's no substitute for reading the document itself so please try if you haven't managed it yet, or even read it again if you have!

[Towards an Active Nation](#)

Talent and Performance

In addition to the breadth of the new strategy, I hope you've noted that talent and performance remains a priority. Our objectives for the talent system of Progression and Inclusion are clear and will be the basis of any investment.

I've also informed those working in this part of sport that Emyr Roberts will be leaving Sport England on 10 June, so we are looking for new leadership of talent and performance. The closing date for applications is today; we've already received lots of interest but if you or someone you know would be interested, please contact our HR team directly at hrrecruitment@sportengland.org.

Advanced Apprenticeship of Sporting Excellence (AASE)

The Government's Skills Funding Agency (SFA) announced some time ago that dual funding for AASE would cease from Autumn 2016. We have been working to inform them of the sport industry's position on this with the Sport and Recreation Alliance, DCMS and Skills Active and have come to a solution.

The SFA has now agreed to dual funding for the entire duration of an apprentice's time on AASE for all those who start before 1 April 2017, which is a welcome concession.

We are expecting a full and formal response from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) regarding all the changes to the apprenticeship system from 1 April 2017 and will update you as soon as we can.

GCSE and A Level PE Activity List

Over the last year the Department for Education (DfE) has been in discussions with a number of partners regarding the activity list for non-exam assessment of GCSE and A Level qualifications in PE. DfE has now confirmed that a formal review of the list will take place in Autumn 2018, following the first examinations in the new GCSE. Details of that review, including guidance on how new activities can be added to the list, will be announced closer to the time.

In the meantime, DfE have been clear that the inclusion or non-inclusion of an activity on the list should not represent a view on the legitimacy or value of the activity, but simply whether it can be assessed within the parameters of an academic qualification in a valid and reliable way. Schools continue to have the freedom to deliver a variety of sports and activities through PE, which is a compulsory subject at all four key stages in the national curriculum.

School Games Review

The review of the School Games, referenced in *Sporting Future*, is progressing well. We anticipate that this will be completed through the summer with any required changes implemented from September 2016 onwards.

Purdah

Purdah restrictions are placed on all government announcements and investments for the period leading up to elections, and those restrictions apply again from yesterday through to the EU Referendum on 23 June. For more information please contact our colleagues in Public Affairs to discuss; Andrew.Lewis@sportengland.org and Guy.Bilgorri@sportengland.org.

Best wishes

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