



**Culture, Media and
Sport Committee**

29 January 2026

**Lisa Nandy,
Secretary of State,
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
[by email]**

Subject: Funding of Physical Education in Schools

Dear Secretary of State,

In light of reports in the Guardian this week about a disagreement in Government over funding for school sports, I am writing to establish whether the reports are accurate, to seek clarity on future funding on PE and school sports, and to ask what representations you have made to colleagues in Government.

Physical activity is a driver of educational success. As you know, the Committee has been conducting an inquiry into 'Game on: Community and School Sport'. This inquiry has shown that pupils who participate in sport and physical activity achieve, on average, 10–20% higher GCSE results than their peers. Given the benefits, it's important that there is clear information about what is happening in regard to physical activity and education in schools.

The Committee would like to ask the following questions:

- Can you comment on the accuracy of the reports in the Guardian?
- Will the DHSC continue to fund school sports, and can you confirm how much funding they will be providing in the next financial year, and the subsequent 2 financial years?
- If the reports that the DHSC had been planning to withdraw its contribution are accurate, on what basis had it justified this proposed course of action?
- Is it true that the DfE is planning to make cuts to spending on PE before the implementation of the curriculum review and will you be making up any shortfall?
- If you had to make up a shortfall, how would that affect other spending commitments within DCMS?

We would appreciate a response by 6th February.



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Yours sincerely,

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