



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Tracey Crouch MP
Minister for Sport
and Civil Society
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@culture.gov.uk

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Philip Davies MP
philip.davies.mp@parliament.uk

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Dec Philip

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 September to the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], regarding the Big Lottery Fund Olympic refund and West Ham United FC's use of the London Stadium. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government is committed to returning the Lottery money diverted for the 2012 Olympic Games to the Lottery Good Causes. Lottery distributors across the UK received £150 million extra in 2014 from unspent Olympic and Paralympic lottery funds and from a share of the proceeds from the sale of the Athletes' Village. In addition, and as we have always made clear, from the early 2020s, they will also receive a £675 million share of the receipts from the sale of land on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, £425 million of which will go to the Big Lottery Fund.

It may also interest [REDACTED] to know that there are no plans to reduce the Big Lottery Fund's allocation. The Fund will continue to receive 40% of National Lottery 'good cause' money. Sport, Arts and Heritage will also continue to receive 20% each.

With regard to West Ham's use of the London Stadium, it is a matter of public record that West Ham United Football Club has contributed £15 million to the costs of the stadium transformation. In addition, they will be paying market rate for their use of the stadium, which is around 25 match days a year.

The agreement between West Ham United and the London Legacy Development Corporation, including West Ham's contribution to transformation costs and rent, followed an open, competitive process. As the winning bid, this constituted the best available return for the taxpayer.

The stadium is a multi-use venue and it is part of the agreement with the stadium's operator that it will host concerts and other events. It has already hosted a range of events, with 500,000 spectators enjoying the Great Newham Run, the Anniversary Games, the Rugby World Cup 2015, international Rugby League, the Race of Champions, and the IAAF and IPC Athletics World Championships in 2017.

The stadium will deliver a lasting legacy for the local community, including ten mass participation events every year for Newham residents, and up to 100,000 free tickets every year for Newham residents to West Ham United matches.

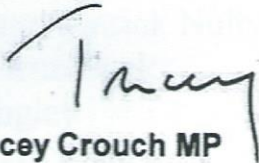


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In the stadium, the UK has a world-class, multi-use arena with its long-term future secured without requiring continuous support from the taxpayer.

I hope that this is of use, and if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey', written in a cursive style.

Tracey Crouch MP
Minister for Sport and Civil Society