

# Scope of Consultation \*



## In Scope

- Men's and Women's National Teams at all ages –
- Men's Professional Teams and Women's Professional Teams
- Men's Academies and Women's development
- SRC

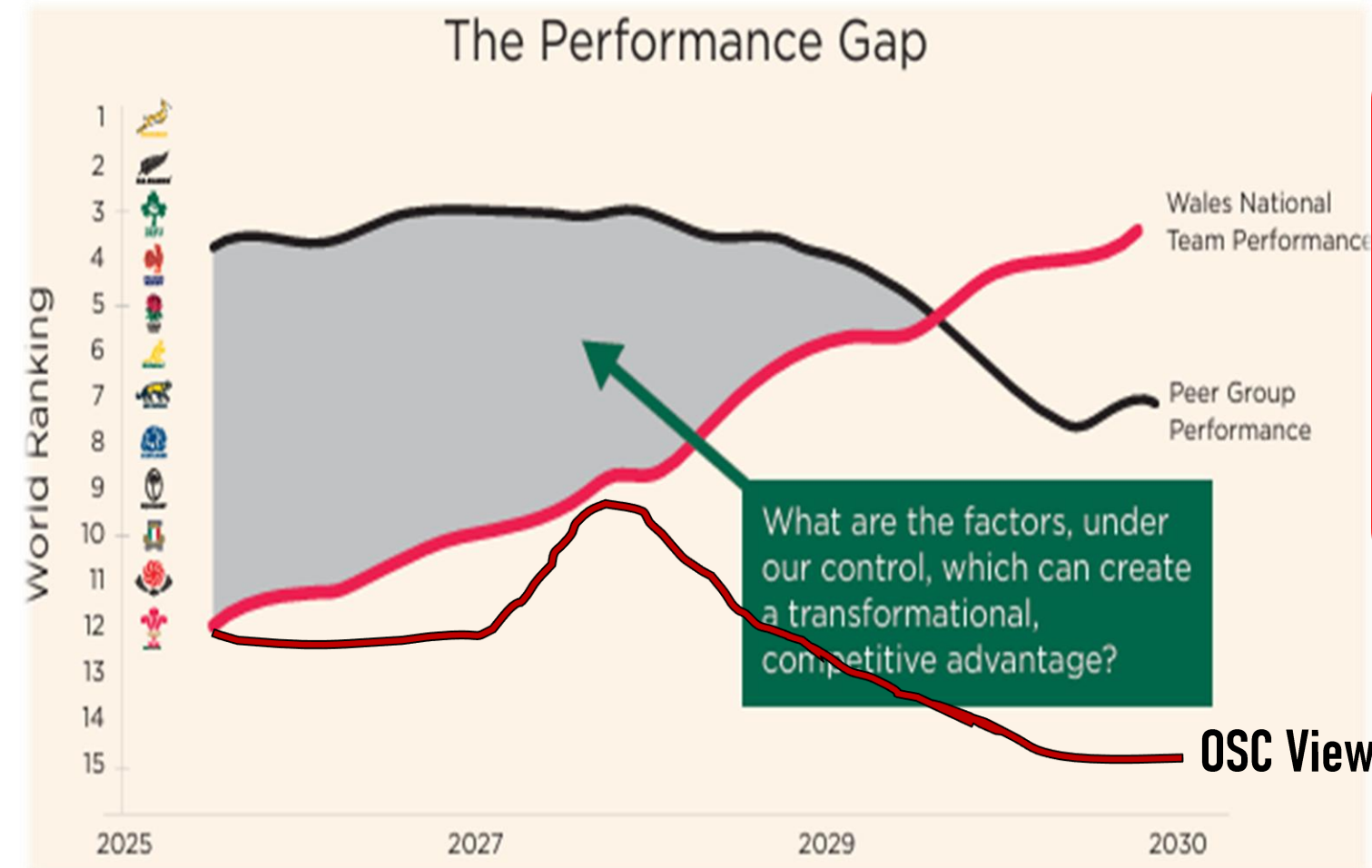
## Out of Scope

- Community Game
- Schools Rugby

# Optimal Solution: Performance Gap



The Performance Gap



## Concerns

- Fictional, aspirational, data driven?
- Assumes improvement from start of the 25-26 season
- Assumes other countries stand still
- *"From low ranked teams to genuine 'wild card' World Cup winners"*

# Alternative Models: Funding evaluation



## Observations

- Revenue growth & alternative funding is not mentioned in the Consultation Document (see “Other Factors or Considerations” slides)

## Concerns

- Funding guarantees and accuracy of the latest funding forecasts
  - Competitiveness of proposed budgets with a condensed player base.
- Direct funding investment to professional teams decreases as the number of clubs is reduced. For example, Model A is a total of £23.8m, Model B is a total of £20.7m, Model C is a total of £19.2m and Model D is a total of £16m.

# Alternative Models: Playing Minutes / NWQ



## Observations

- Inconsistencies in numbers (or how they are being used in calculations)
- NWQ argument is more nuanced than the consultation document outlines.

## Concerns

- 2 club model has 45 total players per club or 50?
- Assumptions made over number for NWQP for 4 teams significantly different to 3 and 2 club options, distorting matchday spots and minutes significantly
- Shuffling players between 2 teams could further alienate supporter base and will demotivate players when moved without or against their wishes (and potentially leave Wales). Supporters support teams.

# Alternative Models: RAG status assessment

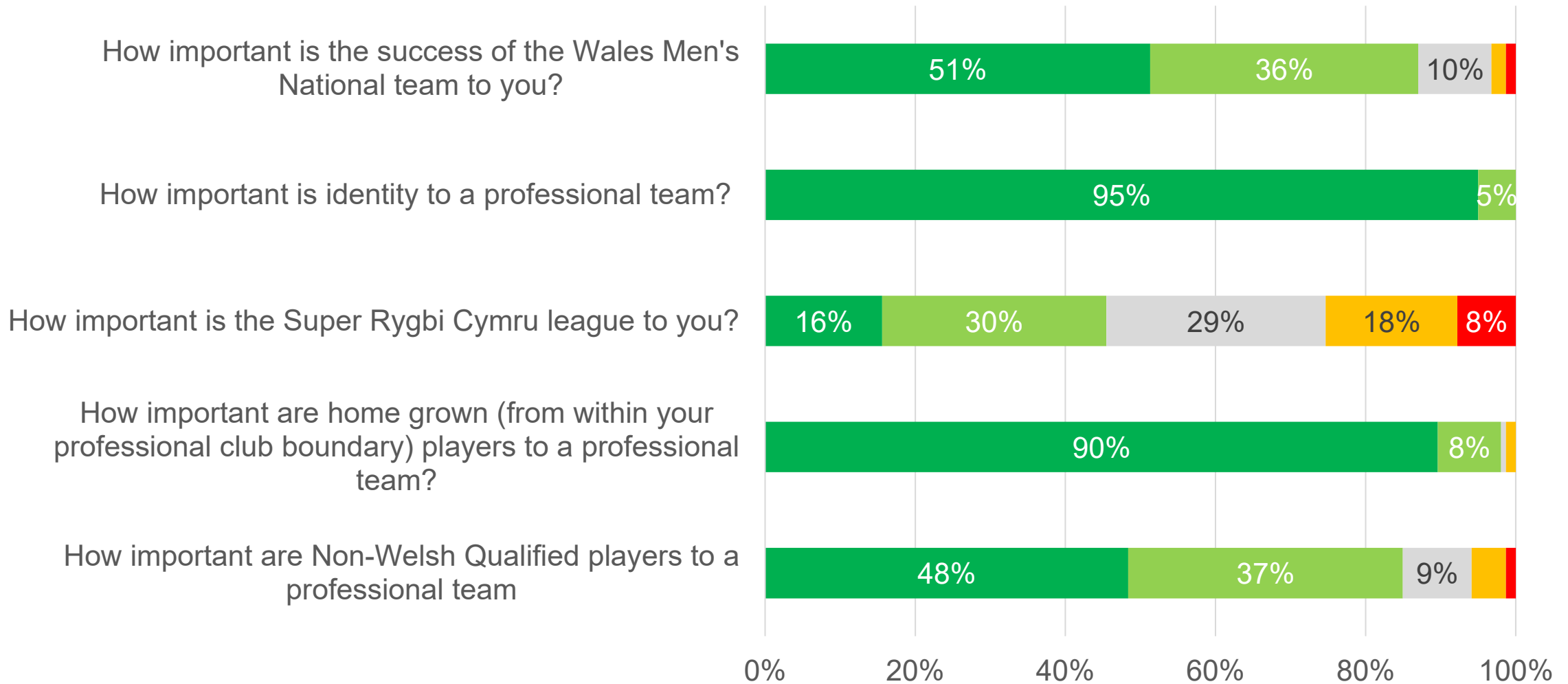


Models	High Performance	Commercial	Feasibility
<b>Model A:</b> 4 clubs; unequal funding (2+2 model)			
<b>Model B:</b> 3 clubs; equal funding			
<b>Model C:</b> 3 clubs; unequal funding (2+1 model)			
<b>Model D:</b> 2 clubs; equal funding			

