

Andrew Scattergood
Chief Executive



Sir Desmond Swayne MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

21 January 2020

Dear Sir Desmond,

You tabled a Parliamentary Question for the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport asking: *what assessment she has made of the potential effect on opportunities for swimming for (a) club members and (b) the general public of the Royal Parks' plans for the Serpentine Lido.* The Royal Parks is the charity with day to day management responsibility for the parks and I have been asked to reply to you.

A programme of works is currently underway to carry out improvements within the Lido leisure building, which will include upgrading of the internal area in order to provide better facilities such as additional toilets, showers and changing facilities. The tendering of these works is in progress with construction work due to commence early February with a closely managed construction programme though until early May 2020. The swimming club will be able to operate while the improvements are being undertaken.

During the planning phase we have strived to ensure that we deliver a facility which The Royal Parks and Serpentine Swimming club and its members can be proud of. The current facility has had minimal investment over the last 20 years. We have looked at the space currently used by the Serpentine Swimming Club and improved it from an access, space and safety perspective. The project will increase the overall space available to all swimmers by removal of a currently underutilised Conference room. This will enable a growth of users of both the facility overall as well as increasing SSC membership which I understand is a key requirement of the club going forward.

We have met representatives of the Club on a number of occasions to discuss the project. Although we have been unable to meet all their requirements (such as a large designated area for their sole use) we have worked with them to undertake some re-modelling to allow for easy access to a sole use tea/coffee and storage facility, alongside a communal space for meeting before and after swimming.

We have worked hard to ensure that we balance the needs of all users of the facility to deliver improvements worthy of the park and the exceptional location.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew Scattergood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew Scattergood
Chief Executive