



**Culture, Media and
Sport Committee**

24 April 2025

**The Rt. Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State
Department for Culture, Media and Sport**

By email

Dear Secretary of State,

I'm writing to share concerns around the status of the funding promised by the previous Government to grassroots cricket.

On 5 April 2024, the previous Government announced a £35 million investment in grassroots cricket facilities and widening access to the sport within state schools. £10 million of this was earmarked for Chance to Shine and would have delivered free cricket in schools with a view to get 900,000 young people into the sport over the next five years.¹

On 30 October 2024 the Prime Minister said he was "fully supportive" of the initiative,² yet this week my Committee heard in oral evidence from Chance to Shine that this funding was still being looked at by the Government.³ We also heard that the ECB intend to cut funding for Chance to Shine's 'Street cricket' programme.

Programmes like this strike to the heart of some of the most deprived communities in the country and are a great opportunity to bring people together and for young people to engage with our nation's summer sport.

The government needs to honour its commitment and end the uncertainty. With big world class international cricket events on the horizon - the Women's Cricket World Cup 2026, the Olympics in 2028 and the Men's T20 World Cup in 2030 – now is the time to act. It is critical that the young people who will be exposed to the sport will be given every opportunity to experience it.

¹ Department for culture, media and sport, [Prime Minister announces boost for grassroots cricket](#), 5 April 2025

² [Col 803](#)

³ [Q 145](#)



Culture, Media and Sport Committee

With that in mind, I would be grateful if you could confirm the Government's plans to introduce the funding.

The Committee would be grateful for a response by Thursday 8th May.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee