



MEMORANDUM

From: Alan Irwin, Secretary
To: ESF Members
Date: 7th May 2007
Reference: Meeting with Sports Minister, Richard Caborn MP

Following a very productive meeting with the Sports Minister, Richard Caborn, MP, on Monday 30th April, I would just like to give a brief summary of some of the areas we covered.

Essentially, we talked about the work of the ESF. Particularly, programmes around preparing sports people for when they leave their respective sports, moving into other employment and how that work is supported by government funding.

We were able to demonstrate good partnership relations with employers, with examples of the work being carried out with the Professional Boxing Association, at gyms in the North and the South of the country.

The Minister was very keen to inform us of work being invested in with sports people and the communities and into schools. He spoke about the importance of the ESF working in partnership with Skills Active, Sports Coach UK and LSC.

He went on to talk about the fact that 70% of school leavers not continuing with sport. He reported that 3,000 community coaches had been created and the importance of getting professional players into coaching. He believed that it was important to conduct an audit of how many people are playing professional sport and of developing a 'one stop shop'.

He believed that whilst there had been progress with a large number of initiatives, demonstrating early success, there needed to be a more 'joined up' approach. He suggested that volunteering was becoming increasingly important and the more organisations promoting such initiatives would get the backing of the government.

More significantly, he informed the delegation that he had persuaded the LSC to fund courses which did not lead to an accredited qualification, which is quite unique within the current qualifications framework.

It was important that we left the meeting with something to build on for the future. We asked very direct questions of the Minister, about what we could do to support some of the initiatives he referred to and how we could form more positive relations with other organisations, rather than replicate the work and functions of others.

He suggested and we agreed that the ESF should work more closely with other like-minded organisations and he agreed that he would facilitate a meeting within one month, involving GFTU, ESF, LSC, Skills Active and Sports Coach UK.

In return, he asked for information that would assist his department in particular around the new initiative to establish Community Mentors from recognised and committed sports people.

The question was:

How many professional sports people does each of the respective ESF affiliates have in membership?

It would be really helpful, if you could supply this information ASAP, so that we can take up the valuable offer made by the Minister to organise future meetings with those organisations mentioned. Approximate figures will suffice.

Actually, this would greatly assist the ESF in preparation for their strategy meeting in September, when we will be looking at the future of the Forum and the direction affiliates wish it to navigate in the years ahead.

Alan Irwin
Secretary