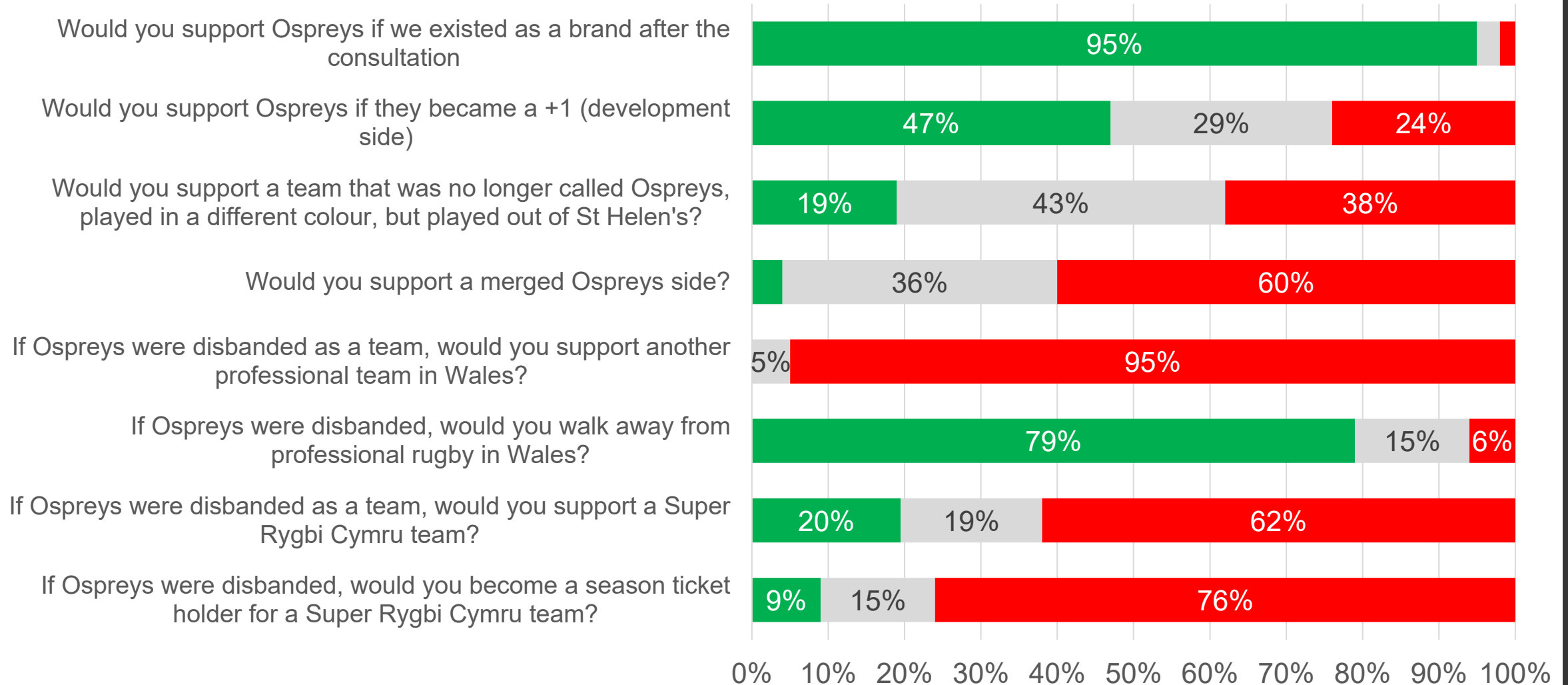
# OSC Survey Feedback



- Extremely important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat not important
- Extremely not important



# OSC Survey Feedback



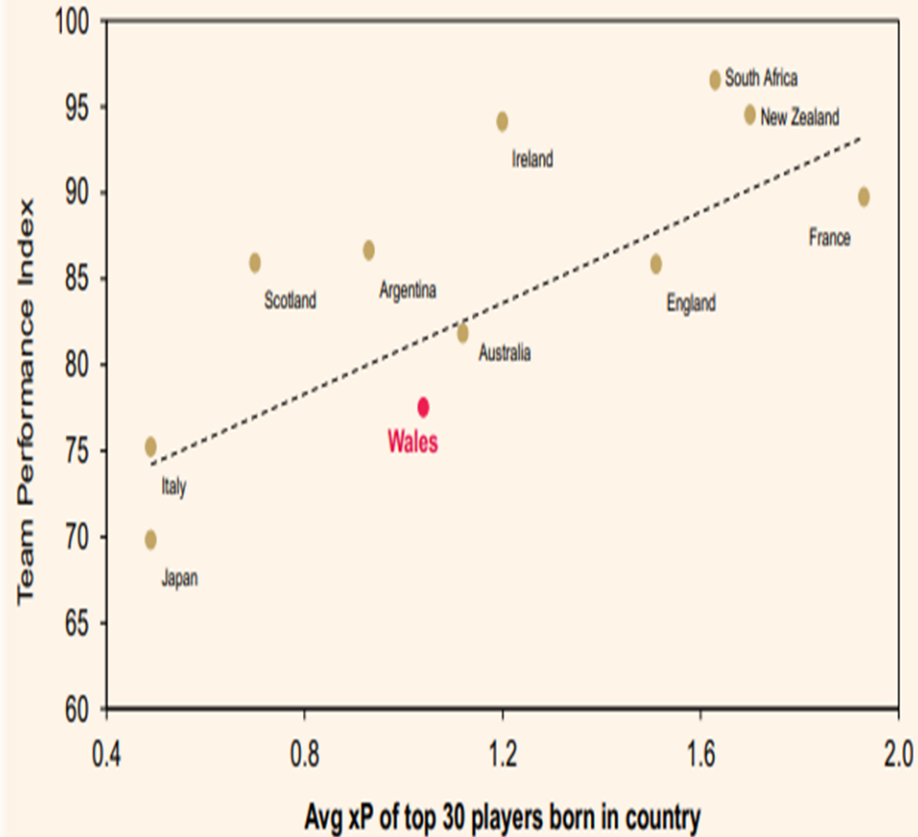
# Revenue growth & funding questions



- **Revenue growth is not considered in the consultation document**

- If PRA25 had been signed by all four teams, what impact would this have on any of the changes proposed in the consultation?
- What's happening with the national stadium naming rights?
- Are the WRU actively looking for investors to take control of Cardiff during the consultation period?

