I would like to further take this opportunity to provide the committee with information on some of the points raised during the evidence session.

The University of Edinburgh study on Scouting and mental health referenced by Matt is called, *Be(ing) prepared: Guide and Scout participation, childhood social position and mental health at age 50—a prospective birth cohort study*. The study was conducted by researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow, and has been published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*. The findings were drawn from a lifelong study of almost 10,000 people from across the UK who were born in November 1958, known as the National Child Development Study.

On the number of female Muslim Scouts, our census does not currently record the religion of young people within the Movement. However of the young people in the Muslim Scout Fellowship we know that 57% are girls.

During the oral evidence session the committee also touched upon the issue of full time volunteering. To reiterate we believe that full-time volunteers should be legally recognised. For more information on how legal recognition can help further promote civic engagement and citizenship, we would urge the committee to contact City Year UK.

As mentioned during the session The Scout Association has embarked on a pilot partnership with the National Citizen Service (NCS), that is expected to be worth about 1.5 million to the charity. We will be working in partnership to achieve our shared goal to help young people prepare for the future and develop crucial skills for life. This partnership aspires to co-design and pilot ideas through NCS’s new Innovation Programme on a trial basis for a three-year period, enabling even more young people to realise, and achieve, their potential.

The partnership will:

- Open up new opportunities for The Scout Association to deliver innovative NCS programmes, enhancing the impact and quality of the Explorer Scout and Young Leader experience by integrating the NCS experience within Scouting. This will support the growth of both organisations and offer new opportunities for social mixing
- Offer unique social action and personal development opportunities for NCS graduates to support Explorer Scouts, Scout Network, the Young Leaders Scheme and adult volunteering in Scouting. This will help extend the reach of NCS beyond its core programme and support sustainable growth for Scouting
- Offer new roles for NCS graduates to support the growth of Scouting in disadvantaged communities, increasing the reach to communities that stand to benefit most
- Allow both organisations to test and learn new approaches that will improve outcomes for young people and deliver good value for money

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