

Please see below for the latest update from the sports parliamentary bulletin. If there are any issues that are not covered, which you would like us to follow, then please let us know.

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Should you would like to receive these by email, please email alice.cookson@sportengland.org

House of Lords agree National Lottery Order

On Wednesday the Grand Committee in the House of Lords agreed the apportionment of Money in the National Lottery Distribution Fund Order 2010. The motion was agreed without a vote and will see lottery funding returned to the original 'four good causes'.

The key points of relevance to sport include the below statements by the Culture, Olympics, Media and Sports Spokesperson, Baroness Garden of Frognal:

- "Alongside the order, we intend that the Big Lottery Fund will, in future, be able to focus its funding on the voluntary and community sector. We intend to issue a policy direction which the Big Lottery Fund would be required to take into account when it makes funding decisions. Our public consultation on this ended on 29 October and we are currently considering the responses received.
- Some respondents from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were concerned that their countries might lose out from the change. The Government appreciates that it is difficult to make a precise estimate because a number of UK-wide distributors do not have formulas for allocating funds to each country, but we believe that in cash terms every country in the UK will be better off. Scotland should receive about £40 million a year more in 2013-14; Wales should receive more than £20 million a year more; and Northern Ireland £12 million a year more.
- The Government will shortly announce the administration targets of lottery distributors.
- The additional funds will be for lottery-funded projects and need not raise any questions about breach of additionality... lottery projects should certainly be decided by the distributors. We hope, too, that it will be the distributors rather than Ministers who convey information on those projects in order to get the proprieties right. Nothing about this order changes that in the lottery regime."

The full debate can be found [here](#).

Whilst the Committee has approved the Order, there still has to be a formal approval by the House this Tuesday - but given the Committee's agreement, that should be a formality. A copy of the draft statutory instrument can be found [here](#).

Early Day Motion on School Sports Partnerships

The Labour MP for Gateshead, Ian Mearns, has tabled an Early Day Motion on the issue of School Sports Partnerships. So far 26 MPs have signed the EDM. We will keep you up to date with any additional signatures. The text of the motion can be found below:

That this House recognises that the School Sports Partnership (SSP) has in recent years successfully transformed the quantity and quality of physical education within and beyond the school day, which also helps tackle child obesity; further recognises that the SSP has provided millions of hours of coaching, creating thousands of links between schools and clubs, introduced over a million more young people to competitive sport and significantly lifted the level of inter-school and intra-school competition; believes that other merits of the SSP include organising mentors and sustaining the primary school Playground

Buddies scheme to prevent bullying and building leadership qualities in those who do not want to partake in sport but who want to volunteer to promote events and activity in others; strongly deplores the Government's devastating decision to end all direct funding, worth £162 million a year, for the SSP; fears that ending the ring-fencing of funds will encourage hard-pressed schools to divert such monies; regrets removing the need for schools to plan and implement their part of the five hour sport offer as well as collect pupil information for an annual survey; further believes that plans for an annual Olympic-style school sport competition will reduce the number of events and exclude all but the most avid sports people; shares widespread concerns that the overall impact will endanger the prospect of a lasting Olympic legacy; urges schools to maintain school sports and their inclusive nature; and calls on the Government to reconsider this decision.

MPs debate Sports Grounds Safety Authority Bill

The Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson, last week introduced an adjournment debate on the Sports Grounds Safety Authority Bill.

The aim of the Bill, as explained by the Conservative MP for Woking, Jonathan Lord, is to enable the Football Licensing Authority 'to become fully involved with safety advice and guidance to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and to local authorities in relation to the 2012 Olympic venues'. The FLA will therefore be reconstituted as the sports grounds safety authority.

The sports grounds safety authority will receive funding of £1.2 million a year from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Bill will also allow for the authority to 'generate additional income streams, especially from advice to other sports. Charges for that advice will not be allowed to generate profits, but the authority will be able to include an element of fixed and running costs, thereby relieving pressure on public funding.'

Commenting during the debate, the Minister for Sport and the Olympics said that "Extending the FLA's advisory role will be especially important as we approach the biggest sporting events that this country has ever staged, including the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. It makes complete sense to free the FLA from current constraints and allow it to provide advice to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and local authorities in relation to non-football Olympic venues. That would allow the authority to offer such advice to other sports, creating the potential to help to ensure greater consistency in the application of sports grounds safety advice across all sports.

