



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
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6 February 2025

Dear Chair,

I write to update you on progress made by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in two areas of inquiry by the Committee: 1) Grassroots participation in sport and physical activity and 2) DCMS management of COVID-19 loans.

1) Update on Grassroots participation in sport and physical activity

Following the formal DCMS response to the Committee's Thirty-Second Report of Session 2022-23, 'Grassroots participation in sport and physical activity' and subsequent Progress Reports, I am writing to inform the Committee of the status of the outstanding recommendation from the Committee's report:

Recommendation 5: Sport England should, as part of its 2023-24 Annual Report and Accounts, clearly set out a full geographical breakdown of where its funding is being spent and how it is ensuring spending is targeted at deprived and less active communities. If this is not possible, it should write to us and explain why that is the case and commit to implementing in future annual reports.

Today, Sport England's 2023-24 Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) were laid before Parliament and the ARA will be published in due course. This was delayed due to a technical issue raised by the National Audit Office upon their review. The full geographical breakdown can be found on page 53 of the report, thereby implementing recommendation 5. This update will be reflected in the department's next formal Treasury Minutes Progress Report.

2) Update on DCMS management of COVID-19 loans

I look forward to discussing these issues in more detail during the oral evidence session with the Committee on Monday 10 February. In advance of that session, it may be of interest to members to know that DCMS has made progress on the following areas since the National Audit Office report of 18 December 2024.

- The comprehensive lessons learnt exercise referenced in the report has been concluded and was reported to our Programme Board in December;
- The Loan Management System (LMS) v2 contract has been signed and delivery is underway;
- DCMS has received additional full early repayments, and;
- DCMS and Arts Council England have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to sit alongside the existing Administration Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Storey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susannah Storey CB
Permanent Secretary