

Review of the Balance of Competences

Specific Comments from UK Sport

Introduction

1. UK Sport is the nation's high-performance sports agency. Its mission is to work in partnership to lead sport in the UK to world class success. Primarily this means working with our partner sporting organisations to deliver medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. UK Sport's strategic direction helped British sports and athletes deliver 65 Olympic and 120 Paralympic medals at London 2012. UK Sport also has responsibility for activities best delivered at a UK level, such as: bidding for and staging major sporting events in this country; increasing sporting activity and influence overseas; and promoting sporting conduct, ethics and diversity in society. UK Sport is funded by a mix of Government Exchequer and Lottery income.
2. We believe the two points below will not only be of assistance not only to sports bodies in the UK but across the European Community.

State Aid

3. In December 2012 the European Commission references in its proposal to amend enabling regulations under State Aid to include amateur sports. See http://ec.europa.eu/sport/what-we-do/state-aid_en.htm this is a much welcomed proposal. Any amendment to Council Regulation No 994/98 should clarify the purposes for which aid is granted to the amateur sports (i.e. whether the aid to assist local infrastructure, increase participation in amateur sports, the provision of living, training and education of elite athletes (i.e. Olympic or Paralympic level athletes) and for hosting an international major event¹ by an amateur sport for elite or youth athletes (i.e. such as European or World Championship) and whether the exemption applies to aid provided to unique bodies who support amateur sports such as the British Olympic Association or the British Paralympic Association. A generic reference in amended to the regulations on state will be of no assistance and specific clarity will be needed.

Overseas nationals competing in national competitions

4. Following the European Commission White Paper on Sport date 11 July 2007, the Commission launched a study to analyse the issue of discrimination based on nationality and the limited and proportionate restrictions to the principle of free movement one which was the right to select national athletes for national team competitions. Thus in reference to the report titled: "Study on the equal treatment of non-nationals in individual sports competitions" commissioned by the European Commission (December 2010) see: http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/f-studies/study_equal_treatment_non_nationals_final_rpt_dec_2010_en.pdf

¹ The last EC decision on this matter refers back to 1999 in the case of the Northern Ireland Events Company, SG(99) D/2947 State Aid No. N325/98.

which is informative and helpful it still leaves sporting federations with no real substantial clear guidance on the issue. We appreciate it is a complex issue but clear guidance is needed for sport federations particularly those that under resourced on such matters would be appreciated.