



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

Nigel Huddleston MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for  
Sport and Tourism

Holly Mumby-Croft MP  
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Dear Holly,

Thank you for your further correspondence of 2 November to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, on behalf of a number of your constituents regarding the reopening of gyms. Your correspondence has been passed to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as this issue falls within the department's remit. I am replying as Minister for Sport and Tourism. Please accept my sincere apologies for the long delay in providing you with a response during these unprecedented times.

As you are aware, the Prime Minister's [Roadmap](#) of 22 February sets out a clear plan for removing the current restrictions and delivers on our commitment of sport and recreation being amongst the first activities to return.

The importance of sport and physical activity for the nation's physical and mental health has never been more apparent. They are powerful defences against Covid-19, and as we prepare to return to our normal lives, we will need to do all we can to improve people's fitness and wellbeing.

Sport also brings people together and helps build stronger communities. These are some of the reasons why the government has provided over £2 billion to support the sport and physical activity sector through the pandemic. This support includes: over £270 million to grassroots sport (delivered via Sport England) and a £100 million package to support local authority leisure centres. Local authorities are also able to use their allocation of the more than £1.5 billion additional funding, announced by MHCLG in December, to further support their leisure centres.

Step 2 of the Roadmap will take place no earlier than 12 April. At this stage, indoor leisure facilities including gyms and leisure centres, indoor sport courts and pitches, swimming pools, fitness studios and multi-sport facilities (such as climbing walls, driving ranges, archery venues and skate parks) will be able to reopen. These indoor facilities must be used in line with the wider indoor social contact limits at this stage – as a single household or bubble. We will build on the hard work undertaken previously with the sector to ensure these facilities open safely.

The past year has hit the sport sector particularly hard but reminded us of just how important sport and activity are to so many aspects of our lives. That is why we have supported the sector, at all levels, including with the packages outlined in this letter. I am delighted that the Roadmap means we can look forward once again to the thrill of playing and watching sport.

Nigel Huddleston MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Tourism

