



Department  
for Culture,  
Media & Sport

Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth  
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22 November 2024

Mr David Reid  
HM Senior Coroner, Worcestershire Coroners Court  
[REDACTED]

Your Ref: [REDACTED]  
Our Ref: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Reid,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 June, to the former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, [REDACTED], enclosing a copy of the Reg. 28 Prevention of Future Deaths Report, following the inquest of Dominic Mark Chapman. I am responding as the Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth.

I must apologise for the delay in providing you with a substantive response. As you will appreciate, at the time of your report, the then Prime Minister had announced a General Election and the Government had entered a period of pre-election sensitivity.

I was sincerely sorry to hear about this tragic incident and my deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of Mr Chapman.

The safety and wellbeing of everyone taking part in sport is absolutely paramount. There will always be risks associated with participating in contact sports, but it is important that robust measures are in place to reduce the risk of major injuries and health issues. It is the responsibility of individual boxing event organisers to ensure that they protect the safety and wellbeing of their participants.

The Government, Sport England (our arm's-length body for community sport), and the governing bodies for boxing, all strongly urge all white collar boxing event organisers to work with the sport's governing bodies to ensure that robust competition standards are in place to protect the safety of those who take part. However, as with any private sports organisation, there is no obligation for white collar boxing event organisers to affiliate with a governing body.

In light of safety concerns, such as those highlighted by this tragic case, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's officials have met with the boxing authorities, the Local Government Association and the Home Office (HO) to explore possible options to reduce the risks around white collar boxing.

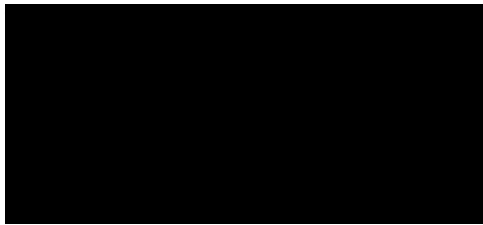
White collar boxing events take place in venues licensed by local authorities, who undertake due diligence of events as part of the licensing process. However, the Licensing Act 2003 (legislation owned by HO) states that boxing bouts held at venues with audiences under 1,000 in normal hours do not need to be licensed by the relevant local authority.



I can confirm that my officials are now preparing a targeted consultation of key stakeholders, about possible amendments to the statutory guidance, which will be conducted within the next six months.

Thank you again for your important contribution to this crucial issue. We remain committed to working with the sports sector to help ensure the safety of all participants in sport.

Yours sincerely,



**Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth**