

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Draft Sports Action Plan 2020 – 2022

Submissions to be received no later than 16 August 2019

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Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
Leeson Lane
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July 2019**

Introduction

In July 2018, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport published the [National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027](#).

Action 39 of the Policy commits to the preparation of a Sports Action Plan which is currently being considered by the members of the Sports Leadership Group (SLG) appointed by the Minister in accordance with the National Sports Policy. A number of possible actions have been identified and these are presented in the draft Sports Action Plan available on the Department's [website](#).

To facilitate the orderly receipt and processing of submissions in response to this public consultation, please use the template provided below. It should be noted that not every aspect of the 10-year National Sports Policy can be fully addressed in the proposed 3-year draft action plan. A process of prioritisation is accordingly required.

On page 3, submissions are sought on proposed actions which you feel should be included that **aren't** currently included in the draft. Submissions should be made by way of a short proposed action with a business case outlining your reasoning for such.

On page 4, the Department welcomes submissions on the 33 actions currently listed in the draft action plan.

Membership of Sports Leadership Group

Minister Shane Ross, TD

Mary O'Connor (Federation of Irish Sport)

John Treacy (Sport Ireland)

Conn McCluskey (Ireland Active)

Alan Quinlan (Former Rugby International)

Nina Arwitz (Volunteer Ireland)

Danny McLoughlin (County & City Management Association)

Ronan Kielt (Department of Education)

Donald Ewing (Department of Children & Youth Affairs)

Minister of State Brendan Griffin TD

Sarah Keane (Olympic Federation of Ireland)

Miriam Malone (Paralympics Ireland)

Niamh Daffy (CARA Centre)

Deirdre Lavin (Local Sports Partnership Sligo)

Shane O'Connor (Olympic Federation of Ireland – Athlete's Commission)

Ken Spratt (Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport)

Kate O'Flaherty (Department of Health)

Proposed Action (Max 50 words) Note: Rather than separate actions in to separate columns I have listed all below. The business case and observations has been framed to reflect this. I hope this is okay.

NSP Chapter 8 Sport in a Cross-Sectoral and International Context

1. Explore international development in sport physical education and physical activity aligned with the implementation of the Kazan Action Plan, the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity and UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace.
2. While prioritising national agendas, leverage international resources to support the implementation of the NSP. Map the NSP with the Sustainable Development Goals to leverage and support current international efforts in sport, physical education and physical activity sport. (NSP Action 40 +transversally many others)
3. Align indicators for implementation of the NSP with: (a) model indicators for measuring the contribution of sport, physical education and physical activity to the Sustainable Development Goals and (b) human rights indicators on sport, physical education and physical activity (c) GAPPA monitoring and (d) quality physical education guidelines for governments & global survey (NSP Action 40, 57)
4. Using indicators aligned with the item 2 (a) and (b) above, work with other government departments on sports, physical activity and physical education reporting to treaties ratified by Ireland (all directly or indirectly referenced in the NDP) including CRPD, CEDAW, CRC, CESC. Align the NSP and draft action plan with national reporting to UN Treaty Bodies, UPR and SDG reporting on sport. (Informs SAP Action 4/5/6/8/9/10/26)
5. Join the Intergovernmental Committee on Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) and the Open-Ended Working Group on Model Indicators on Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity and the SDGs and the Sport and Human Rights initiative, Integrity in Sport Initiative. (Chapter 8)

Business Case for Proposed Action (Max 200 words)

The proposed actions above would enable the Irish government to contribute to and leverage international developments in sport as per Chapter 8 of the NSP. Chapter 8 is not referenced in the draft Action Plan, yet through our work in the UNESCO Chair we recognise that there is a lot of international work that can support the implementation the NSP and the current draft Action Plan 2020-2022. In that regard the actions above will both support and help deliver efficiencies in enacting the plan. It will also create concrete opportunities to show how cross-sectional work can increase the value for money on investment in sport and/or be used as advocacy to support further investment in sport.

The actions above overlap with some more operational – they are expanded for the purposes of clarity and for including a section on Chapter 8 in the draft Action Plan. Although direct engagement as per proposed action 5 above (joining committees) is optimal, as an alternative the UNESCO Chair could signpost to relevant touchpoints on NSP implementation efforts that emerge from international work we are engaged with. We lead the global response for the specific

policy areas on disability and broader areas of intersectional inclusion for the Kazan Action Plan. The UNESCO Chair sits on the Open-ended Working group on Model Indicators for Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity for the SDGs, as well as the technical group and steering committee. UNESCO Chair is also represented on the WHO GAPP Monitoring group, WHO Sports Sector Dialogue group and WHO Guidelines Development Group.

Specifically, the actions proposed above create an opportunity for policy convergence with allied government policies some of which are referenced in the NSP and exemplified in the draft action plan. This will facilitate reporting and help to harness cross-cutting impact of sport in value for money reporting. Action 40 is directly aligned with actions 9, 15, 32, 34, 35, 36 and 37 and can inform and support actions 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 28, 31, 42, 47 and 57 of the NSP. By being involved in current international initiatives, these actions can be achieved in a more cost-effective manner.

Expanding on one specific action above i.e. proposed action 4 on engagement in national reporting processes would contribute towards implementing the NSP in several regards including:

- Reporting on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has the potential to contribute to addressing disability and gender gradients in participation and therefore relates transversally to NSP actions 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 28 and 32.
- Reporting on these Conventions as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) would contribute toward actions relating to physical education and physical literacy including NSP actions 1 and 2.
- Reporting on all four would contribute toward interfacing with existing Government Policies as outlined in Chapter 8 of the NSP. Reporting to all 4 via Universal Periodic Review process increased the impact of sports-based reporting.

Observations on the draft Sports Action Plan 2020 – 2022 (Max 250 words)

Of the 33 currently listed actions the following would benefit from a parallel implementation of Action 40 (NSP): 1/2/4/5/6/10/11/13/14/26/29/32/33. Of the actions listed we suggest Action 5 - include NSP Action 35,36 and 40. Action 10 include NSP Action 35. Action 11- include NSP Actions 35,36,40. Action 26-include actions 40 (CEDAW). Action 29 – include Action 40. Action 32 – include Action 40. Action 33 -include NSP Action 40.

Context for observation: The National Sports Policy is one we can be very proud of as a nation and the draft Sports Action Plan 2020-2022 includes many appropriate actions to continue implementing the plan. Omitting international elements may represent a false economy. The last three years have seen a turning point in international collaborative work in sport, physical activity and physical education. An unprecedented range international activity with involvement of state and non-state bodies working together to develop and deliver mechanisms to improve policy development implementation and monitoring is advancing at a rapid rate. The NSP aligns very favourably with international normative instruments including charters, actions plans, resolutions, treaties upon which this activity is based.

The Draft Action Plan proposes activities including developing mechanisms for monitoring that could indeed be developed in isolation but through direct alignment with international efforts would bring resource efficiencies and opportunities for both sharing and learning. While the perception can be that engagement in International activity may be an unnecessary expansion of the focus at this time, it could deliver both cost and time efficiencies at this early and critical point of the NSP implementation. This can also expand the value of implementing the NSP and associated action plans by demonstrating impact in other areas of government e.g. such as reporting to Human Rights mechanisms and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as policy convergence with

physical activity and physical education. Furthermore, the international mechanisms under development at present are highly cognisant of not-overburdening states in terms of reporting requirements but rather consolidating indicators relevant across a range of reporting areas. The international efforts mentioned in this submission are focused on 2030 with interim milestones. This could provide a clear and actionable focus to the international dimension of the NSP to its endpoint of 2027 while being of direct benefit to the implementation of many of the non-internationally components of the policy.

