



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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To: CEOs of National Governing Bodies

1 March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

The situation in Ukraine is abhorrent, and we are doing all we can to support the Ukrainian people and to hold Russia to account. Sport is a vital tool in this response, and we are grateful for all we have seen from you so far. By standing up for what is right, sport can ensure the Russian people see the reality of what their government is inflicting upon the people of Ukraine.

Many domestic and international federations have acted decisively already, but the Secretary of State and I have three ongoing asks of you as CEOs of National Governing Bodies;

Engage your international organisations

Encourage them to do all they can to send a clear message to Russia (for Russia, also read Belarus) that actions have consequences. That includes stripping Russia of hosting any international sport; excluding individuals or teams who represent the Russian or Belarussian state, national sides, and professional clubs from competition internationally; and declining to compete against representative sides from Russia. *We ask that NGBs make DCMS aware of any situations where competitors from the UK are due to compete against those from Russia.*

Show solidarity

We have already seen how the sporting world has come together to take action and show solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and welcome the continuation of this.

Russian investment

We must ensure that sport in this country is, wherever possible, free from money connected to the Russian state. Sports-washing must not be seen to legitimise their position. *We ask that NGBs make DCMS aware of any potential cases where this may be relevant, so it can be considered as part of wider work.*

We are working to build an international coalition in this area. We will be talking to many of our international counterparts this week, and plan to host a virtual summit with other key Governments. This will, amongst other issues, consider the position of Russian individuals competing internationally, to ensure we have an agreed approach on this complex issue.

We know that these are difficult circumstances and that there are consequences for these decisions on British athletes and teams. We are open to supporting you in any difficult decisions you may be facing in this regard, but there is power in sport and we have a collective responsibility to use the power when it is so urgently needed.

Best wishes,



Nigel Huddleston MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State