Local Government

UK loses almost 1,000 public football pitches on eve of Euro championships

Almost 1,000 public football pitches have been lost in the UK since 2010

As England and Scotland get ready to kick off their campaigns in Germany, new figures show there are 846 fewer local authority owned or operated football pitches today [based on the latest figures available] than there were in 2009/10.

Councils said that a further 80 pitches had also been closed - meaning at least 926 pitches have gone.

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The worst hit part of the UK was Scotland, which lost a massive 271 pitches during that period.

All the other worst hit areas were all in Northern England and Wales.

The figures come from a Freedom of Information request made by GMB to local authorities in the UK and we're revealed at GMB's annual conference, which concludes in Bournemouth this week.

Rachel Harrison, GMB National Secretary, said:

"The England and Scotland men's teams are about to begin their European Championship campaigns, with the hopes of the two nations resting on their shoulders.

"Yet before a ball has even been kicked, the next generation of footballers have already lost.

"Losing almost 1,000 council football pitches could crush grass roots football in the UK and is yet another deeply depressing legacy of the Conservative's austerity mission."

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