



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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Dear Sally,

Thank you for your letter setting out the challenges faced by UK Sport and NGB's, the use of UK Sport's underwrite facility for 20/21, and request for early confirmation of a rollover Spending Review (SR) settlement for 21/22.

The Government is absolutely committed to British sport and supporting our elite athletes in Team GB and Paralympics GB. In the final year of preparation in the run up to Tokyo we want UK Sport to be able to plan so that Team GB and Paralympics GB can be properly supported and allow our most talented athletes to achieve success in Tokyo.

Given the challenges many sectors are facing due to the Covid pandemic DCMS cannot press for an early settlement for UK Sport at this time. When we start SR discussions with the Treasury in the Autumn I will work to ensure that the necessary funding is available for UK Sport. I am also content to continue assessing the effectiveness of the Lottery Underwrite and will factor these considerations into the SR process.

In relation to requests associated with FY20/21, DCMS would be content to allow UK Sport to utilise the existing £7.4m lottery underwrite to set-up an emergency fund for NGB's in financial distress, as well as to contribute to retiring athletes in 20/21. We understand that UK Sport may require access to the Lottery Underwrite provided by DCMS for normal circumstances in autumn 20/21. As you would expect, the availability of the underwrite is dependent on UK Sport taking all reasonable actions to generate additional income and make efficiencies in other areas to reduce the potential call on the underwrite and DCMS' ability to identify suitable underspends.

Whilst DCMS will commit to working with UK Sport to ensure that the underwrite facility is funded appropriately in 20/21, in the event that DCMS is unable to provide funding, we would not cut other areas of DCMS expenditure and UK Sport would have to meet any shortfall or make reductions in its own programmes.



I am happy to restate this Government's strong commitment to Olympic and Paralympic sport and will do all that I can to facilitate a suitable settlement for UK Sport to ensure that we continue to support our inspirational athletes and give them the maximum opportunity for success at a world-class level as they prepare for Tokyo.

This commitment is intended to ensure stability for Olympic and Paralympic sport in the crucial 21/22 period – including the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, as well as the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. This letter should therefore give UK Sport the assurance you need to allow your Board and funded organisations to enter into the agreements necessary to commit to funding Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes in delivering their qualification plans for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2021 and Beijing Games in 2022.

I understand that a multi-year static rollover in UK Sport's funding presents challenges in progressing immediately with your ambitious plans for the Paris Games in 2024 and major sporting events. You should factor in any proposed uplifts in activity to achieve these ambitions into the normal SR processes when they are announced.

Thank you for your continued work in helping sport to cope with the current Covid-19 situation and I look forward to working with you as we move towards next year's Games in Tokyo.



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