

NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY 18TH JULY 2023



STATEMENT: COMMONWEALTH GAMES SCOTLAND EXPRESS SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT VICTORIA WITHDRAWAL

Commonwealth Games Scotland is shocked to learn the news of the Victorian Government's decision to withdraw from hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

On the back of a very successful Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games for both Team Scotland and the Commonwealth Sport Movement in general, our preparations were well underway for selecting, preparing and sending a team to Australia in three years' time.

The Games is the only opportunity for many athletes to compete under the Scottish flag, and we know how much that means to them, our sports and supporters. We share their disappointment with today's announcement and recognise the uncertainty it creates for all parties.

We will now take the time to assess its implications and await further news from the Commonwealth Games Federation on options for the Games in 2026.

- ENDS -

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

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About Commonwealth Games Scotland

- Commonwealth Games Scotland is one of 71 Commonwealth Games Associations who are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation.
- Commonwealth Games Scotland is the lead body for Commonwealth sport in Scotland, and is the organisation responsible for selecting, preparing and leading Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.
- The Commonwealth Games is the only multi-sport event in which Scots can compete as Scotland.

- Scotland has competed in every Games since the first Empire Games in 1930 and has hosted the Games three times: - twice in Edinburgh 1970 and 1986 and most recently in Glasgow in 2014.
- Scotland's most successful Games were at home at Glasgow 2014, when Team Scotland won a record 53 medals (19 gold, 15 silver and 19 bronze) to finish fourth on the medal table.
- Working closely with Scotland's national governing bodies of sport and the **sportscotland** institute of sport, Commonwealth Games Scotland aims to have the best prepared team possible at every Games, creating the right performance environment and giving athletes every opportunity to excel at the Games, as part of a world class sporting system.
- Commonwealth Games Scotland and its member sports rely on investment, including National Lottery support, from **sportscotland**, the national agency for sport. CGS also actively seeks additional support for team preparations from commercial partners, fundraising activities and the Commonwealth Games Endowment Trust.