

Date: 5 November 2025

Patricia Ferguson MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Patricia,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 October and for the opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Affairs Committee's session on Glasgow's Commonwealth Games 2026. We greatly appreciated the Committee's visit and the constructive dialogue around the legacy ambitions for the Games and the associated Festival programme.

In response to your request for further information, I am pleased to outline our proposals and the opportunity for support we are seeking from the UK Government to enhance the city experience in the build up to and during the Games.

We have an ambition to secure an additional £800,000 of external funding to support a series of cultural, community, sporting and international engagement initiatives that will enhance the social benefit of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games through a Games Festival programme. This sits outside the work the Organising Company is undertaking to stage the sporting competition. These initiatives celebrate Games' impact while advancing UK Government's broader strategic objectives, particularly the UK's global presence and promoting community cohesion.

This funding could also enable public realm enhancements in Glasgow, delivering lasting improvements in security and environmental sustainability beyond 2026.

Glasgow has a global reputation for demonstrating the value and legacy benefits that can be created through the successful integration of arts and culture into major sporting events, and it is our intention to build on this in 2026.

Evaluation following the Glasgow 2018 European Championships showed 453,000 attendances at Festival 2018 compared with 137,000 at ticketed sporting events. Building on this success, we aim to refine and scale our 'festivalisation' model, embedding cultural experiences into the Commonwealth Games that are immersive, inclusive and internationally resonant.

In addition to cultural programming, we intend to deliver enhanced participatory sporting experiences that extend the Games' reach beyond the competition, fostering active lifestyles and community engagement across the city.

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Directors: Baillie Annette Christie (Chair), Councillor Eva Bolander, Councillor Holly Bruce, Councillor Kieran Turner, Baillie Linda Pike, Anita Salwan, Glen Gribbon, Iain MacRitchie, Lynn Bradley, Shahid Hanif, Siobhan Nairn, Kay Morrison (Chief Executive).

Glasgow Life, registered as Culture and Sport Glasgow, is a Scottish Charity (No SC037844) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

This approach enhances the Games experience for attendees and communities and informs future UK-hosted events, such as UEFA EURO 2028. It contributes to a new, innovative and equitable model for the 2026 Games and future editions, and supports wider UK Government priorities, particularly around Soft Power, community cohesion and international cultural diplomacy.

An outline of the existing and proposed activity that additional funding would support is attached as an appendix to this letter. In summary, the funding would:

- Contribute to a national Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund, enabling cultural, community and sports organisations across Scotland to deliver community-led initiatives celebrating the Games.
- Support international cultural exchange and commissioning new artistic works by Commonwealth creatives, showcased through high-profile events that combine artistic excellence and community engagement. This would enhance the global diversity of the festival programme and strengthen cultural ties across the Commonwealth and enhances the UK's reputation of delivering outstanding world class major events.
- Support a package of city operations and public area enhancements, including permanent security infrastructure at key city activation zones; improved wayfinding and signage to aid Games-time navigation and semi-permanent creative features that enhance the city's look and feel and contribute to a visible and inclusive legacy of the Games for future major events.

These activities will deliver benefits well beyond Glasgow, supporting communities across Scotland, fostering community cohesion through inclusive engagement and shared cultural experiences, and promoting Glasgow's wider tourism opportunities as a key gateway to Scotland. They will also strengthen the UK's cultural and economic ties internationally, showcasing British values, creativity and innovation and enhancing the UK's global standing through strategic cultural diplomacy.

Glasgow Life is leading the planning and delivery of the Games Festival programme and would be the lead recipient of and accountable body for any funding, working in collaboration with the Organising Company for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games to ensure alignment and amplify impact.

We hope the Committee will consider supporting our request and advocate for investment in the Glasgow 2026 Games Festival programme. We believe this funding will help deliver a transformative and inclusive Commonwealth Games experience for Glasgow, Scotland and the wider UK.

Yours sincerely



Bailie Annette Christie
Chair, Glasgow Life
Glasgow City Convener for Culture, Sport & International Relations

Appendix 1: Glasgow 2026 Festival Programme

Activity	Existing	Potential	Impact Metrics
Glasgow 2026 Festival Fund	£250,000 small grants programme for cultural, community and sports sectors.	Expand and extend across Scotland.	Number of grants awarded Increased levels of grant open opportunity to diversity of sectors Enhance legacy of self-initiated programmes Broaden community reach and long-term impacts
Commissioned Spectaculars	£640,000 for public art commissions as part of Glasgow International and other sport and culture commissions.	Support international cultural exchange and commissioning new artistic works by Commonwealth creatives. High-profile events that combine artistic excellence and community engagement. Enhance the global diversity of the festival programme and strengthen cultural ties across the Commonwealth.	Audience size per event Media coverage Social media engagements National moment Mass participation
City Operations and Public Area Enhancements		Lasting improvements in security infrastructure, improved wayfinding, semi-permanent creative features that enhance the look and feel of the city	Increased perception of safety Visitor satisfaction with wayfinding Increased footfall Feedback from residents and visitors on city appearance



**Scottish Affairs
Committee**

**Bailie Annette Christie
Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations
Glasgow City Council**

Glasgow's Commonwealth Games 2026

22 October 2025

Dear Bailie Christie,

On behalf of the Scottish Affairs Committee, thank you again for giving up your time to speak to the Committee earlier this week as part of our session on next year's Commonwealth Games. We were delighted to have the opportunity to be in Glasgow to discuss the preparations for the event, and we look forward to Scotland hosting what looks set to be another very successful Games.

Towards the end of the session, you and your officials suggested that you were considering how to use the Games and the associated Festival programme to create an enhanced legacy from next year's event and deliver additional benefits to the city's residents, and that you would be grateful for our Committee's support for a funding request to the UK Government to help deliver on this ambition.¹

To help inform the Committee and to help it decide whether it would be appropriate to make representation to UK Ministers on this matter, we would be grateful if you could please provide the Committee with some additional information about your plans and what support you are seeking from the UK Government. Specifically,

- Approximately how much government funding you anticipate would be needed to deliver on your legacy ambitions.
- What activity this funding would help to enable, and what geographic area this would cover (including how this funding might support legacy benefits from the Games for communities in Scotland beyond Glasgow).
- How this activity would align with, or complement, legacy activity already being planned and undertaken by the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company.
- To what extent your ambitions in this regard could be expanded, or may need to be reduced, based on the final quantum of any public funding provided.

¹ Scottish Affairs Committee, [Oral evidence: Glasgow's Commonwealth Games 2026 \[HC 1308\]](#), 20 October 2025, Q51 and Qq55-56



Scottish Affairs Committee

- Whether you are also working with the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company to explore the possibility of raising funding to support this activity from commercial or other private sources.

With apologies for the relatively short time this will allow, I would be grateful to receive your reply by Wednesday 29 October.

I have also copied this letter to Billy Garrett, Director of Culture, Tourism and Events at Glasgow Life.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Ferguson MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee