

SSA Response to Scottish Government Draft Budget 2019/20

We support the Scottish Government's Active Scotland Delivery Plan's vision for a nation which is more active, more often. In the Plan, Joe FitzPatrick MSP, Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing recognises that sport and physical activity are "one of the very best things we can do for our physical and mental health".

On behalf of our members, the SSA strongly welcomes the proposal in the Scottish Government Draft Budget 2019-20 to increase investment in sport and physical activity by £0.9m and to continue to underwrite the potential shortfall in lottery funding of up to £3.4m. This budget statement pledges to protect sport investment and, as such, echoes the strong leadership and commitment the Minister outlined as he launched the Active Scotland Delivery Plan earlier this year as well as building upon the positive commitment towards sport and physical activity in last year's budget.

The many [benefits of sport and physical activity](#) have long been recognised, not least an up to 30% increase in overall wellbeing, and the considerable impact on Scottish society as highlighted at the most recent [Cross Party Group on Sport meeting](#).

This budget commitment will continue to support the 900,000 people who are members of Scotland's 13,000 sports clubs – a comparatively small slice of the total budget which directly impacts nearly 20% of the Scottish population.

On behalf of our members we are delighted at this commitment to continue to support, champion and recognise the many benefits of sport and physical activity. We know that the Scottish Government continues to look at opportunities to support longer-term funding throughout the voluntary sector and we welcome this potential to support sport through longer-term investment into sportscotland and our members. We will continue to work with the Scottish Government, **sportscotland** and our members towards our shared vision of more people being more active, more often.