



UK Deaf Sport
c/o Kings Chartered Accountants,
Unit 4 Groveland's, Boundary Way,
Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7TE
admin@ukds.org.uk | www.ukdeafsport.org.uk
Company No: 8611744 | Charity No: 1158878

UK Deaf Sport Deaf Talent Pathway Ecosystem Specification

UK Deaf Sport

There are 12 million people in the UK with some form of deafness¹, or one in six of the population, but only 10% regularly participate in sport and physical activity – less than any other disability. UK Deaf Sport is recognised by Government as the National Federation for Deaf Sport in the UK responsible for DeaflympicsGB and international deaf sport.

UK Deaf Sport's vision is:

Every Deaf Person Active and Inspired by Sport and Physical Activity

UK Deaf Sport's Mission is:

Leading Opportunities for more Deaf People to participate in Sport Throughout their Lives and More Deaf Athletes to Perform on the World Stage

UK Deaf Sport delivers its vision through three key strategic objectives:

- Leadership - leading the sector and supporting/strengthening strategic, well governed leadership for Deaf Sport and physical activity.
- Performance – more deaf Athletes winning Medals on the World Stage.
- Participation - more deaf people trying, playing and supporting sport and physical activity

Deaf Sport and the Deaflympics

There is a common misconception that deaf athletes compete as part of the Paralympic Games, however, this is not the case. Deaf athletes are not included in any of the Paralympic classifications and so consequently cannot compete unless they have another Paralympic disability. Deaf athletes compete in the Deaflympics, an event started in 1924 that precedes the Paralympics and is an entirely separate event recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as part of the Olympic family.

¹ RNID prevalence estimates using Office for National Statistics population data (2018).



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DeaflympicsGB

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Funding and support, through DCMS, are provided for athletes for the IOC sanctioned Olympics, Paralympics, and Special Olympics at c£400m. Unlike other disabilities, there is currently no Government funding, support, or sporting talent pathway for talented deaf²:athletes training for and attending the Deaflympics³ and other elite deaf sport competitions. This presents significant inequality to the deaf community in the UK

Mainstreaming deaf athletes to compete at the Olympics or Paralympics is failing. Internationally, very few deaf athletes successfully compete in mainstream sporting competitions. No GB deaf athletes have recently competed at the Olympics or Paralympics.

UK Deaf Sport advocates that a policy change is required by the UK Government to tackle this inequality bias creating a strong and successful deaf athlete talent and performance pathway for athletes to compete at the highest elite level, and inspire the deaf community to engage in sport and activity

UK Deaf Sport is therefore recommending that Government:

1. Reviews its Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy towards deaf athletes in line with the UK Government tackling inequalities agenda and implements a policy change that closes the significant equality and inclusion bias that exists
2. Funds the current gap in an athlete talent and performance pathway for deaf athletes to achieve elite sporting success by competing at the Deaflympics at the same level as able-bodied Olympic and Paralympic athletes.
3. Builds on the success of the inclusive Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, by hosting world class, international deaf sporting events in the UK.

UK Deaf Sport is in discussions with DCMS regarding these recommendations. As part of this work UK Deaf Sport need to outline what a sustainable deaf athlete talent and performance pathway to elite level looks like and an estimate of what funding is needed to implement these pathways and send a GB Team to the Deaflympics.

² UK Deaf Sport uses the term 'deaf' in this paper to cover a range of potential definitions of deafness, including those who are profoundly deaf, have significant hearing loss or are hard of hearing. It is acknowledged that definitions and understanding of Deaf and deafness can be complex. Within the deaf community there are perceptions around the level of deafness where some who are completely deaf consider themselves to be different compared to those with hearing loss. This also includes the use of the terms Deaf and deaf whereby the use of a capital D in Deaf can denote those who identify as having a cultural and shared experience of being Deaf, usually with profound or little hearing and may use sign language, whereas the use of lowercase d in deaf can refer to those who have both a significant hearing loss or are hard of hearing.

³ The Deaflympic was founded in 1924, IOC sanctioned and premier sporting competition for deaf people. Athletes need hearing loss greater than 55dB in their better ear and cannot use hearing aids or implants.



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Requirements

UK Deaf Sport is seeking costed proposals from experienced consultants/companies to detail options of evidence based, sustainable deaf athlete talent and performance pathways to elite level and an estimate of what funding is needed to implement these pathways and send a GB Team to the Deaflympics. This systems-based approach must detail the full ecosystem for deaf sport in Great Britain showing pathways from grassroots through to elite level and the Deaflympics including:

- Deaf athlete talent and performance pathways at all levels including Home Nations.
- A full sustainable, systems-based approach to implementing the pathways including the roles and responsibilities of different partners in the sporting landscape such as National Governing Bodies, UK Sport and others.
- An estimate of the funding required to implement the pathways and send a GB team to the Deaflympics.

This work must be evidence based and show the network of partners and interconnected systems for deaf athletes through to the Deaflympics.

The UK Deaf Sport Board meets on 5pm on 25th January 2023 and the successful consultant/company will be required to give an overview of their proposed approach and any initial findings at this meeting.

The costed proposal must include:

- Information about the consultant/company.
- Overview of the consultants/company's track record, expertise and experience undertaking similar work and particularly work with deaf sport.
- Identification of the process and/or methodologies which the consultant/company will use and the timescales to achieve the timelines identified below.
- Breakdown of the costs associated.
- Outline of any value-added which the consultant/company can bring to the project.
- Two client reference contacts with permissions for UK Deaf Sport to contact prior to the consultant being offered the contract

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This work should be completed, and the report delivered to UK Deaf Sport by **5pm on 17th February 2023**.

UK Deaf Sport have a budget for this work of £8,000.

Please send your costed proposal to UK Deaf Sport CEO Joanne Cholerton by **5pm on 4th January 2023** at joanne.cholerton@ukds.org.uk. If you would like to discuss this specification, please contact Joanne via this email.

UK Deaf Sport is a small charity with very limited resources and consideration will be given to organisations who will sponsor part of this work or provide support for a discounted rate.

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