

## WALES National POOL SWANSEA limited

Queens Buildings, Cambrian Place, Swansea, SA1 1TW ( 01792 459640, Fax 01792 459641

E-Mail: Helen.Vanwillegen@swansea.gov.uk

Mrs Janet Davies AM 24th June 2002

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

Dear

### **Re: WALES NATIONAL POOL SWANSEA**

I have recently been appointed Chair of Wales National Pool Swansea Limited, a company that has been set up in partnership between the City and County of Swansea (CCS) and the University of Wales Swansea (UWS). As you will be aware, the Wales National Pool Swansea (WNPS) is currently being constructed at Sketty Lane, Swansea, using funding from the Sports Council for Wales, CCS and UWS.

WNPS provides a national 50m competition pool and training pool for Wales, following the Sports Council for Wales inviting local authorities in Wales to bid for the facility in their area. The Sports Council for Wales announced that the preferred bid had come from Swansea in May 1999 and since that time, CCS and UWS have worked together in partnership to bring about the construction of the WNPS. Indeed, the partners are now planning further sporting facilities at the site, to develop a centre of sporting excellence in Swansea. The wider project is fully supported by the Sports Council for Wales.

As Chair, I have been particularly concerned at recent suggestions made in the NAW Audit Committee that the WNPS is "effectively a training facility" (16<sup>th</sup> April 2002) and wish to inform you that this is far from the truth.

This company, CCS, UWS and the Sports Council for Wales are all working together to develop a National Pool, that can host competitions and championships at a national and international level and provides a training facility for use by the National Swimming Squad. The Welsh Amateur Swimming Association (WASA), which is the governing body for swimming in Wales, has entered into an agreement with the Sports Council for Wales, CCS and UWS to hold all its Long Course National Championships and international events allocated to Wales at WNPS. Wherever possible, the Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain (ASFGB) will use WNPS for such events also. Under this agreement, in addition, WASA will be relocating its headquarters to WNPS and WNPS will be the principal training base for the Welsh National Swimming Squad with the National Swimming Coach based at the venue.

We are anticipating that the WNPS will be open for use in January 2003 and we are already discussing the hosting of key events in the swimming calendar for 2003 and beyond. The WNPS will be The National Pool, with the support of the Sports Council for Wales, WASA and ASFGB.

I trust that you will be able to inform your colleagues on the Audit Committee that WNPS is The National Pool and that it will form the focal point of an exciting and prestigious sporting development in Swansea.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Ellis MBE

**Chair**

Cc. Sports Council for Wales

Alun Cairns Esq, AM