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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
 Welsh Assembly Government

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In the plenary session on 12 May 2010 I promised to provide you with an up-date on activities around the 2010 Ryder Cup and the 2012 London Olympics and the legacy benefits of those events.

With regard to the Ryder Cup, a Legacy Fund was established in 2005 with the aim of making golf more accessible to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to play the game. To date over 20 projects have already received funding of nearly £1.3million. With almost half the projects located in Mid or North Wales the 'all-Wales' benefits of hosting the Ryder Cup certainly are being realised.

Additionally clubs all across Wales have also seen an increase in visitor numbers ahead of the event this year, with a total of 184,000 visitors in 2009 – an 11% increase on 2008 and a 15% increase in green fee expenditure.

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to maximising the benefits associated with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Major Events Unit coordinates this effort in support of the Wales Steering Group for the 2012 Games Chaired by Gareth Hall and as part of the UK-wide London 2012 Nations and regions Group. Dedicated staff are in place to attract and support visiting teams and to encourage the involvement of people across Wales as part of the Cultural Olympiad and Inspire Mark programme. And I'm also delighted that up to 17 Olympic football matches will be staged at the Millennium Stadium. If LOCOG achieve their aims on ticketing this will bring a very significant number of additional visitors to Wales and further enhance the international reputation and profile of the nation.

As a good example of Legacy Pre Games Training camps provide the opportunity to raise the profile of the Games in Wales and the profile of Wales in the World through sustainable sporting, cultural and economic relationships with those countries that come to Wales. To date, multi-sport Paralympic teams from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have

decided to carry out their immediate pre Games training in Wales involving around 500 athletes and support staff. Australia and South Africa will base their teams in Cardiff and Newport whilst New Zealand will predominantly be based in Swansea. All 3 nations are enthusiastic about developing sporting, educational and cultural links with Wales.

Additionally the Welsh Assembly Government is shortly to announce details of the first Olympic team that will be based in Wales as well as multi nation sports specific preparation camp involving over 100 athletes and coaches.

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