

Association of GB Athletic Clubs

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18th December 2014

Mr Phil Smith
Director of Sport, Sport England
21 Bloomsbury Street, London W01B 3HF

Dear *Mr Smith*,

Your Great North Run Foundation (GNRF) Grant

Further to my letter of the 7th November I write to deal with the subject of reduced funding for grass roots athletics.

First of all let me state that ABAC applauds Sport England's plans to reduce funding to NGB's. Many of the problems facing athletics today result from years of overfunding which have resulted in spectacular growth in bureaucracy and staff numbers at British Athletics and England Athletics.

We would hope that reduced funding would result in a major contraction of these opaque and unaccountable organisations. To date this has not happened. On the contrary funding to Sports Hall athletics and club Networks has been slashed. In addition to this cost cutting England Athletics has decided to increase club and athlete Affiliation Fees from 1st April 2015 in order to balance its books. EA claim the clubs supported an increase in fees but you will see from the attached ABAC article that this process was totally flawed

The funding required to re-instate Sports Hall and club Networks is of an order similar to the monies you have granted to the Nova Group. ABAC's questioning of Sport England's funding decisions are fair comment. Networks and Sports Hall increase participation and retention as well as generating future coaches and officials.

ABAC respectfully claims that supporting clubs is a better use of lottery funding.

Yours in sport

William Laws

W R Laws, Chairman ABAC

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