



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Baroness Twycross
Minister for Museums, Heritage and Gambling
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

12 June 2026

Baroness Taylor of Bolton
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

INT2026/05305/DC

Dear Baroness Taylor,

I am writing to you following the Second Reading of the Sporting Events Bill in the House of Lords on the 3 June 2026. I have placed a copy of this letter in the library of both Houses.

I would like to thank you for taking part in the bill's Second Reading and for raising important questions around whether the penalties for the ticket touting offence are severe enough and whether the scope of the transport measures should be expanded to include other forms of transport, specifically rail.

Ticketing

There are a range of options available to enforcement authorities to address breaches of the ticket touting offence, taking into account the severity of the offence and nature of the offender. For example, as an alternative to prosecution, local weights and measures authorities will be able to impose a financial penalty of up to £20,000 directly. If a case is taken to court, a person in England and Wales could be subject to an unlimited fine upon summary conviction.

The Competition and Markets Authority will also be able to use powers in the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act 2024 (DMCCA) for breaches of the ticket touting offence. These powers allow them to levy fines of up to 10% of global turnover for infringements which harm the collective interests of consumers. Local authorities will also be able to apply to the courts for such fines to be levied under the DMCCA.

Transport

The bill's transport measures allow the Secretary of State to direct the preparation of a transport plan to support effective movement of spectators, athletes and officials for a qualifying sporting event. The plan could cover all modes of transport including aviation, rail, ferries and roads.



Previous major events have required bespoke legislation to extend powers under the Road Traffic Act 1984 for use at sporting events. This bill allows those powers to be retained on the statute book and activated for qualifying events when needed. No rail-specific provision is included, as existing legislative and operational frameworks are considered sufficient to support planning and delivery.

As the bill progresses, I would welcome your support as we take this important legislation forward and work across the House to enhance the UK's reputation as a world-leading host of major sporting events.

I would be very happy to meet to discuss this, or any other areas of the bill, in the coming days.

With best wishes,

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

Baroness Twycross
Minister for Museums, Heritage and Gambling