



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 November to the Secretary of State for Digital Culture, Media and Sport, The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, on behalf of a number of your constituents, regarding the reopening of golf courses. I am replying on the department's behalf.

The government recognises that sport and physical activity are incredibly important for our physical and mental health, and are a vital weapon against COVID-19.

I appreciate your constituents' concerns about the previous closure of golf courses. I understand the challenges that the recent national restrictions placed on the sport sector, along with many other businesses across the country, but it is important to remember that public health is the national priority.

On 23 November, the Prime Minister set out the government's Winter Plan, which can be found [here](#). More information about the current measures and how they may affect your area, can be found [here](#) and [here](#). We urge you to revisit these websites to keep up to date with any new developments. Guidance on reopening for DCMS sectors in relation to COVID-19 can be accessed [here](#).

The local restriction tiers which apply to areas across England will determine which restrictions apply and how people can safely participate. You should check which tier applies to your local area and follow the appropriate measures.

Indoor and outdoor sport facilities such as gyms, sports courts and facilities, leisure centres, fitness and dance studios, golf courses, swimming pools, riding centres and outdoor playgrounds can now open across all alert levels, as long as they follow [COVID-19 secure guidelines](#). Indoor group activities and classes should not take place at tier 3.

The government has always been clear that the reopening of sport and leisure facilities is dependent on the prevalence of COVID-19 and the best medical advice available. I would advise that the best way to keep up to date with the ongoing situation is through the government's website.

Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP
Minister of State for Media and Data

