

A performance overview of sport

Summary impact report (12 month)

The report findings and recommendations

1. The Auditor General's report *A performance overview of sport* was published on 29 April 2008.
2. Audit Scotland's review found that councils are responsible for around 90 per cent of total expenditure on sport (around £558 million a year). Expenditure is targeted at two national outcomes – increasing participation in sport and developing Scotland's elite athletes. But performance in these areas is mixed. Targets for young people's participation are not being met, and adult participation is declining. Performance is better against the target for elite athlete performance. The report identifies that Scotland's sports facilities need investment of around £110 million a year to bring them up to an acceptable standard.
3. The report identifies 6 key risk areas for large complex projects. It notes that arrangements to deliver the 2014 Commonwealth Games were still being developed and that these arrangements will be critical in ensuring the success of the Games and safeguarding the large sums of public money that will be invested.
4. The report made four recommendations for the Scottish Government aimed at better co-ordination of national and local priorities and managing the risks associated with the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Appendix 1 shows how the recommendations relate to the areas of impact.

Media interest in the report

5. Media coverage in the period to the end of February 2009 was:

Coverage (3 months post publication) ¹	Number of references
Press, Radio, TV	53
Web	2716
Total	2769

¹

6. Web downloads from the Audit Scotland website in the twelve months following publication were:

Product	Downloads
Key Messages and Main Report	2382
Podcast	334

Direct impact

Parliamentary scrutiny

Scottish Parliament Public Audit Committee

7. The Scottish Parliament Audit Committee first considered the report on 30 April 2008. The Committee was particularly interested in performance against national targets and the condition of Scotland's sport facilities. The Committee wrote to the Accountable Officer asking for further information. The Committee considered his response at its meeting on 25 June 2008 and agreed to seek further clarification on some points. The Committee considered further information on 12 November and it agreed to write again to the Accountable Officer asking for information on a number of issues raised during the discussion. It also agreed to refer the report to the Health and Sport Committee for consideration as part of its wider enquiry on Pathways into Sport. The Committee considered the Accountable Officer's response at their meeting on 21 January 2009. It agreed to note the response.

Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee

8. On 21 January 2009, the Health and Sport Committee considered the report, the Public Audit Committee's comments and the Accountable Officers response as part of their wider discussion on Pathways into Sport and in particular on school based physical education.

Future Audit Scotland reports

9. The sport overview report has provided a starting point for future Audit Scotland sport related reports. The current study programme includes:

- An Accounts Commission study on council physical recreation services. Scoping started in January 2009 and the team is aiming to take a Project Brief to the Performance Audit Committee meeting on 22 April 2009.
 - A joint AGS and Accounts Commission report on the 2014 Commonwealth Games. This report will examine progress against the 6 risk areas identified in the Sport Overview report. The team is aiming to take a Project Brief to the Performance Audit Committee meeting on 22 April 2009.
10. The forward study programme includes a further AGS/Accounts Commission study or programme of studies on the Commonwealth Games.

Appendix 1 – Summary of anticipated report impact by Audit Scotland’s framework for measuring impact

HOLDING TO ACCOUNT AND HELPING TO IMPROVE				
	Assurance and accountability	Planning and management	Economy and efficiency	Quality and effectiveness
General Impacts				
Considerable media interest generated by the report’s publication	●			
Action taken by the Scottish Parliament Audit Committee	●			
Recommendations				
The Scottish Government should ensure that in its discussions with local government the contribution of sport to achieving national outcomes is recognised.		●		●
The Scottish Government should ensure that improved data on sport is used to guide and evaluate progress towards outcomes that meet national and local priorities.	●	●		

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The Scottish Government should take forward discussions on a Scotland-wide approach to sport facility investment.		●	●	●
The Scottish Government should ensure that the significant risks associated with staging any major sporting or cultural events are properly managed in relation to the 2014 Commonwealth Games.	●	●	●	●