



Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, Culture Media Sport Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

30 June 2026

Dear Dame Caroline,

I am writing to follow up on matters relating to special police services raised during the committee's evidence session on 28th April. Before I do so, I would like to acknowledge your letter of 6th May and note that we will always endeavour to ensure the most appropriate Ministers and/or senior officials appear before committees to facilitate scrutiny. There was a miscommunication between two parts of the department, and I was unaware that I was invited.

Special Police Services are policing services provided at the request of an event organiser, where a police presence is required beyond ordinary public-duty policing. I am concerned that an excessive proportion of event related policing costs is currently being borne by police forces and, ultimately, the taxpayer. Therefore, in line with this Government's manifesto commitment to supporting more efficient policing and efforts in reducing unnecessary pressure on forces, the Home Office is examining whether the current framework continues to strike the right balance between costs met by policing and the taxpayer, and those recovered from organisers where additional policing is required for specific events.

We recognise the strength of feeling across the sports and events sector. That is why the Home Office has undertaken targeted engagement with stakeholders across football, wider sport and the events sectors. This has consisted of written consultation responses, roundtable discussions and follow-up meetings to clarify specific issues raised by some of the organisations. This engagement has included bodies such as the London Marathon Group, Football Association and Lawn Tennis Association, alongside venue operators and wider events representatives. We have also engaged with organisations representing a range of operating models, including commercial, not-for-profit and community-linked events to better understand how any changes could affect different types of events and organisations. Our approach to this engagement, and which stakeholders to involve, was developed and agreed with DCMS officials.

We are currently reviewing consultation responses and wider evidence. This includes considering points raised by stakeholders on proportionality, consistency, transparency, the definition of event footprints, and the potential impact on non-profit or community-facing events. We are also continuing to work closely with DCMS and policing partners to understand the impact of any potential changes. No final decisions have been taken by government on changes to Special Police Services.

We expect to provide a further update by the autumn, including on any next steps once this work has concluded.

I hope this update is helpful.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large 'S' followed by a loop and a long horizontal stroke.

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime