

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Ymchwiliad i'r achosion o COVID-19 ac effaith y feirws ar ddiwylliant, y diwydiannau creadigol, treftadaeth, cyfathrebu a chwaraeon / Inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on culture, creative industries, heritage, communications and sport

CWLC COV29

Ymateb gan Nofio Cymru/ Response from Swim Wales

I am writing to you on behalf of Swim Wales (the NGB) our board, clubs and the swimming/aquatic community we represent.

Many of us tuned in online to watch this afternoons session of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee and paid close attention to the evidence given by several of our colleagues on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the sector.

I understand that this was the first session of this kind on the subject, and I wanted to offer up evidence from the aquatic/swimming perspective, something that was not covered today.

As of 20th March 2020 there were 500,000 adults and children swimming or learning to swim across Wales, 17% of the population. Our recent facility audit shows us that we have 378 pools in use across Wales which are entering their 12th week of shut down. These facilities have a collective capital worth of over £1 Billion GB, and support 5,000 full time jobs between, sport development roles, lifeguards, teachers, coaches not to mention the thousands of volunteers who support the 100+ grass roots/community swim clubs.

Outside of this, but as important is the 'life skill' element of Learning to Swim that is so critical at this time of year, entering the summer months.

Swim Wales would be willing to give evidence to support this if you the chair was open to taking more oral evidence ? I would happy to take any guidance from the clerk on the form of written guidance required.

We would welcome the opportunity to help the committee understand the current situation in Welsh Aquatic sport & activity.

KR,

Fergus Feeney
Chief Executive Officer

Swim Wales



GWEITHGAREDDAU DWR AR
GYFRE PAWB AM OES

AQUATICS FOR EVERYONE
FOR LIFE

