



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

Wednesday 14 January 2026

Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, CMS Select Committee

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2025 to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport regarding funding for deaf athletes. I am replying as the Minister for Sport.

Firstly, I would like to formally congratulate the 65 athletes who represented the UK so remarkably at the recent Deaflympics in Tokyo. Returning with 12 medals is a testament to their extraordinary talent and resilience. I share the Committee's view that these athletes are vital role models who inspire the next generation of children with hearing impairments.

I welcome the opportunity to address the specific points made by the Committee. The current funding structure for elite disability sport follows the classifications set by the International Paralympic Committee. As the Deaflympics are governed by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf and operate independently they sit outside of UK Sport's remit. That said, I am pleased to share that UK Sport are meeting with UK Deaf Sport, and Deaflympians on 19 January 2026 to discuss and consider these funding challenges in greater detail. I can also confirm that I have extended an invitation to meet with UK Deaf Sport following this meeting and am keen to work with them to support the continued development of deaf sport in the UK following the success of Tokyo.

I would also like to take the opportunity to emphasise our commitment in support of the work of UK Deaf Sport at the grassroots level. Through our Arm's Length Body, Sport England, we have provided £1.2 million to help build wider participation. Sport England has also awarded UK Deaf Sport £150,000 to fund a specialist Talent Inclusion post to explore issues around accessibility and provide solutions to enable talented individuals to progress. These programmes are vital to supporting the growth of participation for deaf people as well as developing the talent pathways of certain sports in a sustainable way.

I also note with interest that you have written to broadcasters asking them to consider the Deaflympics. We recognise the importance of broadcasting sporting events to attract significant audience interest. However, decisions relating to coverage of particular events, are ultimately a



commercial and editorial decision for the relevant broadcaster and/or sports rights holder. We will engage with broadcasters to identify further opportunities to diversify sports broadcasting output.

The Government is dedicated to making sport in this country accessible and inclusive for everyone, including deaf people, and I look forward to updating the Committee further following my meeting with UK Deaf Sport and our Deaflympians.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peacock', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth