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 COV30 (2)
Ymateb gan Chwaraeon Cymru / Response from Sport Wales

3 September / Medi 2020

Helen Mary Jones MS/AS
Chair / Cadeirydd
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee /
Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu
Public Accounts Committee
Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru
Cardiff / Caerdydd
CF991NA

Dear Helen Mary Jones MS,

As you know Sport Wales were very grateful to the committee for the work it did as part of the enquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on the sport sector. We were very pleased to be able to provide written and verbal evidence as part of that approach and, in line with the recommendations within the report, I am writing to you with an update on the Sport Resilience Fund.

Below is a review to date of the emergency funding put in place by Sport Wales. The figures are accurate as of September 1st.

National Governing Body and Local Authority allocations:

As we reported in our initial written evidence to the committee the immediate approach to the challenges of COVID19 on the sport sector was to work to ensure that sports organisations, clubs and facilities survived. One key decision in this was to have a more flexible approach to the way Sport Wales partners utilised their funding. We issued offer letters to all funded partners on the 1st April and agreed that these could be accepted via email, with payments being made payments being made as a matter of urgency. We stated we would be flexible with how funding would be used especially over the initial 12 weeks but reiterated we would need partners to ensure any changes were tracked to comply with audit expectations and requirements. A total of 68 payments totalling £6,008,953.30 for processed on the 16th of April, leaving only a small number of annual funded partners receiving payment after this date.

Emergency Relief Fund:

The Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) was first opened on April 8th. The fund was established to support not for profit sports clubs and organisations facing

immediate financial difficulties. Over the course of the fund it supported 342 successful application to a total commitment of £605,235.

Be Active Wales:

With the closure of the ERF, the Be Active Wales Fund (BAWF) was launched on July 7th. This fund extended the approach of the ERF and covers both a protect element to support clubs still facing financial difficulties, as well helping to prepare sports to return to activity. The prepare element of the fund covers a range of issues to protect and safeguard individuals against the risk of contracting coronavirus. A total of £4m has been set aside for allocation.

Overall, there has been a total of £2,856,356 in support requested. This total request is being evaluated in stages by weekly assessment panels and to date the fund has committed to supporting 363 applications to a total value of £331,685.50. The number of applicants has increased month on month as sports return to activity.

Sport Resilience Fund (SRF):

In addition to the Be Active Wales Fund, Sport Wales also launched a £4.5m application-based fund covering National Governing Bodies of Sport, Leisure Trusts and other national organisations contributing to sport in Wales. The total requested by applicants for this fund is £4,168,559. Thus far the fund has committed £1,357,813 of funding across 21 applications.

The SRF and BAWF continue to operate and have weekly panel decisions to allocate funding. This will continue for the foreseeable future, although consideration will also be given in time to how there could be a further extension to the funds which would look at more developmental activities beyond prepare and protect. This will be determined by both the nature of the sporting activities and the guidance issued by Welsh Government in relation to sport and Covid-19.

Future Impact:

In relation to the impact these funds will have on Sport Wales' activities over the coming years it is currently too early to predict. It is the case that repurposing

in year funding to deliver emergency contingencies has resulted in planned initiatives being postponed, or in some cases, stopped entirely. The long-term nature of the impact of Covid-19 on sport in Wales is still relatively uncertain. Sport Wales has undertaken significant research looking at how the pandemic has impacted on participation rates, public confidence and the sport economy. This will inform our approach, as will the continued work of sports and the Welsh Government to examine the return to sport road map. Any potential spikes in Covid-19 cases will also change the nature of projected activities. It is certainly the case that pressure on Sport Wales, and the broader sport sector budgets in 2020 as a result of Covid-19, will have a lasting legacy on physical activity unless additional resource is found or utilised in a different way. More reflective detail on this will undoubtedly be evident over coming months and reported through our annual report and future business plan and investment projections.

In addition to the current pressures, there are significant longer-term challenges facing the sport and leisure sector. Due to the nature of the sector and its provision, the impact on revenue income for sports clubs, gym owners and facility operators in the short and longer term will be significant. Under the current restrictions, reopening of the Sport and Leisure sector has been gradual, at low capacities and subject to physical distancing requirements and we recognise that consumer confidence is likely to be low for an extended period. These challenges will impact the viability of the sector in the medium and long-term.

Existing funding initiatives, such as the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme (JRS) and Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS), the Welsh Government's business support schemes and Sport Wales' Emergency and Sport Resilience Funds (ERF / SRF), have provided a lifeline to some, but not all parts of the sector. These initiatives alone though will not be enough to protect jobs and ensure the sector can thrive once again, especially with both the JRS and SEISS ending in October.

We are holding positive conversations with the Welsh Government regarding the financial need to protect the sector in short term and have gratefully, been able to draw on evidence and recommendations made by the Committee as part of our case to them.

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Annwyl Helen Mary Jones AS,

Fel y gwyddoch, roedd Chwaraeon Cymru yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r pwyllgor am y gwaith a wnaeth fel rhan o'r ymchwiliad i effaith Covid-19 ar y sector chwaraeon. Roeddem yn falch iawn o allu darparu tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig a llafar fel rhan o'r broses honno ac, yn unol â'r argymhellion yn yr adroddiad, ysgrifennaf atoch gyda'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y Gronfa Cydnerthedd Chwaraeon.

Isod ceir adolygiad hyd yma o'r cyllid brys sydd wedi'i sicrhau gan Chwaraeon Cymru. Mae'r ffigurau yn gywir o 1af Medi.

Dyraniadau'r Corff Rheoli Cenedlaethol ac Awdurdodau Lleol:

Fel y gwnaethom ei nodi yn ein tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig gychwynnol i'r pwyllgor, y dull gweithredu ar unwaith i ymdrin â heriau COVID19 ar y sector chwaraeon oedd gweithio i sicrhau bod sefydliadau, clybiau a chyfleusterau chwaraeon yn

goroesi. Un penderfyniad allweddol yn hyn o beth oedd cael dull mwy hyblyg o ymdrin â'r ffordd yr oedd partneriaid Chwaraeon Cymru yn defnyddio eu cyllid. Fe wnaethom anfon llythyrau at yr holl bartneriaid rydym yn eu hariannu ar 1 Ebrill a chytunwyd y gellid derbyn y rhain drwy e-bost, gyda thaliadau'n cael eu gwneud fel mater o frys. Fe wnaethom nodi y byddem yn hyblyg o ran sut y byddai’r cyllid yn cael ei ddefnyddio, yn enwedig dros y 12 wythnos gyntaf ond fe wnaethom bwysleisio y byddai angen i’r partneriaid sicrhau bod unrhyw newidiadau'n cael eu holrhain i gydymffurfio â disgwyliadau a gofynion archwilio. Cafwyd cyfanswm o 68 o daliadau gwerth cyfanswm o £6,008,953.30 i'w prosesu ar 16 Ebrill, gan adael dim ond nifer fach o bartneriaid a ariennir bob blwyddyn i gael eu talu ar ôl y dyddiad hwn.

Cronfa Cymorth mewn Argyfwng:

Agorwyd y Gronfa Cymorth mewn Argyfwng (ERF) am y tro cyntaf ar 8 Ebrill. Sefydlwyd y gronfa i gefnogi clybiau chwaraeon a sefydliadau dielw sy'n wynebu anawsterau ariannol uniongyrchol. Yn ystod cyfnod y gronfa, cefnogwyd 342 o geisiadau llwyddiannus i gyfanswm ymrwymiad o £605,235.

Cronfa Cymru Actif:

Ar ôl i’r ERF gau, lansiwyd Cronfa Cymru Actif (BAWF) ar 7 Gorffennaf. Estynnodd y gronfa hon ddarpariaeth yr ERF ac mae'n cwmpasu elfen ddiogelu i gefnogi clybiau sy'n dal i wynebu anawsterau ariannol, yn ogystal â helpu i baratoi chwaraeon i ddychwelyd i weithgarwch. Mae elfen baratoi'r gronfa yn ymdrin ag amrywiaeth o faterion i ddiogelu unigolion rhag y risg o ddal y coronafeirws. Neilltuwyd cyfanswm o £4m i'w ddyrannu.
Yn gyffredinol, gofynnwyd am gyfanswm o £2,856,356 o gymorth.

Mae cyfanswm y cais hwn yn cael ei werthuso fesul cam gan baneli asesu wythnosol a hyd yma mae'r gronfa wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi 363 o geisiadau i gyfanswm gwerth o £331,685.50. Mae nifer yr ymgeiswyr wedi cynyddu fis ar ôl mis wrth i chwaraeon ddychwelyd i weithgarwch.

Y Gronfa Cadernid Chwaraeon (SRF):

Yn ogystal â Chronfa Cymru Actif, lansiodd Chwaraeon Cymru gronfa sy'n seiliedig ar ymgeisio gwerth £4.5m sydd hefyd yn cwmpasu Cyrff Rheoli Cenedlaethol Chwaraeon, Ymddiriedolaethau Hamdden a sefydliadau

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cenedlaethol eraill sy'n cyfrannu at chwaraeon yng Nghymru. Y cyfanswm y gofynnwyd amdano gan ymgeiswyr ar gyfer y gronfa hon yw £4,168,559. Hyd yma, mae'r gronfa wedi ymrwymo £1,357,813 o gyllid ar draws 21 o geisiadau.

Mae'r SRF a BAWF yn parhau i weithredu ac maent yn cynnal penderfyniadau panel wythnosol i ddyrannu cyllid. Bydd hyn yn parhau hyd y gellir rhagweld, er y rhoddir ystyriaeth hefyd maes o law i sut y gellid ymestyn yr arian ymhellach a fyddai'n edrych ar weithgareddau mwy datblygiadol y tu hwnt i baratoi a diogelu. Caiff hyn ei bennu gan natur y gweithgareddau chwaraeon a'r canllawiau a gyhoeddir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yng nghyswllt chwaraeon a Covid-19.

Effaith yn y dyfodol:

Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n rhy gynnar rhagweld yr effaith y bydd y cronfeydd hyn yn ei chael ar weithgareddau Chwaraeon Cymru dros y blynyddoedd nesaf. Mae'n wir fod addasu cyllid at ddibenion gwahanol yn ystod y flwyddyn i ddarparu cronfeydd wrth gefn brys wedi arwain at ohirio mentrau arfaethedig, neu mewn rhai achosion, eu hatal yn gyfan gwbl. Mae natur hirdymor effaith Covid-19 ar chwaraeon yng Nghymru yn dal yn gymharol ansicr. Mae Chwaraeon Cymru wedi gwneud gwaith ymchwil sylweddol sy'n edrych ar sut mae'r pandemig wedi effeithio ar gyfraddau cyfranogi, hyder y cyhoedd a'r economi chwaraeon. Bydd hyn yn llywio ein dull gweithredu, yn ogystal â gwaith parhaus chwaraeon a Llywodraeth Cymru i archwilio'r map dychwelyd i chwaraeon. Bydd unrhyw gynnydd posibl mewn achosion Covid-19 hefyd yn newid natur y gweithgareddau a ragwelir. Mae'n sicr yn wir y bydd y pwysau ar gyllideb Chwaraeon Cymru, a chyllidebau ehangach y sector chwaraeon yn 2020 o ganlyniad i Covid-19, yn cael effaith barhaol ar weithgarwch corfforol oni bai bod adnoddau ychwanegol yn cael eu canfod neu'n cael eu defnyddio mewn ffordd wahanol. Bydd manylion mwy myfyriol am hyn yn sicr yn amlwg dros y misoedd nesaf ac yn cael eu hadrodd drwy ein hadroddiad blynyddol a'n hamcanestyniadau cynllun busnes a buddsoddi yn y dyfodol.

Yn ogystal â'r pwysau presennol, mae heriau sylweddol yn y tymor hwy yn wynebu'r sector chwaraeon a hamdden. Oherwydd natur y sector a'i ddarpariaeth, bydd yr effaith ar incwm refeniw i glybiau chwaraeon, perchnogion campfeydd a gweithredwyr cyfleusterau yn y tymor byr a'r tymor hwy yn sylweddol. O dan y cyfyngiadau presennol, mae ailagor y sector Chwaraeon a Hamdden wedi bod yn raddol, ar sail capasiti isel ac yn amodol ar ofynion cadw pellter corfforol ac rydym yn cydnabod bod hyder defnyddwyr yn debygol o fod yn isel am gyfnod estynedig. Bydd yr heriau hyn yn effeithio ar hyfywedd y sector yn y tymor canolig a'r hirdymor.

Mae mentrau ariannu presennol, megis Cynllun Cadw Swyddi (JRS) Llywodraeth y DU a'r Cynllun Cymorth Incwm i’r Hunangyflogedig (SEISS), cynlluniau cymorth busnes Llywodraeth Cymru a Chronfa Cydnerthedd Brys a Chwaraeon (ERF / SRF) Chwaraeon Cymru, wedi achub rhai, ond nid pob rhan o'r sector. Er hynny, ni fydd y mentrau hyn ynddynt eu hunain yn ddigon i ddiogelu swyddi a sicrhau y gall y sector ffynnu unwaith eto, yn enwedig gyda'r JRS a SEISS yn dod i ben ym mis Hydref.

Rydym yn cynnal sgyrsiau cadarnhaol gyda Llywodraeth Cymru ynglŷn â'r angen ariannol i ddiogelu'r sector yn y tymor byr ac rydym yn ddiolchgar ein bod wedi gallu defnyddio tystiolaeth ac argymhellion y Pwyllgor fel rhan o'n hachos.

Yours Sincerely / Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Sarah Powell
Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr