



Department  
for Culture,  
Media & Sport

Baroness Twycross  
Minister for Gambling  
1st Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

E: [enquiries@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@dcms.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)

19 December 2024

Baroness Grey-Thompson  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

INT2024/10332/DC

Dear Baroness Grey-Thompson,

I am writing to follow up on the meeting we had on 11th December, where you raised some further questions regarding the Women's game. I have placed a copy of this letter in the library of both Houses.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for raising this important issue. This Government is dedicated to supporting women's sport. We should do all we can to ensure women's sport is treated equally to men's at all levels. As you know, Karen Carney's Review of Women's Football which published its report on 13 July 2023 supports the continued growth and development of women's and girls' football. The Government is working closely with stakeholders to ensure progress regarding the recommendations made by the Carney Review.

Regarding the Regulator, as you are aware, the Women's game will not be initially in scope. The Government believes that it should only intervene with statutory regulation where there has been a clear market failure which the market cannot resolve itself. Whereas, I am confident that the industry authorities governing the women's game will be able to tackle many of the problems faced by women's clubs, including through their own rules for women's clubs with affiliated men's teams. Those industry authorities deserve the time, space, and opportunity to do so.

Regarding the more specific points you made in our meeting related to clubs using the women's team to circumvent the Regulator's financial regulation - the Regulator will be empowered to obtain and consider information from a club's wider corporate group, including the women's team. So I would like to reassure you that clubs should not be able to circumvent requirements, or disguise funds, through creative accounting.

Similarly, as my officials clarified in the meeting, given the scope of the legislation (which will be set in secondary legislation to cover the top five tiers of the men's game only) the Regulator will not currently have powers to act in relation to the growth and funding of women's football, as this would be outside of its tightly defined remit. Of course, the Regulator would look to cooperate with women's game authorities and share best practice to ensure any ways of working or regulating football clubs can be shared across the sector.



I thank you again for raising this important issue, and I hope my response has given some clarity on this. I look forward to discussing this further in future.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Twycross', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Twycross  
**Minister for Gambling**