

Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth Department for Culture, Media and Sport 1st Floor 100 Parliament Street London SW1A 2BQ

E:

Our Ref:

www.gov.uk/dcms

6 May 2025

Mr David Heming <u>Senior Coroner, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough</u>

Dear Mr Heming,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 April and for enclosing the Regulation 28 Report in relation to the inquest for the death of Mr Christian Hobbs. I am responding as the Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth, and I would like to pass on my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr Hobbs for their loss.

This is a tragic incident, and it is right we fully consider all lessons that can be learnt. The safety and wellbeing of everyone participating in sport is absolutely paramount, and individual sports should do everything they can to prioritise participants' wellbeing. This is something I continue to push as the Minister for Sport.

Your report states 2 aspects in relation to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport that I have considered below.

With regard to funding, while I would be happy to raise the issue of cardiac screening with England Boxing, the department is not able to provide additional funding. England Boxing, the national governing body for community boxing in England, which is independent of the Government, is responsible for assessing and managing its funding requirements. England Boxing receives some of its income in the form of a grant from Sport England, the Government's arm's-length body for grassroots sport, but also receives income through other grants, fees and donations. I believe this gives them the avenues to explore any additional funding needed.

In terms of parental awareness of sudden cardiac death, I fully agree this is an important issue. Through Sport England, we have supported Cardiac Risk in the Young's excellent work in seeking to increase awareness, for example, through Sport England's site for clubs and community organisations, Buddle. More generally, Sport England signposts to and share case studies from the Joe Humphries Memorial Trust, British Heart Foundation and UK Coaching's online learning.

Of course, there is always more to do in this area to ensure that young people are able to take part in sport safely. I will continue to work with sports to ensure that tragic events such as this can help us strengthen processes for the future.

Yours sincerely,



Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth

