**Suggested letter template –**

Please feel free to use or adapt this sample letter and email to: budgetconsultation@dcalni.gov.uk and cc to budgetconsultation@dfpni.gov.uk before the consultation deadline of **29 December 2014**.

Please also send a copy to your local MLA.

**Northern Ireland Executive**

**Budget Consultation 2015-16**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**I ask the Northern Ireland Executive to make no cuts to sport in the 2015-16 budget**

In response to the public consultation on the draft budget for 2015-16, I would like to highlight my concerns about the negative impact that the proposed budget will have on the sports sector in Northern Ireland. This impact will not only be detrimental for the 2015-16 period but will also have a longer term negative effect within the sector for subsequent years, so putting at risk all of the sound work already achieved in this area.

Investment in sport provides benefits throughout Northern Ireland. It contributes to health, fitness and wellbeing, to education and skills, growing the economy, and promoting social inclusion. Due to the heavy dependence on volunteers it is known that small changes in funding of the sporting sector lead to large changes in the delivery and impacts of activity.

Any reduction in the sports budget will have serious implications on the delivery of key interventions which positively improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland from our youngest to our eldest. Disability Sport and outdoor recreation will be affected and as a result will have a damaging impact on levels of social exclusion. The sports club, often the lifeblood of many communities particularly those in more remote locations, may also be threatened. Vital work in the area of mental health and wellbeing may be put at risk at a time when interventions to improve this area are more important than ever.

I have serious concerns that any cut to the sports budget will seriously impact on the very many specific benefits to be gained through the delivery of sports interventions across Northern Ireland.

I wish this correspondence to be formally recorded as part of the public consultation on the draft budget.

Yours sincerely,

[TYPE YOUR NAME HERE]