

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
First-tier Tribunal Notice of Appeal**

**Case Reference:** FS50294752

**Date of Decision Notice:** 9th September 2010

**Public Authority:** The UK Sports Council

**Complainant:** Mr. C Zacharides

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

(Section 7 of the Notice of Appeal)

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
First-tier Tribunal Notice of Appeal**

**Case Reference:** FS50294752

**Date of Decision Notice:** 9th September 2010

**Public Authority:** The UK Sports Council

**Complainant:** Mr. C Zacharides

**House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 12 Dec 2006 (pt 0003)**

**Minister for Sport, Richard Caborne MP states in parliament:**

“UK Sport ensures that the governing body UK Athletics has a dedicated performance plan in place and that it is regularly scrutinized, in particular through a monthly meeting with the performance director and regular contact with key performance staff. UK Sport is also actively involved in senior appointments, including the current recruitment of the new CEO and chair for UK Athletics. In addition it has a member of staff with responsibility for monitoring progress in the sport and intervening where appropriate”.

## London Olympics

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of staff in her Department who will spend the majority of their time working on the 2012 Olympics in each year until 2012, broken down by pay band. [105563]

**Mr. Caborn:** Currently my Department employs 37 full-time equivalent staff who spend all or the majority of their time on work related to the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. The breakdown by pay band is shown in the table:

	Number of staff (FTE)	Pay band minimum (£)	Pay band maximum (£)
SCS pay band 3	1	98,000	205,000
SCS pay band 2	1	80,000	160,000
SCS pay band 1	3	55,000	116,000
A (U)	3.5	48,000	62,000
A	8.88	41,125	52,025
B	14	26,500	34,675
C	3	20,425	24,550
D	3	16,150	19,885

### 12 Dec 2006 : Column 922W

Staffing needs are subject to regular review and the number of staff included in work related to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will reflect these needs.

**Mr. Hoban:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of (a) the number of staff who do not fall into the Department's pay band structure which her Department will employ to work predominantly on the 2012 Olympics in each year until 2012 and (b) the total amount that her Department will pay in salaries to these staff. [105564]

**Mr. Caborn:** There are six external agency employees currently employed by my Department to work predominately on the London 2012 Olympics. Future numbers, duration of employment and cost of such staff will be determined by need.

**Mr. Hayes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she plans to take to increase the medal take by British athletics during the 2012 Olympics; and at what estimated cost. [108308]

**Mr. Caborn:** UK Sport, the Government's high performance sports agency, is closely involved in the development of the sport of athletics as it seeks to increase its medal potential in the lead up to both Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

UK Sport ensures that the governing body UK Athletics has a dedicated performance plan in place and that it is regularly scrutinized, in particular through a monthly meeting with the performance director and regular contact with key performance staff. UK Sport is also actively involved in senior appointments, including the current recruitment of the new CEO and chair for UK Athletics. In addition it has a member of staff with responsibility for monitoring progress in the sport and intervening where appropriate.

To support this activity, in April this year, UK Sport announced a funding increase of £1,591,000 to UK Athletics to cover athlete preparation and training for the period 2006 to 2009. This takes the total investment in Athletics in that period to £20,377,000. While the majority of that funding is geared towards supporting athlete success at the Beijing Olympic games, a proportion will also be used to ensure that talented athletes are identified and developed ahead of London 2012. Investment in athletics for the period 2009 to 2013 (the London Olympic cycle) will be determined following the Beijing games in early 2009.

**Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation her Department is undertaking in connection with Olympic training camps. [108628]

**Mr. Caborn:** My Department has not been directly involved in consultation with Olympic Training Camps.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) is preparing a Pre-Games Training Guide, for National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees, in which facilities that they have approved as providing a

**12 Dec 2006 : Column 923W**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm061212/text/61212w0003.htm>

2/27/07

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
First-tier Tribunal Notice of Appeal**

**Case Reference:** FS50294752

**Date of Decision Notice:** 9th September 2010

**Public Authority:** The UK Sports Council

**Complainant:** Mr. C Zacharides

**House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts  
UK Sport: Supporting elite athletes  
HC898 Published on 18 July 2006**

**In the evidence section, in answer to question 15, Dame Sue Street DCB,  
Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture Media and Sport states:**

“UK Sport now has responsibility for talented athletes eight years away from the podium”.

---

 Department for Culture, Media and Sport and UK Sport
 

---

Taekwondo, weight-lifting and shooting have had funding at a similar level but, again, reductions in the number of athletes who are funded. All sports which under-performed in Athens have felt that through the funding investment decisions for Beijing.

**Q10 Chairman:** Do you think it is a good idea to support athletes who are outside the top 10 in the world?

**Ms Nicholl:** Our focus is on supporting athletes who have the potential to bridge the gap to the podium within a four-year cycle. They may be outside the top 10 in the world now, but if within four years they can bridge the gap and there is performance evidence to show that, then we shall fund those athletes.

**Q11 Chairman:** If we look at figure 10 on page 23, we see that some countries give performance bonuses to athletes. I am not suggesting that I am necessarily in favour of that, but have you considered it?

**Ms Nicholl:** Yes, we have considered it, and in fact we think there is a place for performance bonuses. However, within the limited budget that we have available we feel that that priority for us has to be to support athletes to get within sight of the podium as opposed to rewarding them when they get there. Our current athlete personal award scheme has a balance of an increased amount when they are performing better, so there is an incentive there within the current athlete personal award scheme. A bonus scheme should be just that, a bonus. We think it would best be supported through the commercial sector as opposed to public funding and we have actually talked to the BOA about talking a lead in this respect.

**Q12 Chairman:** Can we look please at paragraphs 3.13 and 3.14 on page 30? This is looking at the major championships leading up to the Olympics. Why did you overstate your performance against target by including in your results medals won in events not taken into account in setting the target? Is this like comparing apples and pears?

**Ms Nicholl:** We accept the criticism of the NAO Report and we apologise for the error. This is not normal practice and this has not happened since this Report was published. What happened here was that we had targets that were collated in one part of the organisation, the performance directorate. At that particular point, we also had results collated from a research function. So both sets of figures were correct, but put together, they presented an incorrect picture and that we have corrected now in terms of procedures internally and full accountability and responsibility lies within the performance directorate.

**Q13 Chairman:** Dame Sue, may I ask you one question please? If you look at paragraphs 3.12 to 3.14 on pages 29 and 30, you will see there is some doubt about whether UK Sport reports its performance fully and accurately. Why have you not ensured that they do so?

**Dame Sue Street:** I also apologise to the Committee. This was an error. It was exactly as the NAO says, that medals won in events not covered by the targets were wrongly included. We have a much fiercer regime now. We meet quarterly and we have ensured that all the data is collected in one place, is presented and is tabulated exactly according to the targets.

**Q14 Chairman:** Just one last question, which perhaps Dame Sue you may want to answer on behalf of the taxpayer or the lottery player. We are going to be spending £97 million on supporting elite athletes at Beijing, is that figure right?

**Dame Sue Street:** Yes.

**Ms Nicholl:** Yes, it is.

**Q15 Chairman:** Are you aware of the Olympic ideal, the words of Baron de Coubertin? What is it? It is not winning, but taking part. Why are we concentrating resources on a few elite athletes? Why not just help sport generally? It is not winning, but taking part, surely.

**Dame Sue Street:** There is certainly one view about public money, which is that you should invest with the best chance of success. What this money does is enable those with the best chance of success to take part with the best chance of winning and, indeed, that is the main tenor of this Report, that UK Sport needs to make some tough decisions in order to look at where the money is best invested. I completely agree with those who say, including this report, that medals are not the only yardstick and we have to look at the potential. UK Sport now has responsibility for talented athletes eight years away from the podium, so that gives a longer view of those who should be taking part. In the end, of course you have to make public money work for public value and part of that is definitely the medals and that is what we feel is in the public interest.

**Q16 Chairman:** May I put the same question to you Ms Nicholl? The country which historically spent most of its budget on trying to win medals was East Germany where the quality of life for most citizens was absolutely dire. What is in winning medals for the general public apart from prestige? Why are we not spending more of this money on local swimming pools, for instance?

**Ms Nicholl:** I would say that between five and nine million people watched Kelly Holmes win a gold medal and Steve Redgrave win a medal and why was there such a fantastic impact when we won the Ashes and the Rugby World Cup? It really does have a huge impact on people in this country in motivating them to participate in sport and compete in sport. That is why we do it. We like winners and that is what we are investing in and success comes at a price.

**Chairman:** I thought you might say that, but I thought it was worth asking anyway.

**Q17 Mr Khan:** It could be argued presumably that Kelly Holmes inspired more people than Eddie the Eagle. May I ask, in that context, why boxing is not listed here as one of those sports which gets funding?

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
First-tier Tribunal Notice of Appeal**

**Case Reference:** FS50294752

**Date of Decision Notice:** 9th September 2010

**Public Authority:** The UK Sports Council

**Complainant:** Mr. C Zacharides

**House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts  
UK Sport: Supporting elite athletes  
HC898 Published on 18 July 2006**

**In the evidence section, in answer to question 5, Liz Nicholl MBE, Director of Performance at UK Sport states:**

“In terms of athletics, we have worked closely with athletics over the last 12 months. In particular, there is a new performance director now in the lead role in athletics who started last March. We required a new performance plan from athletics for the period between now and Beijing. That performance plan has been received. It has been reviewed by partners in the performance environment and accepted and is now being rolled out. There is a challenge in terms of change in athletics as well, because they are reviewing athletics in the UK. There is a new England Athletics; there is a new chief executive of England Athletics; there is a new disability manager in athletics, a whole host of changes over the last 12 months. Fifteen per cent of the medals available in the Games are in athletics; we absolutely need this sport to perform.”

**These are not the words of an individual who will allow a subordinate organisation like UK Athletics to dictate what is, and what is not confidential.**

**UK Sport the former drug testers have history in the telling of lies to protect their status in managing huge sums of public money. They must not be allowed to avoid proper scrutiny.**

# Oral evidence

---

## Taken before the Committee of Public Accounts

on Monday 6 February 2006

Members present:

Mr Edward Leigh, in the Chairman

Mr Richard Bacon  
Greg Clark  
Mr Sadiq Khan

Mr Austin Mitchell  
Mr Alan Williams

**Sir John Bourn KCB**, Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit Office, was in attendance.

**Mr Marius Gallaher**, Alternate Treasury Officer of Accounts, HM Treasury, was in attendance.

### REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL

#### UK SPORT: SUPPORTING ELITE ATHLETES (HC 182)

Witnesses: **Dame Sue Street DCB**, Permanent Secretary, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, **Liz Nicholl MBE**, Director of Performance and Acting Accounting Officer, UK Sport and **Mr Peter Keen OBE**, Performance Adviser, UK Sport, gave evidence.

**Q1 Chairman:** Good afternoon, welcome to the Committee of Public Accounts where today we are looking at *UK Sport: Supporting elite athletes*. We are joined by witnesses from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Dame Sue Street, who is the Permanent Secretary, and, from UK Sport, Ms Liz Nicholl, who is Director of Performance and Acting Accounting Officer and Mr Peter Keen, who is a Performance Adviser. Ms Nicholl, what is your target for the Winter Olympics in terms of medals?

**Ms Nicholl:** For the Winter Olympics we are targeting between two and three medals. We are funding five disciplines in the Winter Olympics. Our targeting is always based on medal potential and we should expect about 50% of those, hopefully, to come in.

**Q2 Chairman:** And which disciplines are they?

**Ms Nicholl:** The disciplines are curling, women's bobsleigh, bob skeleton, skiing and one more—speed skating.

**Q3 Chairman:** Nothing in alpine sports then?

**Ms Nicholl:** We are not doing biathlon but we are funding skiing.

**Q4 Chairman:** But you are not planning to win anything.

**Ms Nicholl:** We are funding 14 athletes across those sports. Our best medal prospects are actually in curling, either men's or women's, and in women's bobsleigh, because women's bobsleigh are currently silver medallists at world championship level.

**Q5 Chairman:** Just to go back to our performance in recent Olympics, could you please look at paragraph 4.24 on page 37? Could you tell us what action you now expect from athletics in the light of its disappointing performances in recent years?

**Ms Nicholl:** In terms of athletics, we have worked closely with athletics over the last 12 months. In particular, there is a new performance director now in the lead role in athletics who started last March. We required a new performance plan from athletics for the period between now and Beijing. That performance plan has been received. It has been reviewed by partners in the performance environment and accepted and is now being rolled out. There is a challenge in terms of change in athletics as well, because they are reviewing athletics in the UK. There is a new England Athletics; there is a new chief executive of England Athletics; there is a new disability manager in athletics, a whole host of changes over the last 12 months. Fifteen per cent of the medals available in the Games are in athletics; we absolutely need this sport to perform.

**Q6 Chairman:** You had a target of seven at Athens, did you not, and you only won four and two of those four were won by one person?

**Ms Nicholl:** Which is why the change has been implemented since.

**Q7 Chairman:** Are you going to cut funding for sports which won no medals at all at Athens?

**Ms Nicholl:** We already have reduced funding for sports which had no medals at all in Athens. There was a group of them.

**Q8 Chairman:** Six Olympic sports and four Paralympic sports won no medals, is that right?

**Ms Nicholl:** Yes.

**Q9 Chairman:** Remind me which they were?

**Ms Nicholl:** Judo, triathlon and gymnastics won no medals. Taekwondo, weight lifting and shooting won no medals on the Olympic side. Judo, triathlon and gymnastics have had funding reductions and reductions in the number of athletes who are funded.