FOOTBALL IN WALES

917 clubs | 5743 teams | 99552 registered club players | 13041 female players - #1 female team sport | 17136 volunteers

£553.14m – total current impact of registered football participation | £663.59m projected impact of participation levels in 2026 (SROI)

189,268 school age children playing | 110,758 school age children would like to do more (School Sport Survey 2018)

#1 sport for participants with a disability, BAME and in areas of deprivation (School Sport Survey 2018)

206,000 adults take part in outdoor football (National Survey for Wales 18-19) | 1 person in every 33 in Wales play football – 16th in Europe

#1 TEAM SPORT in Wales in terms of public interest and participation (UEFA image research 2022)

CHALLENGES

27% reduction in participation investment from Sport Wales, bringing our forecast funding down to £484,000 – reduction will have a significant impact on our ability to grow and develop W&G and inclusive opportunities as well as provide dedicated support to our 900+ clubs

Level of government investment in football per registered player Wales - £9.17 | Scotland - £13.89 | Norther Ireland £13.13

Poor facilities – the #1 issue affecting players | Pitches deteriorating with worsening weather conditions – over 20% cancellations | 10 years of reduced parks maintenance budgets | Over past 20 years - Football Foundation has invested over £710m in grassroots facilities in England

Wales needs 389 NEW pitches to meet current and future demand = £343m investment over next 20 years

Attendance levels for domestic football significantly below European benchmark | Only 42% of attendees are satisfied with their experiences

WG review of football, in 2005, recognised a significant disparity in investment in football…..which hasn’t been addressed

OUR REQUEST - 10m PER YEAR INVESTMENT to meet the development needs of welsh football - the biggest sport in wales

£6M for COMMUNITY FACILITIES to develop new, to meet growth needs, and transform existing grassroots facilities at club, parks and education sites

£1M for DOMESTIC FOOTBALL facilities to improve supporter experiences attracting bigger audiences and more revenue for national league clubs

£3M for PROGRAMME AND PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT to enhance grassroots workforce and development services facilitating club growth, women and girls development and inclusive opportunities