Dear Oliver Dowden, Jo Stevens and INSERT LOCAL MP NAME,

I write to you from our sports club, INSERT CLUB NAME. We are based in the INSERT CONSTITUENCY HERE constituency and we have approximately INSERT NUMBER HERE active members. The purpose of the email is to ask for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to take action regarding the sport of cheerleading.

As with all sports, all training was understandably suspended in March due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Our National Governing Body (SportCheer England) subsequently submitted a Return to Play Guidance Document. We understand this document was sent to DCMS on 19th July. The governing body are still awaiting approval of this document and we would therefore ask that this is actioned more quickly.

For reference, the document can be accessed here <https://sportcheerengland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SportCheer-England-Return-to-Play-Guidance-Document-19.07.2020-V2.pdf>

Although often misunderstood, cheerleading is a team sport that encourages physical exercise, teamwork, initiative, social interaction and confidence. Our members are from a range of backgrounds and ages and for many of them, cheerleading is their main focus outside of education or employment.

From an economic point of view, we employ a number of young adults as coaches and rent facilities for training in the local area. A lack of training obviously has implications here. On a wider point, childhood obesity will be a significant expense for the NHS in the years ahead and any exercise to prevent this should therefore take priority.

The long term physical and mental effects of young people missing out on sport are now surely greater than any Covid-19 risks associated with training. Cheerleading is a provisional olympic sport.  We appreciate that the DMCS may not be familiar with sport specific terminology.  We acknowledge that a potential lack of understanding/experience regarding cheer may have created a significant disadvantage and/or additional hurdle for our federation to overcome.  Traditional sports are more recognised and have enjoyed an easier return to play.  Our new status combined with pre-existing stereotypes leaves us vulnerable and often misunderstood.

Our industry world wide has been creative in its approach to keep athletes safe, and to ensure compliance with government regulations and laws.  We believe that a modified version of our sport can be safely incorporated into our training regime.  The statistics clearly support this email and the guidelines from the governing body should allow our training to recommence now.

We simply need to receive DCMS approval via the NGB. We urge you to consider our Return to Play and to restore privileges to our sport in line with other traditional or comparable activities.   Our cheer athletes deserve an opportunity to participate in a fair return to play.  We hope you will accept the recommendations from Sport Cheer England.

Yours sincerely,

YOUR NAME HERE