



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2018-0034, 16 February 2018

The future of basketball in the UK

Westminster Hall, Tuesday 20 February 2018, 9.30am

A Westminster Hall debate on The future of basketball in the UK is scheduled for Tuesday 20 February 2018 at 9.30am. The Member leading the debate is Alex Sobel MP, a member of the Backbench Business Committee. The debate was appointed on the recommendation of the Backbench Business Committee.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

1.1 Structure of the sport

[Basketball England](#) is the national governing body for basketball in England. The [International Basketball Federation](#) (FIBA) is the international governing body. The [British Basketball Federation](#) (BBF) is responsible for British teams playing in FIBA competitions.

1.2 Basketball strategy 2016-2028

In 2016, the BBF, Basketball England, [Basketball Scotland](#) and [Basketball Wales](#) launched a new [strategy](#) for the sport.¹ The aim is “to unify all major partners in Britain to work together to build the sport from grassroots to world class GB teams by engaging people in the sport”. There are 10 strategic priorities:

- Build a deep understanding of the sport across Britain and use insight to inform all key decisions throughout the sport.
- Secure investment into the system from UK Sport, Sport England, sportScotland, Sport Wales and explore other government sources.
- Showcase basketball via widely-available engaging content and broadcasts which create an ‘appointment to view’.
- Create a central sales strategy to represent the sport’s rights and drive commercial income.
- Develop a clear facilities strategy for basketball, creating hubs and arenas that sit at the heart of communities.
- Work with delivery partners to recruit and retain male and female players with supporting advice, development and competitions.
- Improve the standard of coaching and officiating and grow the pool at every level of the game.
- Relaunch the BBL in Britain and raise its governance and performance standards.
- Support and develop the women’s game at club and WBBL level.

¹ British Basketball and others, [Transforming basketball in Britain together 2016-2028](#), May 2016

- Develop a clear National team style and performance plan, appropriately staffed to help all international teams achieve consistent medal zone success.²

The strategy claims that successful delivery of the objectives “will leave the sport healthy, competitive and enjoyed by millions of fans and players across Britain”.³ Responsibility for delivery rests with the BBF, the home country associations and leading clubs. The strategy also claims that transforming basketball in Britain “will create positive social impacts on individuals and communities”.⁴

Further information and updates on the strategy are available from a [“Future of basketball”](#) website.

1.3 All Party Parliamentary Group on Basketball

There is an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Basketball.⁵ Its purpose is “to promote the development of the sport of basketball at all levels in the UK”.⁶

In July 2014, the APPG published a [report](#) on “the ability of basketball to make a difference to the social challenges affecting young people, particularly in the UK’s inner cities”.⁷ The report concluded:

1.3.2 The evidence received described the extraordinary impact that basketball is having in many of the UK’s most-deprived communities; not just, or even primarily, related to the development of sporting talent, or just increasing sports participation, but mainly in improving life outcomes by addressing some of the social challenges faced by disadvantaged young people in the UK.

1.3.3 It is evident that basketball is indeed unique amongst sports in this, and that basketball-related programmes can have a particularly positive impact on educational outcomes.

1.3.4 Thus, in the context of fiscal constraint in the public sector, and a heightened focus on ‘bang for your buck’ in all sectors, including private sector companies’ Corporate Social Responsibility [“CSR”] strategies, there is no more efficient sporting vehicle than basketball to improve outcomes for individuals and communities - if resources are deployed wisely.

1.3.5 It is also evident that the lack of facilities under the control of basketball is significantly impacting the sustainability of clubs and community projects, and inhibiting the growth of the game at grass-roots and elite level.

1.3.6 It is noted that all this basketball activity is going on while there has been and remains a sustained underfunding of the NGB (England Basketball) compared with other high participation team

² British Basketball and others, [Transforming basketball in Britain together 2016-2028](#), May 2016, p7

³ Ibid, p7

⁴ Back page of the strategy document

⁵ Details are on p249 of the [Register of All-Party Parliamentary Groups](#) (31 January 2018)

⁶ APPG on Basketball, [Inquiry Report](#), July 2014, para 2.1.1

⁷ APPG on basketball website, [About the inquiry](#)

sports, and with the background of the Great Britain teams having all funding from UK Sports terminated in March 2014.

The report explained, among other things, why basketball was unique to the challenges of inner city communities:

3.2.2 There are local, cultural, national and global characteristics of basketball which, when combined, convincingly show the sport as efficient and effective in addressing well known challenges of inner cities.

3.2.3 UK basketball's success in addressing the issues relating to education, health, inclusion, opportunities, aspiration, gang culture, anti-social behaviour and meaningful employment can be partly explained by the ever changing demographics of the UK's inner cities, and the increasing globalisation of sport, culture and business. All of this despite the immense commercial firepower, and pervasive media reach, of the more traditional sports in the UK.

3.2.4 Consequently, the Inquiry has concluded that there is no single or small group of characteristics of basketball that drives this apparent 'special' status, but rather a number of particular factors which, in combination, are unique. These include the facts that basketball:

- is very physical and athletic, while essentially non-contact;
- appeals to and is played by both sexes;
- has huge street credibility, globally;
- is perceived as being 'cool';
- has a strong affinity to music and lifestyle;
- can be played with very little in terms of equipment, space or money;
- is a team game, but one which can be played and skills honed as an individual;
- has a global community with many routes to achieve success locally, nationally, in European clubs, in US colleges, and for the very few, in the NBA;
- lays claim to almost all of the top players being from deprived communities;
- requires a route to success almost exclusively through further education, because of the unique role of US colleges in global talent development, and the increasing role of UK universities, which are recognising basketball as a way of enticing overseas students;
- features global superstars who are primarily BME; and
- boasts professional players who are exceptional proponents of the value of education, aspiration and sport as a route to success, unlike any other relevant sport.

3.2.5 Of course, there are a number of other sports, particularly football and boxing, which have a strong appeal within deprived communities, but for reasons that are obvious, neither of these sports can lay claim to all or many of the attributes listed above and, especially, the synergy of education and success...

1.4 Sport England funding

Sport England's February 2017 funding round included funding for Basketball England and British Basketball:

(...)

Basketball England (£4,730,000)

Basketball is one of the largest team sports in England, and [Basketball England](#) has based its plans on its strong appeal to young people, people on lower incomes and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Its plan will address the challenges of finding a good quality outdoor court or affordable indoor facility. They'll work with social basketball providers to use their courts as activity sites for more people and also join forces with facilities operators to make better use of available court time.

The role of basketball clubs and volunteers in facilitating the anticipated growth in participation for young people will be critical to the success of the game. Basketball England will be developing more opportunities for clubs to develop and link with new extra-curricular playing opportunities with schools, colleges and universities.

Stewart Kellett, CEO of Basketball England, said: "We are delighted with the level of engagement of the basketball community in the build up to our bid for funds. Their voice and needs have been built into our proposals to help make the game better and support the many volunteers who make basketball happen in local communities.

"People in the sport tell us they want more profile for basketball and access to more coaches and officials that will raise standards and improve the playing experience in basketball. We want to respond to this and bring the sport to the forefront of the nation."

British Basketball (£1,000,000)

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. The GB team will continue to receive our support as it works towards competing in Eurobasket 2017.

Phil Smith, Sport England director of sport, said: "Millions of people love sport and play it week in, week out. But like everyone, they're susceptible to life getting in the way and disrupting habits, whether that's a new job, having a baby or even getting injured.

"I've been really impressed by the fresh approaches in the governing bodies' plans, the evidence they've gathered to back up their ideas and the enthusiasm they've show for putting customers first.

"Our investments will allow them to reach the customers they know best, and provide them with their regular sport in the way they want it."⁸

Funding for British Wheelchair Basketball was [announced](#) in October 2017:

British Wheelchair Basketball: Core market (£1,212,665), Talent (£222,335)

⁸ ["New investment to help national governing bodies build on the millions of people already doing sport and activity"](#), Sport England News, 6 February 2017

[Back in February](#), we awarded British Wheelchair Basketball £300,000 to support regular players of the game.

Today's investment will help the organisation to support those people who play wheelchair basketball more regularly, either in structured competitions and leagues or more informally as part of a local club.

The talent award will also allow the NGB to focus on their network of regional performance centres, making sure that all those who attend receive the best quality coaching and support.⁹

⁹ ["Major funding injection will boost grassroots sport and recruit people from under-represented backgrounds"](#), Sport England News, 2 October 2017

2. Data on funding & participation

This section provides information about data on basketball funding and participation.

2.1 Basketball funding data

Sport England funding

The table below shows Sport England's funding for basketball in the next funding cycle for 2017-2021. This covers funding allocated between December 2016 and September 2017. £7.9 million was allocated to Basketball England in this period. This includes £1 million for the Basketball (GB) national team.

BASKETBALL GOVERNING BODY FUNDING 2017-2021					
Funding allocated by Sport England, based on funding decisions from December 2016 to September 2017					
National Governing Body	Participation ¹	Talent	National teams	2017/21 award	Decision date
Basketball England	£4,730,000			£4,730,000	February, 2017
Basketball (GB)			£1,000,000	£1,000,000	February, 2017
Basketball England		£410,000		£410,000	March, 2017
British Wheelchair Basketball	£1,512,665	£222,335		£1,735,000	September, 2017
Total basketball Dec-16 to Sep-17	£6,242,665	£632,335	£1,000,000	£7,875,000	

Note: 1. where applicable, includes funding for core market (regular participants), tackling inactivity and mass markets.

Source: Sport England, funding decisions December 2016 – September 2017.

Funding decisions by sport governing body are available on Sport England's website:

- [Full sport-by-sport breakdown of October 2017 funding decision round](#)
- [Full breakdown of March 2017 decision round](#)
- [Full breakdown of February 2017 decision round](#)
- [Full breakdown of December 2016 decision round](#)

UK Sport

Data on UK Sport's World Class Performance Programme funding since it began in May 1997 is available on UK Sport's website - [Historical Funding Figures](#) section. The table below shows funding for basketball and wheelchair basketball.

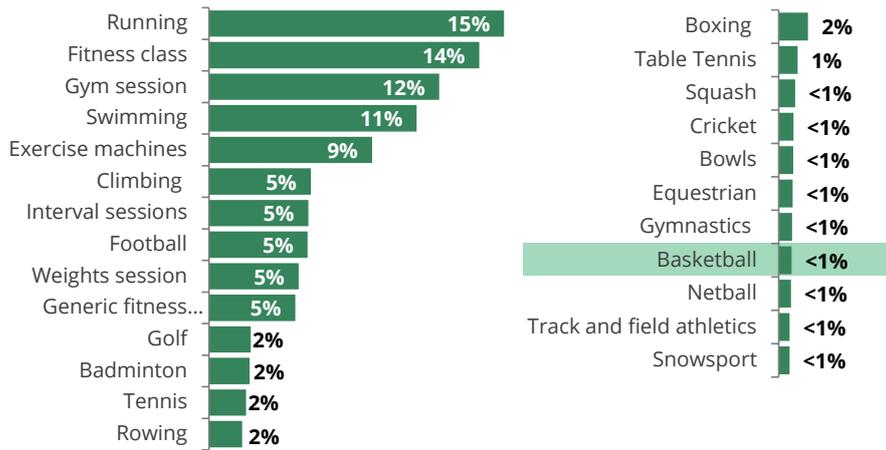
UK SPORT FUNDING FOR BASKETBALL					
By Olympic games					
	Sydney 2000	Athens 2004	Beijing 2008	London 2012	Rio de Janeiro 2016
Basketball	n/a	n/a	£3,694,000	£8,599,000	n/a
Wheelchair Basketball	£1,636,433	£1,835,609	£3,099,200	£4,493,930	£5,379,264

Source: UK Sport, [Historic Funding Figures](#)

2.2 Participation in Basketball England

Based on Sport England’s [Active Lives Survey](#) under 1% of population participated in Basketball at least twice over the last 28 days prior to survey. This puts basketball in a lowest third of the top 25 sport activities by participation. Just under 8% of respondents participated in teams sports overall.

2. PARTICIPATION IN TOP 25 SPORT ACTIVITIES (ENGLAND MAY 2017) Adults (aged 16+) participating at least twice in the last 28 days

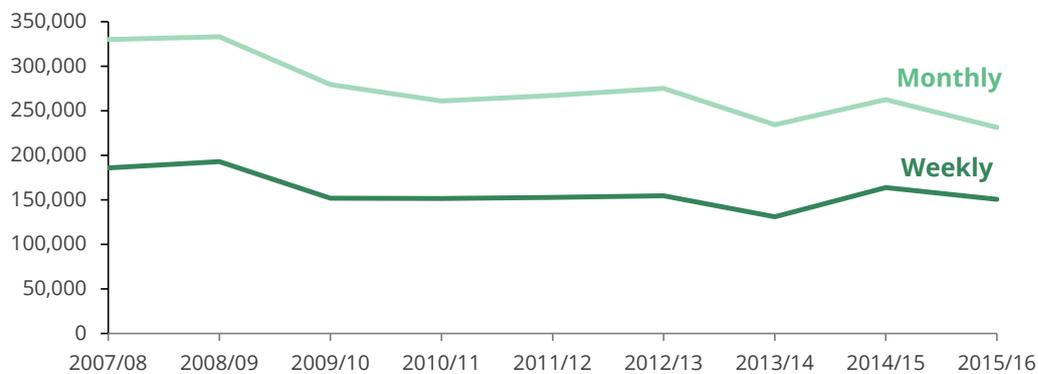


Note: Data labels rounded to the nearest 1%

Source: Sport England, [Active Lives Survey, Table 7](#), 12 October 2017 (data labels rounded to 1%)

The [Active People Survey](#) data suggested that 231,000 people participated in basketball monthly in 2015/16, compared to 330,000 thousand in 2007/08. Weekly participation decreased from 186,000 to 151,000 over the same period (see chart below). (Note that **Active Lives and Active People surveys are not comparable** due to changes in methodology. For more information refer to the House of Commons Library briefing - [Sport participation in England](#).)

BASKETBALL PARTICIPATION BY FREQUENCY Adults (aged 16+) participation in the last 28 days prior to survey (year ending October)



Source: Sport England, [Active People Survey, Once a week participation by individual sport \(16+\)](#) & [Once a month sport participation in England \(16+\) APS10](#)

Wales

A similar proportion of Welsh population participated in basketball as in England. The [National Survey for Wales](#) suggests that around 1% of respondents participated in basketball in four weeks prior to survey in 2016/17. This data is available in Sport Wales website - [Sport & Active Lifestyles](#) section (see table 13).

Scotland

Data on participation in physical activities in Scotland is available in [Scottish Household Survey](#) chapter 8. Published data does not include basketball as a separate category.

Northern Ireland

Data on sport participation in Northern Ireland is available in [Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland 2016/17](#) published by Department of Communities. This publication does not include participation figures for individual sports.

Overall participation in sport

An overview of sport in England and data sources for other countries in the UK is available in the House of Commons Library briefing [Sport participation in England \(CBP-8181\)](#). This briefing provides national data on:

- Most popular sport activities ([section 2](#))
- Gender ([section 3](#))
- Age profile ([section 4](#))
- Ethnicity ([section 5](#))
- Disability ([section 6](#))
- Work and education ([section 7](#))
- Socioeconomic status ([section 8](#))

3. News and blogs

Basketball England

[Basketball united on resourcing GB teams for 2018](#)

26 January 2018

British Wheelchair Basketball

[UK Sport Tokyo funding announced](#)

December 2017

British Basketball

[British Basketball and BBL strike landmark 10 year agreement](#)

18 August 2017

Sport England

[Major funding injection will boost grassroots sport and recruit people from under-represented backgrounds](#)

2 October 2017

British Basketball

[Every sport matters](#)

29 June 2017

Hoopsfix.com

[Basketball England awarded £4.7m in Sport England funding over next 4 year cycle](#)

6 February 2017

Basketball England

[British Basketball given £1,000,000 of National Lottery Funding from Sport England](#)

6 February 2017

Sport England

[New investment to help national governing bodies build on the millions of people already doing sport and activity](#)

6 February 2017

British Wheelchair Basketball

[New funding to level playing field in top-level sport](#)

April 2016

Department for Culture, Media and Sport; [Sport England](#)

[Government secures deal to support future of British Basketball](#)

7 November 2014

3.1 Press

Yorkshire Post

[Leeds MP pledges to make 'as much noise as possible' to save UK basketball](#)

13 February 2018

Telegraph

[How a group of wayward inner-city children have had their lives turned around by basketball](#)

11 November 2017

Guardian

[UK Sport faces revolt from 11 sports governing bodies over funding cuts](#)

29 June 2017

Times [Registration required]

[More popular than cricket but basketball is a pauper in Britain](#)

12 January 2017

Independent

[Team GB funding cuts are killing British basketball](#)

20 February 2016

BBC News

[Basketball: UK Sport Olympic funding hope for popular sport](#)

19 March 2015

Guardian

[Basketball's street cred fuels its fight to become UK's No2 sport](#)

18 January 2015

BBC News

[Basketball: UK Sport's funding cut harming young people, say MPs](#)

17 July 2014

Telegraph

[UK Sport misses the hoop after deciding to end funding for British basketball following a lack of medal success](#)

19 March 2014

Independent

[What a shame that UK Sport has stripped basketball of its elite funding](#)

9 March 2014

4. Parliamentary Business

4.1 Ministerial Statements

[Sporting Legacy](#)

5 March 2015 | Written statement | HCWS 349

Extract:

Helen Grant (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport):

...

Also in October, Sport England and UK Sport agreed a package to fund British Basketball Teams and help talent development in the sport. Sport England will provide £1.18 million worth of exchequer and National Lottery funding to British Basketball to support the men's, women's, Under 20s men's and women's teams from November 2014 to March 2017.

...

4.2 Debates

[Erasmus Plus Programme: Youth and Sport](#)

HC Deb 30 January 2018 c316-22WH

Extract (c316WH):

Alex Sobel:

As my hon. Friend said, the Erasmus sport programme is not just for universities. One of the Barking Abbey sports academy programmes is a Basketball programme. As chair of the all-party parliamentary group on basketball, I am proud that 35 basketball apprentices undertook an exchange with the Basketball Federation of Madrid. Sixty-five per cent of Barking Abbey students are from black and minority ethnic communities. Does he agree that the loss of such a programme would be detrimental not just to sport, but to BME communities in the UK?

Lloyd Russell-Moyle:

Totally. I will talk later about how the youth and sport programmes are far more diverse than some of the university parts of the Erasmus Plus programme. The continued participation of black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and other harder-to-reach or economically-deprived communities in parts of those programmes is really important. We need to think about not just our continued participation in the Erasmus programme but, generally, how we will continue to co-operate with our European partners on youth policy and sport policy.

...

Extract (c320WH):

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Tracey Crouch):

...

The sport element of Erasmus is administered centrally in Brussels and is much smaller than the youth element—it pains me to say that—but it is nevertheless important, with organisations able to bid for projects to improve grassroots sports provision, tackle cross-border threats such as doping and match-fixing, and increase inclusion and promote sport for all, which is the issue that the hon. Member for Leeds North West (Alex Sobel) referred to in connection with funding in basketball.

...

[UK Sport: Elite Sport Funding](#)

HL Deb 18 January 2018 c63-80GC

Extract (c70-2GC):

Lord Wasserman:

My Lords, I, too, congratulate the noble Lord, Lord Addington, on securing this debate. I also thank him for his interest in the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Basketball, of which I am joint chairman. I should also declare my interest as chairman of the Basketball Foundation, a registered charity established by the clubs which comprise the professional British Basketball League—the BBL—with a view to encouraging and supporting the community outreach activities of these clubs and of other basketball clubs around the country.

This is not the first time that I have argued the case in your Lordships' House for more public funding for basketball. I make no apology for doing so again today. I am sure that noble Lords with strong interests in other sports, such as badminton—particularly those supported by UK Sport—will be relieved to hear that I do not intend to argue that UK Sport should make basketball a special case and support it at the expense of some other sport which it presently funds.

I would, of course, love to see our national basketball teams compete in the Olympics, and would enthusiastically applaud a decision by UK Sport to enable the British Basketball Federation to make it happen. However, I would not want it to happen at the cost of our country slipping down the medals table. I love to see us at the top of the table, and I do not mind which sports have won the medals. Nor, frankly, do I take much notice of the educational background, or even the ethnicity, of our athletes when I proudly watch them standing on the podium singing our national anthem. For me, sport is one of the few areas of life where innate ability, combined with dedication and sheer hard work—and perhaps luck—make all the difference. It is one of the few areas where what counts is who you are, not who you know. That is why I believe

that Dame Katherine Grainger is right to say that our hero athletes can unite and inspire us as a nation. At a period in our national life when we are riven by debate caused by the Brexit referendum, the Government would be well advised to support anything that unites us and, to this end, to put more money into all aspects of sport, both elite and grassroots.

I am probably revealing my naivety in comparison with some noble Lords who have spoken when I say that I am prepared to leave it to UK Sport to do its job of backing Olympic winners. I do not want to make life more difficult for UK Sport by asking it to use its limited resources to solve a number of other major national problems, such as urban deprivation and ethnic and racial discrimination. UK Sport is already helping to tackle those problems by providing inspiration for our young people through the success which our athletes achieve internationally. That said, those problems need urgent attention and sport, particularly basketball, can play a major role in tackling them.

Basketball is a sport which has a particular attraction for members of our inner-city communities, and especially our BAME communities. This is partly because its world-renowned heroes such as Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Michael Jordan and our own John Amaechi are, to a large extent, members of these communities. We see the practical effect of this in our national teams: 75% of our men's senior team are members of our BAME community; 85% of our under-20 men's team and 75% of our under-18 and under-16 men's teams are members of those communities. The figures for our women's teams are lower, but not significantly so. This, of course, reflects the fact that more than half—58%—of basketball's adult participants are from BAME communities, even though those communities make up only 10% of the UK adult population. Even more striking is that approximately 17% of Basketball England members live in the country's most deprived council wards, as defined by the Government's definition of multiple deprivation. Some 18% of basketball clubs are located in these wards.

Basketball is clearly a sport that reaches parts of the country that other sports cannot reach. As such, it delivers all the well-known benefits of sport—good health, confidence, self-esteem and improved mental capacity—to those who have the least going for them in terms of family income and advantage. For me, whose professional career over the past 30 years has been concerned mainly with keeping communities safe, basketball offers the unique capability of being able to reach directly into these inner-city, disadvantaged communities to improve the life chances of those most at risk of getting into trouble with the criminal justice system. By doing this, basketball can play a major role in keeping communities safe.

But those communities, by their very nature, cannot afford the facilities or coaches necessary to mount effective basketball programmes, although most of the sport's biggest stars honed their skills on the streets or in public parks with nothing more than a ball and a hoop. So who should fund these facilities? Private commercial and philanthropic funding for inner-city recreational basketball is very hard to come by.

There are many reasons for that, including the fact that, although basketball is the second most popular sport after football for 11 to 15 year-olds, it is played mainly in state, as opposed to independent, schools, and has very little social cachet. For that reason, public funding is the only realistic, short-term way of getting basketball into our inner-city BAME communities, to enable it to work its magic in terms of enhancing the life chances of the youth of those communities and keeping them out of trouble.

As I argued earlier, I would not want to see this money taken from other parts of the sports landscape, particularly elite sport. It should be found from those government departments with statutory responsibility for keeping people out of trouble, enhancing their life chances and keeping us all safe. Just as the Foreign Office supports the foreign language service of the BBC, I propose that the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education and others find the funds to support basketball from their departmental budgets as a contribution to building,

“a country that works for everyone”,

to quote my right honourable friend the Prime Minister. How that money is distributed to these communities is a matter for inter-departmental consideration. It could be through basketball's governing bodies, a new agency or charity, or through police and crime commissioners— who, by the way, have responsibility for keeping our communities safe and who would jump at the chance of taking on this new task. What needs no further consideration is the urgent need for action.

[Sport](#)

HL Deb 15 October 2015 c379-408

Lord Selsdon, c386, **Lord Wasserman**, c393-5

[Sport and the 2012 Olympics Legacy](#)

HC Deb 24 June 2015 c964-1008

[Sport: Governance](#)

HL Deb 4 December 2014 c1455-86

[Physical Inactivity \(Public Health\)](#)

HC Deb 18 November 2014 c1-26WH

4.3 Parliamentary Questions

[Sports: Disability](#)

Asked by: Robin Walker

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what funding his Department or its agencies have provided for facilities for (a) wheelchair basketball, (b) blind cricket, (c) deaf cricket, (d) wheelchair tennis, (e) wheelchair rugby and (f) wheelchair football since 2012.

Answered by: Tracey Crouch | Culture, Media and Sport

Government remains committed to supporting disabled people to realise their potential in sport. Since 2012 Sport England has made disability sport a key focus of its strategy and the National Governing Bodies of Sport have specific targets for increasing the number of people with disabilities who play their sport. Sport England is currently investing over £171 million to make sport a practical and attractive lifestyle choice for disabled people and to get more disabled people playing sport.

Table A: Investment in disability sport-specific facilities

Sport	Sport England investment in disability sport-specific facilities since 2012
Wheelchair basketball	£79,314*
Blind cricket and deaf cricket	£241,540
Wheelchair tennis	£150,000
Wheelchair rugby	£228,968
Wheelchair football	£179,114

*Includes £30,000 award to GB Wheelchair Basketball Association (GBWBA) in 2013 for new wheelchairs

Please note that the figures in Table A only includes awards for projects which have a stated disability sport focus. Facilities like sports halls can be used for disability sports like the ones listed in Table A. Since 2012, Sport England has invested £39.8 million in 58 such sports hall projects.

As part of GBWBA's Whole Sport Plan investment for 2013-17, Sport England invested £154,833 in the University of Worcester Disabled Athlete Accommodation project. Across Sport England's National Centres for Sport, at least 20 per cent of accommodation provided has been designed specifically with disability access requirements in mind.

Sport England is also investing £26,000 in a research project in partnership with GBWBA to look at ways to increase the quality of surfaces used for wheelchair sports.

8 July 2015 | Written question | 4829

[Sports: Finance](#)

Asked by: Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which Olympic and Paralympic sports there has been a reduction in real terms in funding support from UK Sport since 2012.

Answered by: Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth | Culture, Media and Sport

UK Sport makes funding awards on a four year cycle in line with the Olympic and Paralympic calendars, and is currently supporting 46 Summer & Winter Olympic and Paralympic sports. These four year awards are reviewed each year through the Annual Investment Review process which measures sports against an agreed set of annual targets. The 18 sports which have seen a reduction in funding since 2012 are:

Archery

Badminton

Basketball

Goalball

Handball

Judo

Powerlifting

Swimming

Synchronised Swimming

Table Tennis

Visually Impaired Football

Volleyball (indoor, sitting and beach)

Water polo

Wheelchair fencing

Wheelchair basketball

Wrestling

24 March 2015 | Written question | HL 5815

[Topical Questions](#)**Asked by: Sharon Hodgson**

I thank the Sports Minister for her diligent work in securing the funding for our GB basketball teams from Sport England, which means that our women's team can go off to take part in the EuroBasket tournament next year. Does the hon. Lady agree that supporting elite team sports should be the role of UK Sport? Does she therefore share my hope that the consultation currently under way on the future of UK Sport will result on it focusing on delivering social value and support for team sports, as well as medals?

Answered by: Helen Grant | Culture, Media and Sport

Sport England and UK Sport together do a very good job in supporting not only elite sport, but grass-roots sport.

HC Deb 27 November 2014 c1068

[Olympics 2016](#)**Asked by: Lord Addington**

My Lords, does my noble friend agree that, although the problems we had were solved by developing the lottery for the Olympics, we must go on and look at the funding of team games to give ourselves a broader base to encourage participation?

Answered by: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Culture, Media and Sport

My Lords, my noble friend raises the issue of team sports and clearly we want all sports to have as many opportunities as possible—my noble friend may be thinking of basketball in particular. That has enormous potential to reach young people and we want it to grow in the country. That is why Sport England in particular is investing a great deal of money. Over the funding cycle about £10 million will go into basketball. We want teams to succeed but they need to be in a position to win Olympic medals, which basketball is not at the moment. While it is not in a position to win medals it is not in the Rio funding scheme.

HL Deb 10 November 2014 c10

[Olympics 2016](#)**Asked by: Lord Stevenson of Balmacara**

My Lords, the no-compromise approach has winners and has done very well but it also has losers. Basketball has had its £7 million grant from UK Sport cancelled and yet, as the Minister said, it is hugely popular, with 70% of participants aged under 25 and more than 50% of those who play the game coming from BME communities. What can they do now? The Minister mentioned Sport England but its contribution is £1.2 million, hardly making up the gap to £7 million.

Answered by: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Culture, Media and Sport

My Lords, as I said, the total funding to basketball is nearly £10 million over the cycle to 2017. In fact, there is investment through Sport England and also the youth and community scheme. Some £1 billion has gone from that scheme into precisely the sports and activities that the noble Lord was referring to, such as basketball.

HL Deb 10 November 2014 c 10-1

[Basketball](#)

Asked by: Lord Moynihan

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to implement any of the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Basketball's report published in July 2014.

Answered by: Lord Gardiner of Kimble | Culture, Media and Sport

The Government is aware of the reach and positive impact that basketball has on many people's lives and is in discussions with Sport England and UK Sport about ways in which we can look to support the sport further.

13 October 2014 | Written question | HL 1632

5. Organisations and further reading

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on Basketball](#)

Basketball All-Party Parliamentary Group, [Inquiry into the ability of basketball to make a difference to the social challenges affecting young people, particularly in the UK's inner cities: report](#), July 2014

[British Wheelchair Basketball](#)

UK Sport, [Wheelchair basketball](#)

[British Basketball](#)

British Basketball and others, [Transforming basketball in Britain together 2016-2028](#), May 2016

[Basketball England](#)

[Basketball Scotland](#)

[Basketball Wales](#)

[FIBA - International Basketball Federation](#)

[Basketball Foundation](#)

[Future of Basketball](#) engagement website

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