# Supporting Information



- There is a correlation between the average quality of a country's top players and its national team's performance rating
- Wales is performing below the level expected given the quality of elite players available
- South Africa, Ireland and Scotland are currently overachieving given their elite talent pool

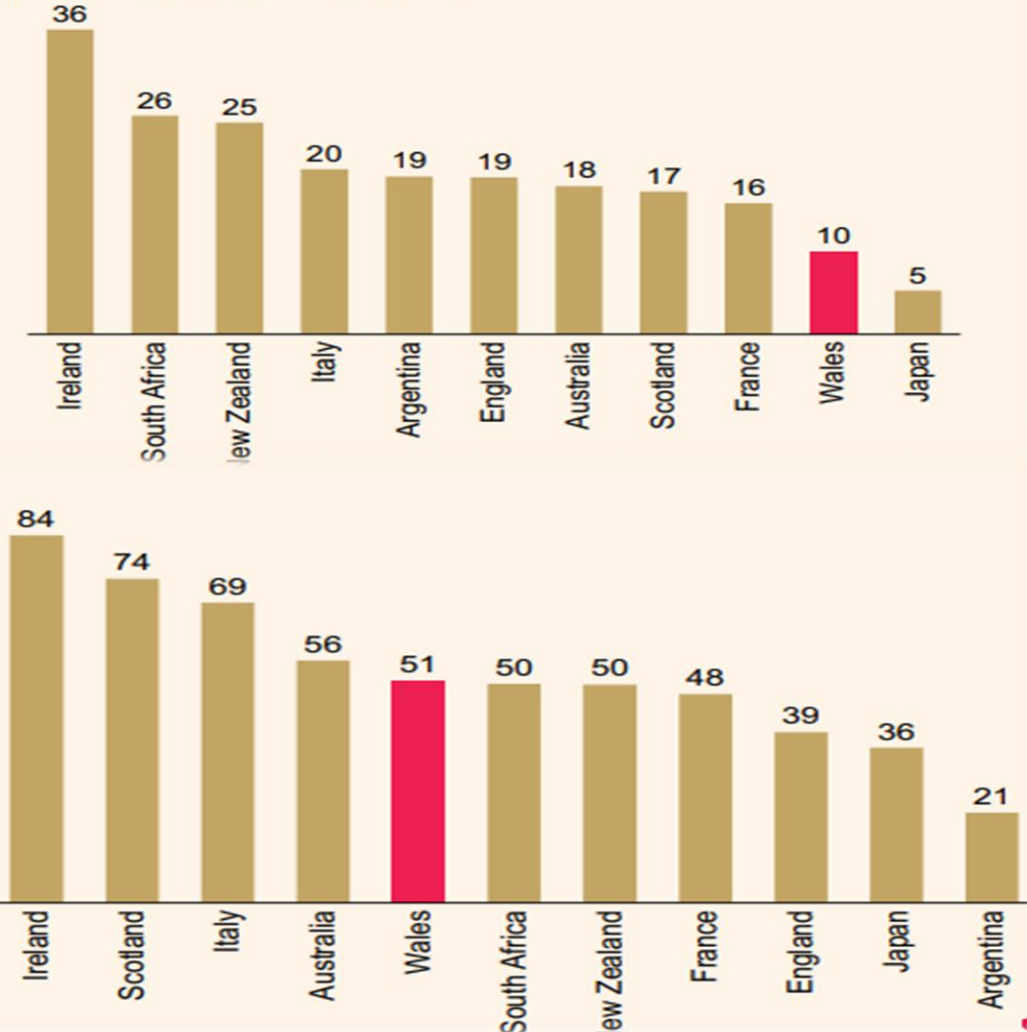
- A measure of the performance of the national coaching setup & structure more than the players performance?
- Questions selection & tactics?

# Supporting Information



## Team cohesion index (2024)

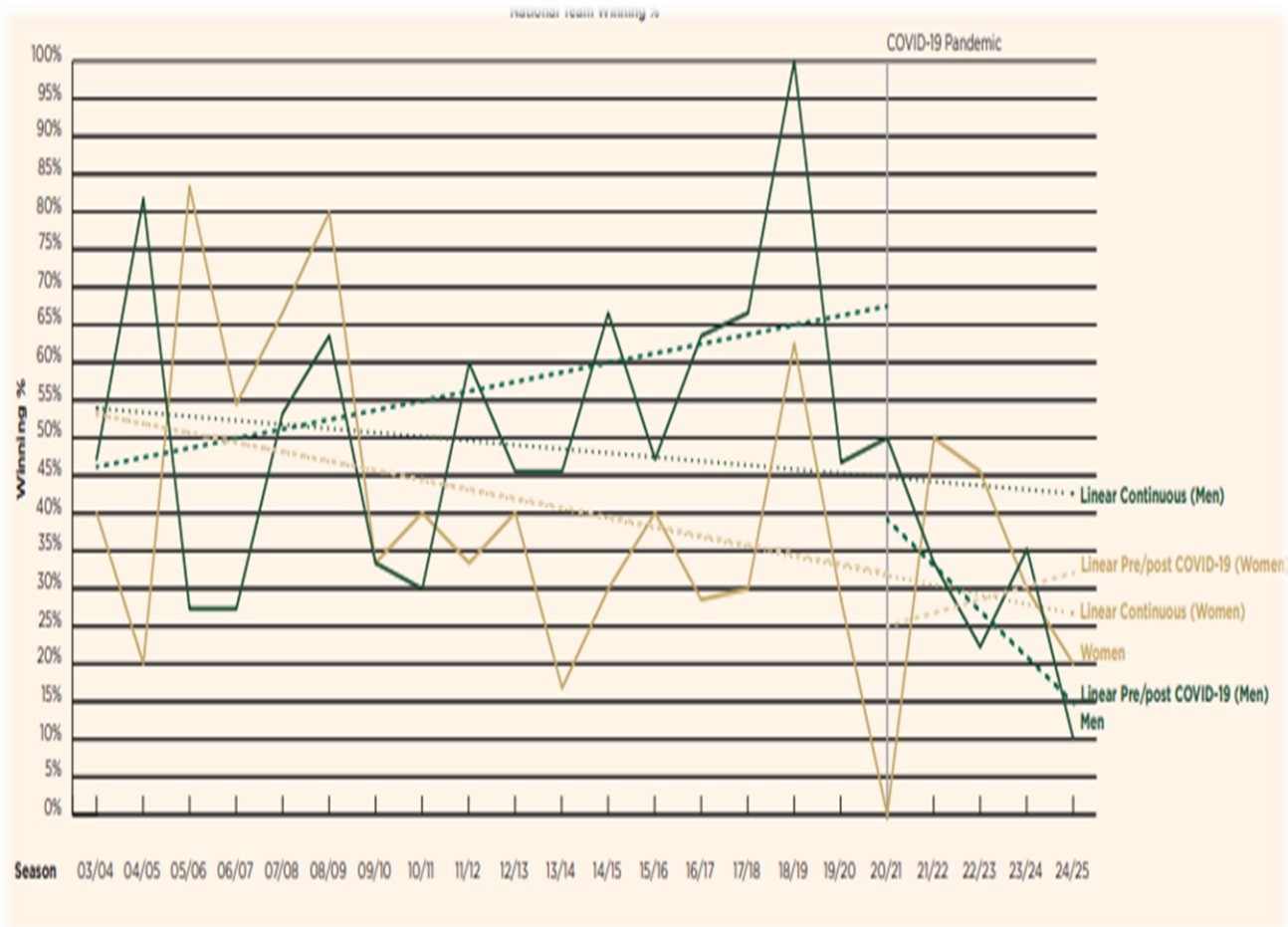
Team cohesion evaluates the frequency of player pairings playing regularly together. Given the intermittent nature of national team training and match play, team cohesion can be an important metric and as a proxy for geographical player spread.



This is controlled by the Welsh National coach & not clubs

- Comparing to nations with two club models distorts
- Wales is there/thereabouts with Unions with a similar number of clubs
- Have to consider the lack of consistency with national match day squads. Lack of succession planning post RWC23 hasn't helped
- How many of the 84% in Ireland are from one club - Leinster
- 25 cap rule needs to go and players need to play in Wales

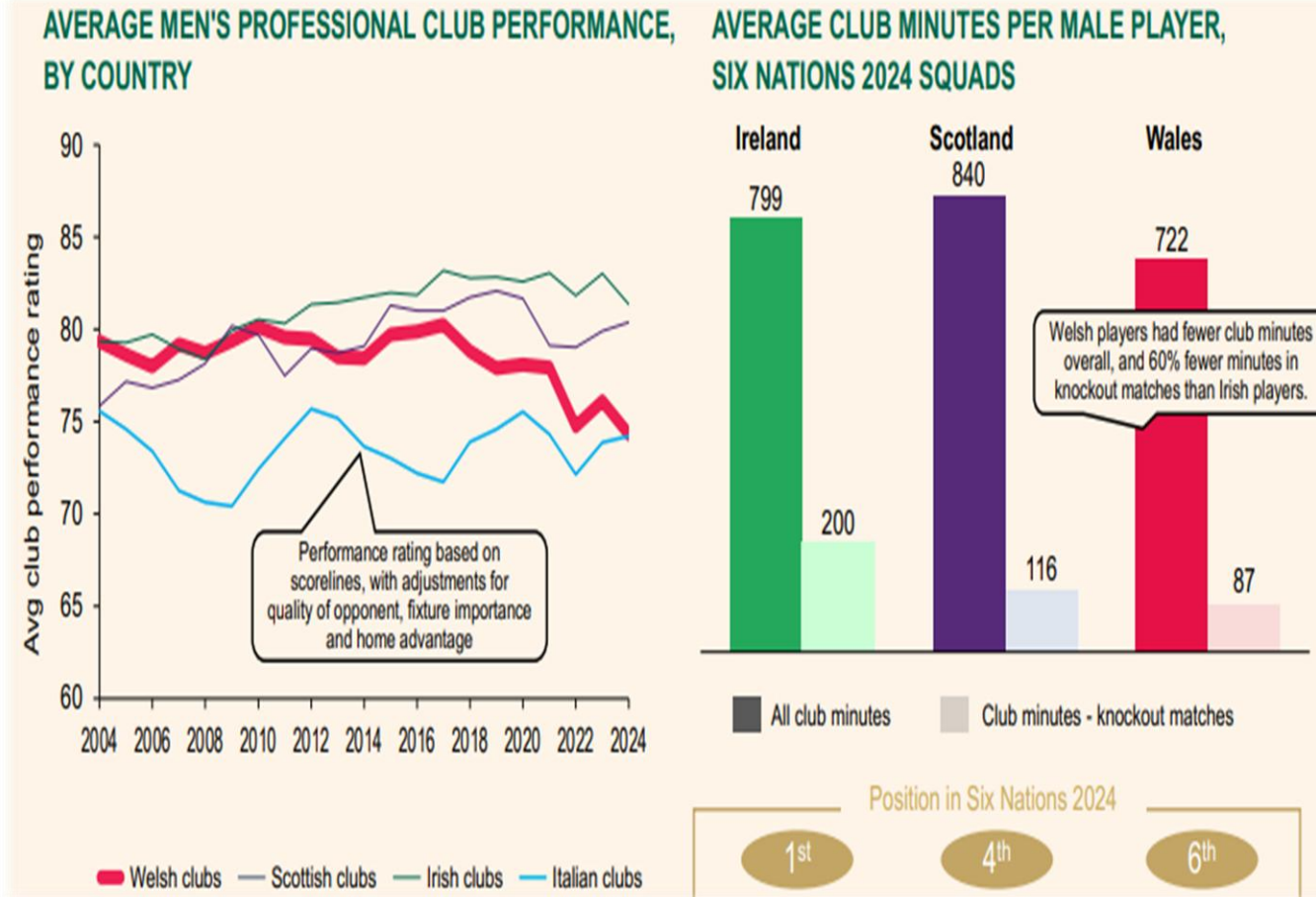
# Supporting Information



- Links to retirement and movement of players to France.

- Related to national team coaching and management as much as individual player performances?

# Supporting Information



- Irish figures represent 25% of total minutes.

• How much is Welsh total driven by WRU requirements on player release stipulations in previous PRAs?