He further added that "The new role will not extend the FLA's regulatory role, nor will it add any burdens to football clubs, other sports or local authorities or, indeed, change the safety regime for football or other sports grounds. The Government are committed to reducing regulatory burdens, not increasing them."

The Shadow Sports Minister Ian Austin MP responded saying that 'although we will not oppose the motion, we will vigorously scrutinise the Bill in Committee in order to ensure that safety is not compromised.'

The motion was agreed to and the Bill will now go to the Committee stage.

Lords EU Social Policies Sub-Committee hears from CCPR on the inquiry into grassroots sport and the EU

CCPR Chair Brigid Simmonds and CCPR Head of Policy James MacDougall provided evidence to the Lords EU Sub Committee on Social Policies and Consumer Protection on Tuesday 11 November as part of its inquiry into grassroots sport and the EU.

Ms Simmonds began the session by arguing that sport needed to be included across all the EU policy areas and sports organisations in the UK need to be able apply for this funding. Agreeing, Mr MacDougall highlighted that sport was effective in other policy streams but it was not yet clear how the Lisbon Treaty affected other areas of sport. Ms Simmonds stressed that it was essential to ensure that people

understood what sport could do in terms of physical activity and obesity and how it could contribute economically across the EU.

On the issue of good practice, Lord Eames asked what could be learnt from other countries. Ms Simmonds showcased Finland, where only 6 per cent of the population were not actively involved in playing sport compared to 32 per cent in the UK. One of the reasons for this difference was cultural traditions, claimed Mr MacDougall. In addition the Eurostat survey showed that there was a divide between northern and southern countries in Europe.

Ms Simmonds commented that the CCPR had recently commissioned an inquiry which determined that few schools in the UK opened their facilities after school for the local community, she stated that the CCPR was working with the Department of Health and its 'Responsibility Deal' to try and persuade schools to open their facilities to the local community.

Asked if the UK could do more, Ms Simmonds highlighted the Community Amateur Sports Clubs Scheme which had between 5,000 – 6,000 clubs registered out of a potential 150,000. She stressed that there needed to be more support for sports clubs at a local level.

Baroness Miller of Hendon raised the issue of funding and asked for details on sources of finance. Mr MacDougall stressed that much of the EU funding had been provided to large pan-European organisations which wasted much of the money on travel and accommodation, he stressed that money should be spent at the grassroots level instead. Additionally the EU White Paper on Sport examined 11 different funding streams that sport could be mainstreamed into, these included health and youth and education.

On the issue of media rights, Lord Inglewood asked if sport should always be an expressed element of any debate on broadcasting rights. Mr MacDougall argued that sports rights were different, especially because of the issue of territoriality. There was also now the technology to illegally stream live sport which was of concern, especially when you can watch cricket illegally on 1,000 different sites, he said.

Following up Lord Inglewood asked if there was a need for EU legislation which would drive revenues to the grassroots. Mr MacDougall responded that this was not needed as the CCPR already offered a voluntary code of conduct.

Ms Simmonds stated that the Sports and Olympics Minister Hugh Robertson had specifically asked CCPR to examine its code which at present meant that 5 per cent of all broadcasting revenue went to the grassroots to see if it was possible to raise it to 30 per cent.

London Cycle Scheme Extended

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson has announced plans to expand the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme across 'a large area of east London' to provide many more docking stations. The scheme will be rolled out into Tower Hamlets as well as North Shoreditch and Hackney.

Commenting on the scheme the Mayor said "*Londoners have taken to the hire of two wheels with alacrity and it would have been absolutely nonsensical not to expand our scheme. Plans are now well advanced that will see the roll out of thousands more of our gleaming bikes across the capital's legendary East End. For as little as 12 pence a day users will soon be able to use our bikes to cross a huge swathe of our city, and it will mean that by 2012 we'll be able to invite the entire world to join London's cycling revolution.*"

For further information please see [here](#)

Dates for your diary

23 November - House of Lords Oral Question: Lord Hoyle to ask Her Majesty's Government what financial contribution they will make to the Rugby Football League in respect of the Rugby League World Cup 2013.

29 November – Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Oral questions in the House of Commons. 14:30

2 December – Jennie Price gives evidence to the House of Lords inquiry into grassroots sport and the EU

9 December – House of Lords Oral Questions: Baroness Hughes of Stretford to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the decision to withdraw the grant from the Youth Sport Trust; and what consultations were undertaken before the decision was made.

21 December - House of Commons rises

11 January - House of Commons returns

23 March - Budget 2011

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