

**Westminster Media Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for the UK sports sector - funding, governance and widening participation**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*



**WESTMINSTER  
MEDIA FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Sater**, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sport and Physical Activity
- 9.05 **'Assessing key issues for governance across the sports sector in the UK'**  
**Craig Beeston**, Sports Governance Academy Programme Manager, The Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **'Investing in community tennis facilities to drive participation growth'**  
**Oliver Scadgell**, Managing Director, Tennis Development, Lawn Tennis Association
- 9.40 **Considerations for funding distribution and the use of investment in grassroots facilities**  
*criteria and process for accessing the new grassroots facilities funding | meeting strengthened governance and safeguarding standards | demonstrating inclusive participation and community benefit | capabilities and support needed to meet governance and safeguarding expectations | balancing national priorities with local delivery | scope for local flexibility within national funding and governance frameworks | future of multi-sport hubs and shared facilities | local approaches to planning, funding and managing facilities, including maintenance responsibilities | supporting long-term use beyond initial capital investment*  
**Laura Baxter**, CEO, Special Olympics Great Britain  
**Lars Hagelmann**, Chief Operating Officer, Big Issue Invest  
Senior representative, partnerships  
Senior representative, local authority
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Strategies for improving financial resilience - revenue models, governance standards and sustainability**  
*developing resilient funding models for grassroots sport | role of governance standards in supporting long-term sustainability | inclusive facilities and widening participation | interaction between capital and revenue funding for long-term maintenance | approaches to financial planning and meeting transparency requirements across the system | role of national sports bodies in supporting financial resilience | climate resilience and environmental sustainability*  
**Amy Gardner**, Director, Sport and Participation, British Cycling  
**Kuldeep Kaur**, Director, Finance and Operations, England Hockey  
Senior representative, grassroots organisation  
Senior representative, commercial  
Senior analyst  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Sater**, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sport and Physical Activity
- 11.20 Break
- 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.35 **Taking forward key recommendations from the UK Sport Councils' Safe Sport Report**  
Senior representative, sport council
- 11.45 **Safeguarding and sector regulation - developing trust, improving diversity and widening participation**  
*strengthening safeguarding culture across sport | supporting effective oversight and assurance | what organisations need to have in place to meet safeguarding expectations in practice, including clubs and national governing bodies | developing a robust complaints and resolution function | how accountability mechanisms may need to develop across clubs, local networks and delivery partners | expectations on diversity and inclusion | tackling online abuse | priorities for the Women's Sport Taskforce on equal access, online abuse and facilities | developing a diverse and representative community | next steps for diverse leadership within national governing bodies and grassroots organisations*  
**Geraldine Costello**, Director, Governance and Safe Sport, British Gymnastics  
**Lereesa Easterbrook**, Senior Associate, Bird & Bird  
**Steve Swinyard**, Head, Safeguarding and Welfare, Newcastle United Football Club  
**Mark Gannon**, CEO, UK Coaching
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **'The way forward for financial distribution - widening participation and supporting sector resilience'**  
**Professor Iain Lindsey**, Professor, Sport Policy and Development, Durham University  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Media Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Thomas Howard**, Westminster Media Forum