



DeaflympicsGB

RECOGNITION & SUPPORT

AN OVERVIEW

THE CONTEXT:

- UK Deaf Sport (UKDS)
- Deaf Sport in the UK
- The Deaflympics
- DeaflympicsGB

THE ISSUES:

1. Recognition
2. Support

EVERY DEAF PERSON ACTIVE & INSPIRED BY SPORT

LEADING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE DEAF PEOPLE
TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORT THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES
& MORE DEAF ATHLETES TO PERFORM ON THE
WORLD STAGE

LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC,
WELL GOVERNED
LEADERSHIP FOR
DEAF SPORT

PARTICIPATION

MORE DEAF
PEOPLE TRYING,
PLAYING &
SUPPORTING SPORT

PERFORMANCE

MORE DEAF
ATHLETES WINNING
MEDALS ON THE
WORLD STAGE

DEAF SPORT IN THE UK

- More than 11 million people deaf or with hearing loss in the UK – one in six
- By 2035 there will be 15.6 million people with hearing loss in the UK – one in five
- Across people of all ages, ability, cultures and ethnicity
- Less than 10% of deaf and hard of hearing participate in regular sport – less than any other disability
- Stealth disability provides many barriers
- There are very few deaf role models in the media

THE DEAFLYMPICS

- Deaf sport is not in the Paralympics – unlike visually impaired (VI) and intellectually impaired (II)
- Sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which permits the name
- The only platform for Deaf athletes to compete in a World level in a multi-sport event
- Older than the Paralympics – held since 1924 every 4 years, like the Olympics and Paralympics
- Similar in size to the Paralympics (3-4k athletes; 21 sports)

RECOGNITION

- DeaflympicsGB is not formally recognised by the Government with European and World Deaf Sport
- The DeaflympicsGB Team received no formal recognition from the Government on their return from the Deaflympics in 2017
- Compared to the welcome receptions for Team GB and ParalympicsGB
- Parliamentary Receptions laid on by Dawn Butler MP and the Scottish Government

SUPPORT

- The DeaflympicsGB Team includes >90 athletes and support staff
- DeaflympicsGB Team receives £0 funding from the Government – it costs only c. £180k
- Compared to >£377m to Olympic and Paralympic Teams and £2m to Special Olympics GB
- Athletes self-fund >£2k each to get to the Deaflympics
- Training programmes cost >£10k per individual in addition to team preparation
- Support is not just financial

THE ISSUES

- 3 years with DCMS – Nov 17:
‘we are actively looking into it but aren't quite in a position to respond just yet’
- Flawed correspondence from Tracey Crouch MP and the PM:
 - We fund £366k (from Sport England for participation)
 - Speak to UK Sport (UK Sport fund only Olympic and Paralympic Sport)
 - Speak to ParalympicsGB (not in the Paralympics)
- Silent on Recognition issue

GB BASKETBALL EXAMPLE

Sport England on £1m funding for GB Basketball, outside their participation remit:

“We have supported the GB basketball team since 2014 because it recognises the importance of having a national team and the inspirational impact that can have on grassroots players, including young people, black, Asian and minority ethnic people and people on lower incomes.”

CONCLUSION

- No recognition
- £0 support
- Clear on Sport England, UK Sport and ParalympicsGB
- Grateful for Participation funding but no deaf sporting role models in media
- Deaf sports worldwide supported by the IOC, but not UK Government
- Most nations supported equally with other disabilities and Paralympic sports
- Looking for APPG to question these issues with DCMS