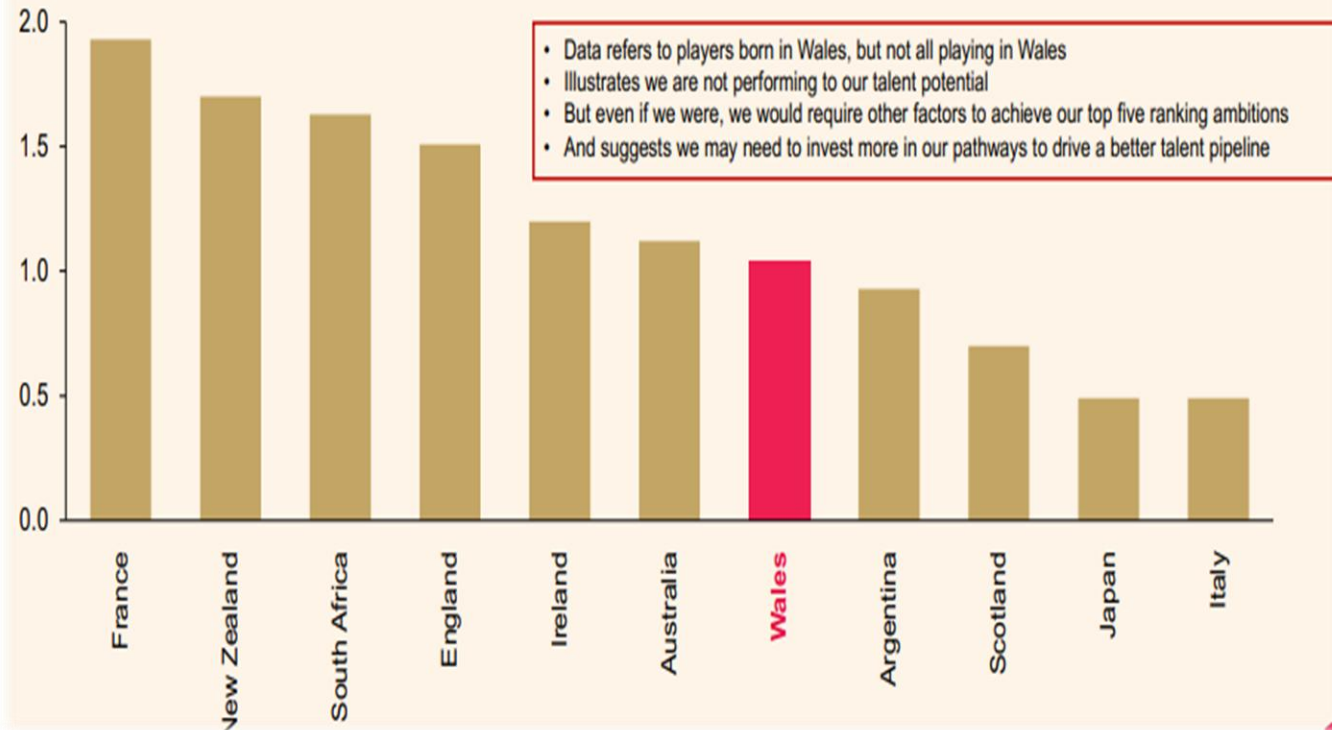
- Drive has previously been to reduce player minutes

# Supporting Information



AVERAGE PLAYER RATING (XP) OF TOP 30 PLAYERS BORN IN COUNTRY  
(INCLUDING PLAYERS CURRENTLY PLAYING OUTSIDE HOME COUNTRY)

Estimates player skill through calculating the impact of every on-ball action (e.g., carry, pass, tackle) in a match on the team's probability of scoring next



- Scotland and Italy both lower.
- Condensed talent not necessarily the answer
- Agree in pathway investment. Over reliance on generational players and not investing has got us here
- Lack of strategy and guidance on tier below pro-clubs
- Countries with 2 pro clubs (Scotland and Italy) have lower average player ratings
- What would the average player rating be of the top 90 WQ players