

# Chris Evans MP



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Our Ref: JW, CE20966

Nigel Huddleston MP  
Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage  
Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

Dear Nigel,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and safe New Year, and to thank you for the help and support that you have given to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Boxing. We look forward to working closely with you in 2021.

We are however, writing to you to express our disappointment at the UK government's decision to omit boxing from the £300 million Sport Winter Survival Package that was unveiled on 19 November 2020. We urge you to reconsider this, and to provide equitable funding and support for boxing to ensure the survival of our nation's grassroots, community boxing clubs.

Since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, boxing clubs, gyms and organisations have worked tirelessly to support their communities, but many now face economic hardship and risk being unable to reopen until restrictions are fully lifted. Nationally, the introduction of social distancing measures and limitations on pad work, sparring and competitions have constrained the ability of clubs to welcome members to train and raise revenue, while statistically over 40% of our nation's clubs are in the top 20% of the most deprived areas in the UK and have limited access to external sources of funding. Even at the professional level, only 6 of the licensed 58 promoters have been able to stage shows since restrictions on elite sport were lifted in June 2020, with restrictions on the number of fans at live shows and the new lockdown announcement rendering events unsustainable for most of the sector.

As we look towards the Olympics later this year, it is important to recognise that many of our nation's celebrated boxers have progressed from grassroots boxing clubs to become Olympic gold medal winners. Indeed, boxing clubs offer so much more than just a space to train and are a vital part of our nation's social fabric. Clubs not only provide pastoral and educational support to young people and adults in need, but also help to promote social inclusion, tackle criminal activity and antisocial behaviour, and deliver improvements in physical and mental wellbeing. The closure of boxing clubs would leave a huge void in many communities, and it is essential that the Government provides financial support to boxing to enable clubs to continue to provide vital health and well-being support to communities throughout the UK.



We urge you to reconsider your approach and make immediate assurances to provide equitable funding and support for boxing in 2021 to ensure that it is well placed to continue to produce Olympic athletes and promote better physical and mental health, well-being and social inclusion that would enable the countries of the United Kingdom to recover faster, healthier and stronger as we emerge from the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Evans MP, Chair of the APPG on Boxing  
Jonathan Djanogly MP, Vice-Chair of the APPG on Boxing  
Paula Barker MP, Vice-Chair of the APPG on Boxing  
John Spellar MP, Secretary of the APPG on Boxing  
Baroness Golding, Treasurer of the APPG on Boxing  
Kim Johnson MP, Member of the APPG on Boxing  
Imran Hussain MP, Member of the APPG on Boxing  
Mick Whitley MP, Member of the APPG on Boxing  
Conor McGinn MP, Member of the APPG on Boxing  
Lord Moynihan, Member of the APPG on Boxing  
Lord Taylor of Warwick, Member of the APPG on Boxing  
Robert Smith, General Secretary, British Boxing Board of Control  
Gethin Jenkins, Chief Executive, England Boxing  
Colin Metson, Chief Executive, Welsh Boxing  
Kevin Bell, Chair, Boxing Scotland  
Debbie Down, General Secretary, Commonwealth Boxing Council  
Professor Mike Loosemore MBE, Lead Consultant, English Institute of Sport  
Eddie Hearn, Managing Director, Matchroom Boxing  
Frank Warren, Queensberry Promotions Limited  
Adam Morallee, SJAM Boxing  
Sam Jones, SJAM Boxing  
Mark Neilson, Neilson Boxing  
Paul Speak, Brand Hatton  
Dave Coldwell, Coldwell Boxing  
Mick Hennessy, Hennessy Sports  
Lee Eaton, MTK Global  
Wayne Grierson, General Manager, StubHub UK  
Anthony Joshua, WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight champion  
Joe Joyce, British, Commonwealth, WBC Silver and WBO International heavyweight champion  
Terri Harper, IBO and WBC female super-featherweight champion  
Ricky Hatton MBE, former WBO, WBA, WBU and IBF light-welterweight champion  
Natasha Jonas, former WBA International female super-featherweight champion  
Jane Couch MBE, former WIBF light welterweight champion  
Stefy Bull, former WBO and WBF lightweight champion

cc: Rt Hon Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport  
Elena Narozanski, DCMS lead, No.10 Policy Unit  
Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury