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Mr Mijail Linares
fyi-request-7143-f1811d98@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Linares

Official Information Act 1982 request – High Performance Funding

This letter responds to your email Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 4 June 2018 regarding the Government funding of high performance Sport.

Attached in appendix one is a response to your OIA request.

If you would like to discuss this response further please contact Dr Alice Hume, Manager Policy by email at policy@sportnz.org.nz.

Please note that if you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA.

Yours sincerely

Peter Miskimmin
Chief Executive



Appendix One: OIA response

Background

Sport NZ has recently released the results of our Active NZ Survey 2017 which can be found at the following weblink: <https://sportnz.org.nz/managing-sport/search-for-a-resource/research/active-nz-survey-2017>. This is the first Active NZ survey in four years – and the first ever to include both young people and adults. Its findings provide important insights into the changing landscape of participation in sport and active recreation in New Zealand.

In response to your request where appropriate we have set out the sections within the survey that relate to the questions you have raised.

Could you please state how the "positive contribution to New Zealand's national identity and pride" is 'currently' being measured, and how it compares to years after the survey?

Answer:

Within the Active NZ Survey 2017 we have the following related question.

- Section G: Your attitudes towards physical activity, Question 7, Part 6: "I feel proud when New Zealand athletes or sports teams do well"

Could you please state how HPSNZ specific contribution to "inspire New Zealanders to take up a sport or increase their physical activity and the associated social and health benefits as a result" is currently being measured?

Answer:

We do not measure the specific contribution from HPSNZ on its own, as it not possible to separate out the direct (e.g. investment into specific sports, equipment, etc...) and indirect benefits (e.g. more capable coaches, training techniques, facilities, etc...).

Could you please indicate how this influence is being tracked, how often, and what is the current trend?

Answer:

We measure New Zealanders perceptions as to whether successful athletes or sports teams inspire New Zealanders to be more physically active within our Active NZ survey. This is being tracked through the question below.

- Section G: Your attitudes towards physical activity, Question 7, Part 5: "Successful New Zealand athletes and sports teams inspire me to be more physically active"

How is the promotion of the New Zealand brand with our trading partners and global tourism market, through success on the world stage by New Zealand athletes and teams being currently measured? Is there a specific metric? i.e. medals won per some economic quantifier, medals won per tourist arrival increase.

Answer:

We do not currently measure this, and no specific metric has been established/developed for this. However, it cannot be underestimated the opportunity high performance sport events, such as the America's Cup, Olympics, Paralympics and Rugby World Cup, provide for New Zealand Minister's New Zealand businesses, and VIPs to meet with influential international representatives and other Government Minister's within a short timeframe.

How does HPSNZ respond to the view of most independent academics studies: that there is very little evidence that professional sports contribute to the increase in physical activity?

Answer:

HPSNZ recognises that the limited academic studies conducted to date provide little evidence that professional sports contribute to an increase in physical activity. HPSNZ and Sport NZ also recognise that the studies conducted have predominantly looked at wide scale impacts, and that this may not reflect where and how the impact occurs e.g. recent research is looking at the impact of professional sports at community levels where facilities are constructed or based.