

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-425
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM /06199/12

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
William.powell@wales.gov.uk

29 October 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 10 October about the petition you have received on amending the Olympic Charter to recognise the devolved nations of Great Britain in their own right.

This issue involves sovereignty, International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules and affiliation to international federations. The rules and guidelines for the organisation of the Olympic Games and for governing the Olympic Movement are set out in the Olympic Charter which is adopted by the IOC. The IOC has sole responsibility and discretion for deciding which Olympic Committees it will recognise. Rule 31 in the Olympic Charter states that the expression "country" means an independent state recognised by the international community. The United Nations recognises the United Kingdom as a nation state and therefore the IOC recognises the British Olympic Association as the Olympic Committee for the UK. For the IOC to consider a separate Welsh team at an Olympic or Paralympic Games, Wales' constitutional status in relation to the rest of the UK would need to change.

Sporting events undoubtedly make a significant contribution to the life of the nation. We are all excited and enthused when Welsh athletes compete on the international stage as in London 2012 or at the Commonwealth Games which provides a platform for Wales to compete as a nation at a multi sports event. The Welsh Government will continue to support Wales' sporting interests at all times and ensure that we continue to develop athletes who can compete at the highest level.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

CARWYN JONES

cc: Naomi Stocks, Committee Clerk – Naomi.stocks@wales.gov.uk