



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

8 May 2025

Michael James Pemberton
Assistant Coroner for Manchester (West)
HM Coroner's Court and Office for
Manchester West
Paderborn House
Howell Croft North
Bolton BL1 1QY

Dear Mr Pemberton,

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2025 enclosing a copy of the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths of Alexander Robert Eastwood.

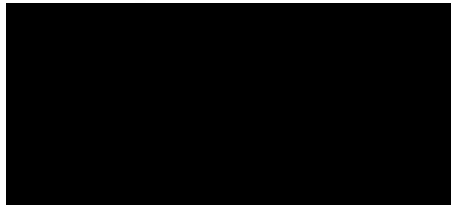
I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Alexander's family and friends. As part of his legacy, I confirm we are doing everything possible to ensure children can enjoy sport safely.

You raised a number of concerns about the current system and I am keen to consider how best to address them. I am mindful that the government does not, and should not, regulate sport directly. However, I am concerned that the current system, which allows individual clubs to decide whether to affiliate to a National Governing Body and their associated standards, does not offer sufficient protection to children and parents.

While resources are available to those who choose to use them, I have tasked my Department with exploring ways to urgently improve the safety and welfare of children in martial arts and ensure it is always a priority. I will also ask Sport England to work with the Martial Arts Safeguarding Group and other relevant combat sport stakeholders on this. I am particularly keen that we ensure that parents and children who are currently participating in competitions understand the difference between competitions that are regulated and those that aren't. I would be happy to update you on progress once we have received and considered your final report. In the meantime, I have asked my officials to explore different options and report back to me.

I am clear that there is more we can do to protect and empower parents and children participating in sport. I am proactively seeking the views and experiences of the family, and I am so grateful to you for raising this with me. No family should have to endure the pain and loss Alexander's family have experienced and I am determined that from this tragedy, there must emerge a better system.

Yours sincerely,



Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport